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Initial: alt

Application for Naming a Public Facility or Property

Please follow the instructions below when submitting an application for naming a facility or property.

1. Complete the application by providing detailed information about the proposed facility or park name. Please include supplemental information such as articles, letters of support and signature list with the application.
2. City of Austin Parks & Recreation Department must receive the application within the 90 day public comment period in order for the application to be considered.
3. Send all submittals to: Austin Parks and Recreation Department, Attn: April Thedford, 919 W. 28 ½ Street, Austin, TX 78705
4. Questions may be directed to April Thedford via email: april.thedford@austintexas.gov or by phone: (512) 974-9408

Current Name of Facility or Property: AUSTIN TENNIS CENTER

Proposed Name for the Facility or Property: CAROL J. WELDER AUSTIN TENNIS CENTER

If proposing the name of an individual, include a biographical description of nominee:

I HAVE ATTACHED MS. WELDER'S VITA, BUT IT ONLY TELLS PART OF HER CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE AUSTIN TENNIS COMMUNITY. SHE HAS BEEN THE BACKBONE OF THE CAPITAL AREA TENNIS ASSOCIATION SINCE ITS INCEPTION, AND HAS SERVED AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, BOARD PRESIDENT, SECRETARY, TREASURER, AND CONTINUES TO BE THE CHAIR OF THE LEAGUES COMMITTEE, AND A 25-YEAR VETERAN OF THE JUNIOR DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE HER "GOOD SPORTS" FOUNDATION HAS PAID FOR COMPLIMENTARY DINNERS FOR ALL AWARD WINNERS AT THE CATA JUNIOR AWARDS BANQUET FOR TWO DECADES.

Describe the individual's involvement in the Austin community:

HER SERVICE ON BOARDS AND COMMITTEES OF THE UNITED STATE TENNIS ASSOCIATION NATIONAL ORGANIZATION, AND ITS TEXA SECTION AFFILIATE HAVE BROUGHT NUMEROUS GRANTS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF TENNIS FACILITIES AND TOURNAMENTS, AND OTHER SUPPORT FOR LOCAL TENNIS PROGRAMS.

Describe the individual's connection to the facility or property, if any:

THE QUICK-START TENNIS COURTS WHICH CURRENTLY BEAR HER NAME WERE BUILT HERE BY THE USTA IN GRATITUDE FOR AUSTIN'S HOSTING THE DAVIS CUP SEMI-FINALS DURING HER TENURE AS USTA VICE-PRESIDENT, AND SHE IS DEEPLY INVOLVED IN THE NASCENT CAPITAL CAMPAIGN FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF 10 ADDITIONAL COURTS AS PHASE II OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE AUSTIN TENNIS. WE AT CATA FEEL IT WOULD BE MUCH MORE APPROPRIATE FOR THE ENTIRE FACILITY TO BEAR HER NAME.

If proposing a name other than individual, summarize the reason for the name:

Name of requester: THOMAS G. WEBBER - CATA BOARD PRESIDENT, JUNIOR DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE CHAIR

Address: [REDACTED]

Phone Number: [REDACTED]

Carol J. Welder 4101 Avenue F Austin, Tx. 78751

Background – Born and raised in Texas where my ancestors were one of the pioneer ranching families in South Texas, attended Southwestern University in Georgetown, Texas and served as Chairman of the Board of Managers for J. F. Welder Heirs Management Company, LLC for 6 years. I have lived in Austin, Texas for 47 years. I have two sons and three grandsons.

Playing Experience – I started playing tennis in the early 70's on the Porter Middle School courts near our home in South Austin. I developed a two-handed backhand (Chris Evert was my role model) and a consistent groundstroke, baseline game. When my children reached school age, we had moved into a neighborhood with tennis courts and a teaching pro. I took lessons, hit on the ball machine and even worked in the pro shop in order to be around the courts. My game really took a turn when I joined a tennis club and got involved with more competitive players. Over the years, I have played in state and national tournaments where I have been state ranked in various age divisions, and I have played in many USTA Leagues. I have captained women's, seniors and mixed teams and took a 5.0 team to Nationals in 1995 where we lost to the eventual winners from Intermountain (Idaho). I still play doubles in tournaments, captain a 4.5 40 and Over League team, am a member of a 55 and Over League team, a member of an 18 and Over League team and on a Women's Team Tennis of Austin team that plays out of Westwood.

Tennis Employment/Volunteer Experience – Community Tennis - When I first started playing tennis, to improve my game, I worked part time in the neighborhood pro shop. I volunteered with the Austin Women's Tennis Association (AWTA) running local tournaments. From 1983 -1986, I became the Sectional Endorser for USTA Texas selecting the top ranked junior players in Texas for endorsement to national tournaments. From 1986 – 1988, I had a part time position with the Texas Tennis Association where I ran the Junior Gran Prix Circuit, a series of tournaments around the state, and was taught how to use a computer. From 1986 - 1995, I served as Executive Director of the Capital Area Tennis Association (Austin's local Community Tennis Association). During my 9 years as Executive Director, working with the Board, several programs came under the umbrella of CATA in addition to tournaments. These included the USTA and ATL adult leagues, the CATA Junior Tour, a series of local tournaments for unqualified juniors, and the distribution of Fun Factory sets for elementary school tennis instruction. We established the CATA Junior Awards Banquet, recognizing area junior tennis players from all levels of accomplishment. CATA held the 19th annual banquet in 2014. After careful consideration, I resigned my position in 1995 to get back involved with kids on the court. From 1995 – 2001, I was a volunteer NJTL instructor and have remained on the CATA Board, serving as Vice President, President and as a member of the Tournament and Junior committees. I currently chair the CATA Leagues Committee. I have served on advisory and advocacy committees for the promotion and development of tennis in Austin and have served as the liaison between the Austin Parks and Recreation Department and the tennis community. A few years ago, I established **Good Sports**. Good Sports is a program about character and courage and how we meet the challenge

when doing the right thing will cost more than we might want to pay. I developed a six-week curriculum based on trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and citizenship. It has been used as an educational component of NJTL in Austin. I hope to incorporate this idea into the schools through the PALS (Peer Assistance in Leadership) program where kids mentor to kids. Educating students about sportsmanship and making ethical decisions is an essential element in developing good character. Good Sports is a sponsor of the CATA Annual Awards Banquet.

USTA Texas Involvement - From 1983 – present, I served on the USTA Texas Section Junior Tennis Council, Awards Committee, Adult Recreation Committee, Community Tennis Association Committee, Community Development, Membership Committee and the Executive Committee. I started an informal group of CTA ED's (CATA, DTA, HTA, and SATA) to share best practices. When Jim Chaffin became President in 1991, he formed the Community Development Committee. I served 14 years on the Texas Section Management Committee where I served as Secretary (1999-2002), President (2003-2004), Delegate (2005-2006) Chair of the Nominating Committee (2007-2008) and as a USTA Board Of Directors member (2009-2012). During my term as President, I led the search and purchase of an office building that resulted in a new home for the USTA Texas Section. With help from staff, I developed the "Buddy System", a cooperative working relationship among departments on programming and marketing. I have also served on the Texas Section Foundation Board and on the Texas Tennis Hall of Fame Selection Committee. Currently, I serve as a member of the Advocacy Committee, Leadership Development Committee, Strategic Planning Committee and on the Texas Tennis Foundation Board.

On the **National** level, I served as USTA Section Rep for the Community Player Division (2001-2002), as a member of the USTA Membership Services Committee (2003-2008) and as Chair for 4 of those years. I served on the USTA Presidents Committee in 2003-2004 and chaired the USTA Delegates Committee in 2006. I attended the NRPA National Legislative Forum in Washington DC in 2006 and 2007, representing the USTA and Texas. I served as a Director At Large on the USTA Board of Directors in 2009-2010 and as liaison to IHRSA. I served on the USTA Budget Committee and as liaison to the Membership, Learning & Leadership, Technical & Awards Committees. I served as Vice President of the USTA Board of Directors (2011-2012) and liaison to the ITA and to the Sections. I was Chair of the Audit Committee, a member of the Budget Committee and Compensation Committee (2011-2012). Currently, I am serving as Chair of the CTA/Public Parks Committee.

I have worked with the Austin Parks and Recreation Department and City Council members, over the years, to get more tennis courts built in Austin. Promoting the benefits of tennis is very important to me because if people play tennis, they will lead a more fulfilled and healthy life and will make better citizens. In 2011, when Austin was a recipient of the Davis Cup Legacy gift, I was involved in converting 2 existing public courts into 8 36' courts at the Austin Tennis Center. I served on the Board of the Austin Sports Commission for six years, a division of the Austin Convention & Visitors Bureau.

Other Interests – I have many interests of which snow skiing, swimming, biking, horseback riding and gardening are a few. I enjoy going to Colorado to escape the Texas heat and going to Seattle where I enjoy my grandchildren and their activities. I have recently purchased a condo on the Big Island of Hawaii. To celebrate my 50th birthday, I participated in the Danskin triathlon. It made me appreciate the challenges a person faces when competing in a sport for the first time. I love to travel and, with one son and three grandchildren being out of state, it's a good thing. I went on my first river-rafting trip a few years ago down the Salt River in Arizona. Six days in the desert, without a hot shower, was a true test of my willingness to get out of my comfort zone.

TENNIS AWARDS

CATA: Contribution to Tennis (awarded twice and in 2008 had the award named for me)
President's Award

USTA Texas: Get a Life Award
Caswell Service Award

USTA National – 2013 Barbara Williams Leadership Award

In my positions with CATA, Texas Tennis and the USTA, I have met so many passionate people who are willing to get involved but perhaps do not know how to get started or have the confidence that they can contribute. I have always tried to encourage leaders at the local level to share their knowledge at the section level and then bring back what they learn to the CTA. Some of those who I have encouraged to take on leadership roles are Mardy Ayers, Tom Webber, Ray Delk, Emily Schaefer, Frank Kelly, Kevin O'Shea, Ben Eshleman, Al Trevino, and Sarah Pernell, Barbara Smith reached out to me to take over her volunteer role when she became Texas Tennis President, so I try to do the same.

Tennis has given me the opportunity to play, serve and return. I didn't know it at first, but as the years have gone by, I have come to realize that tennis gave me direction, focus, friendships, opportunity for leadership, the ability to give back and to affect people's lives. I have grown from being a player in the game to a promoter of the game. I enjoy challenging myself and others and love the quote by Sally Edwards, spokeswoman for the Danskin Triathlon, "When was the last time you tried something for the first time".

I have been a member of Westwood Country Club for about 5 years, although I had played as a guest and participant in the Memorial Day Senior Open for many years. I was previously a member at The Courtyard Tennis Club since the 70's. I also serve on the Westwood Tennis Committee and on the Westwood Board of Directors.

I have been working closely with the Austin Parks and Recreation Department to help develop a destination park on Johnny Morris Rd. where we also hope to add more tennis courts soon.

