



BOARD/COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

Human Rights Commission

Recommendation Number: 20180226-5b Addressing Race and Gender Equity in City Policy of Naming Streets, Public Buildings, Statues, Memorials, Public Parks, Park Facilities, and Features.

WHEREAS, the Human Rights Commission of the City of Austin ("Commission") advocates on behalf of human rights for all people in the City of Austin ("City"); and

WHEREAS, the Commission's duties include, but are not limited to, advising and consulting with the Austin City Council ("Council") as well as all City departments, advisory boards and regulatory agencies on all matters involving discrimination, including providing legislative recommendations and proposing measures to improve the ability of various departments and agencies, as well as initiating and facilitating discussions and negotiations between individuals and groups to lessen tensions and improve understanding in the community and aiding in the formulation of local community groups in neighborhoods as needed to carry out specific programs; and

WHEREAS on October 23, 2017 the Commission approved Recommendation No. 201701023-001b (Women's Equity in Austin Equity in Naming of Public Symbols) addressing Race and Gender Equity in City Policy of naming streets, public buildings, statues, memorials, public parks, park facilities, and features; in which, the Commission proposed that the Council and the City Manager's Office take all appropriate steps to immediately insert, in those criteria used by the City to select names for streets, public buildings, statues, memorials, public parks, park facilities, and features, a requirement that going forward, gender and racial equity shall be required, meaning that, for any new streets, public buildings, statues, memorials, public parks, park facilities and features, names after natural persons, that half of them shall be named after women and at least half of these shall be named after women of color; and

WHEREAS, on November 27, 2017, a representative from the City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department ("PARD") appeared and briefed the Commission on the issue of gender and the naming of parks and park features; and

WHEREAS, that PARD representative, Gregory Montes, subsequently provided a document (Exhibit A) showing that, of 106 officially named parks, 14 (13.2%) are named after

women, 37 (34.9%) are named after men, 49 (46.2%) are named after location, and 6 (5.7%) are named after families; and

WHEREAS on November 27, 2017, the Commission gathered more information regarding the naming criteria used by PARD during which time it became clear that the process for naming of PARD spaces can either be decided by Council vote or proposed by a community member through an application process, and

WHEREAS on November 27, 2017, the Commission gathered more information about the process of requesting a gender analysis of street names in the city of Austin to evaluate the existing percentage of streets named after men versus women,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Council and the City Manager's Office take all appropriate steps toward rectifying the gender imbalance in naming of PARD spaces, including but not limited to, soliciting input from relevant communities and voting to modify the names of 23 existing parks with location-based names to include the names of notable women and that half of these names are notable women of color (e.g. Bessie Coleman Park at Alamo Street in lieu of Alamo Pocket Park) so that PARD has 37 parks named after women to match the 37 parks named after men; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Council and the City Manager's Office confer with staff within the Address Management Services Team of the Communications and Technology Management Department, in order to purchase NamSor software at an anticipated cost of approximately \$45-99, and thereafter process the 15,650 unique names in the City's Street Name Database and conduct a gender analysis of those names as a first step toward identifying and rectifying gender imbalance in street naming; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that, after equitable proactive policies have been put in place, Council may again call upon the Human Rights Commission to offer recommendations in connection with studying the extent of naming inequities and remedial measures to address them.

Date of Approval: February 26, 2018

Record of the vote: 8-0; Commissioner Avashia motion, Commissioner Miguez second; Commissioner Bennett, Commissioner McMahon, and Commissioner Royall were absent.

Attest: _____

Jonathan Babiak
Staff Liaison

EXHIBIT A

Officially named Parks

	Original Park Name	New Park Name	Date changed	
1	Ambervalley Park	A. B. Dittmar	06/05/1986	1
2	Austin County Club/County Club Park	Hancock Park	12/22/1949	2
3	Barton Creek Greenbelt	Barton Creek Greenbelt	11/03/1983	3
4	Caswell Tennis Center	Caswell Tennis Center	4/15/1948	4
5	Central, Hemphill, Fruth	Adams-Hemphill Neighborhood Park		5
6	Colorado Branch	George Washington Carver	03/22/1945	6
7	Colorado River Park and Pleasant Valley District Pa	Roy G. Guerrero Colorado River Park	06/14/2001	7
8	Decker Lake Park	Walter E. Long Metropolitan Park	05/17/1973	8
9	Del Curto	Tom Lasseter South Austin Neighborhood Park	08/28/2014	9
10	Earl J. Pomerleau	Earl J. Pomerleau Pocket Park	1/23/2014	10
11	Gillis Park	Gillis Neighborhood Park	12/23/1947	11
12	Hancock Park	Hancock Recreation Center		12
13	J. J. Seabrook Greenbelt	J. J. Seabrook Greenbelt	06/19/1986	13
14	James A Garrison Park	James A. Garrison District Park	5/18/1967	14
15	Jimmy Clay Golf Course	Jimmy Clay Golf Course	6/1/1972	15
16	Meadowbrook Park	Ricky Guerrero Neighborhood Park	06/29/1972	16
17	Medina Street Plaza	Roy and Matias Velasquez Plaza	5/25/2006	17
18	Mesa Park/Angus Valley Neighborhood Park	Hubert C. Schroeter Neighborhood Park	08/11/1983	18
19	Morris Williams	Morris Williams, Jr. Memorial Golf Course	11/05/1953	19
20	Morrison Tract	John Trevino, Jr. Park at Morrison Ranch	04/27/2006	20
21	Nicholas Dawson Park	Nicholas Dawson Neighborhood Park	08/19/1993	21
22	Northeast	Davis-White Northeast District Park	02/01/2007	22
23	Northwest	Beverly S. Scheffield Northwest District Park	02/25/2001	23
24	Oak Springs	Givens District Park	11/15/1962	24
25	Palm	Sir Swante Palm Neighborhood Park		25
26	Pease	Pease District Park	8/25/1875	26
27	Ramsey	Ramsey Neighborhood Park	01/11/1934	27
28	Ron Rigsby Park	Ron Rigsby Pocket Park	07/14/1977	28
29	Rutland and Little Walnut Creek East	Gustavo "Gus" L. Garcia District Park	06/19/2000	29
30	Southwest District Park/McCarty	Dick Nichols District Park	10/28/1981	30
31	Spike Rush Golf Course	Roy Kizer Golf Course	06/09/1994	31
32	Town Lake	Manuel and Robert Donley Park	05/05/2006	32
33	Travis Park/the Ramble	Big Stacy Neighborhood Park		33
34	Travis Park/the Ramble	Little Stacy Neighborhood Park		34
35	Treaty Oak	Caldwell Treaty Oak Park	8/11/1937	35
36	Williams	Williams School Park	11/03/1983	36
37	Zaragoza Park	Parque Zaragoza Neighborhood Park	07/27/1989	37
38	Barrow Nature Preserve	Barrow Nature Preserve	02/06/1975	1
39	Bartholomew	Bartholomew District Park		2
40	Gaines Creek	Gaines Greenbelt	06/25/1991	3
41	Oertli	Oertli Neighborhood Park	10/07/2013	4
42	Travis Country	Gaines Creek Nature Preserve		5
43	Wunneburger	Wunneburger Neighborhood Park	03/20/2014	6
44	Clarksville Park	Mary Baylor-Clarksville Community Park	11/3/1983	1
45	East Senior Activity Center	Conley-Guerrero Senior Activity Center	03/10/1988	2
46	Elisabet Ney Museum	Elisabet Ney Museum		3
47	Ellen Higgins	Ellen Higgins Pocket Park	09/28/2000	4
48	Janet Long Fish Park	Janet Long Fish Park @ Harris Branch Greenbelt	12/11/2014	5
49	Lake Austin Metropolitan Park - City Park	Emma Long Metropolitan Park	07/12/1984	6
50	Langford	Kendra Page Neighborhood Park	3/3/1994	7

Officially named Parks

51	Mary Dawson	Mary Dawson Pocket Park	11/03/1983	8
52	Mary Moore Searight Metropolitan Park	Mary Moore Searight Metropolitan Park	11/03/1988	9
53	Mayfield	Mayfield Park	03/23/1972	10
54	Patterson Park	Blondie Pharr Tennis Center	12/11/1975	11
55	Reed	Reed Neighborhood Park	05/06/1954	12
56	Southeast District Park	Mabel Davis District Park	05/25/1978	13
57	University Hills Park	Dottie Jordan Neighborhood Park	05/02/1974	14
1	Alamo	Alamo Pocket Park	05/25/1978	1
2	Balcones Community Park	Balcones District Park	11/03/1983	2
3	Balcones Oak Forest/Hunter Oaks	Oak View Neighborhood Park	05/05/1983	3
4	Battle Bend	Battle Bend Springs	11/03/1983	4
5	Big Walnut Creek	Big Walnut Creek Greenbelt	11/03/1983	5
6	Blunn Creek	Blunn Creek Greenbelt	11/03/1983	6
7	Blunn Creek Wilderness Park	Blunn Creek Nature Preserve	11/03/1983	7
8	Boggy Creek	Boggy Creek Greenbelt	11/03/1983	8
9	Boggy Creek Greenbelt	Boggy Creek Greenbelt	05/17/2007	9
10	Boggy Creek South Greenbelt	Boggy Creek South	11/03/1983	10
11	Bull Creek District	Bull Creek District	11/03/1983	11
12	Buttermilk	Buttermilk Branch Greenbelt	1/3/1983	12
13	Circle C Metropolitan Park/Slaughter Creek Metro	Circle C Ranch Metropolitan Park at Slaughter Creek	03/22/2001	13
14	Colony	Colony Park District Park	11/03/1983	14
15	Colorado	Colorado River Greenbelt	11/03/1983	15
16	Comal	Comal Pocket Park	11/03/1983	16
17	Dove Springs area	Dove Springs District Park	3/18/1993	17
18	East Bouldin Creek Greenbelt	East Bouldin Creek Greenbelt	11/03/1983	18
19	East Woods	East Woods Neighborhood Park	11/03/1983	19
20	Franklin	Franklin Neighborhood Park	11/03/1983	20
21	Govalle	Govalle Neighborhood Park	11/03/1983	21
22	Johnson Creek Greenbelt	Johnson Creek Greenbelt	11/03/1983	22
23	Lamplight	Alderbrook Pocket Park	10/15/2015	23
24	Lantana Park	Lantana Neighborhood Park	6/19/1989	24
25	Little Walnut Creek Greenbelt	Little Walnut Creek Greenbelt	11/03/1983	25
26	Lundberg Bakery	Old Bakery and Emporium		26
27	Metz	Metz Neighborhood Park	11/03/1983	27
28	Mount Bonnell	Mount Bonnell at Covert Park Metropolitan Park	08/10/1972	28
29	Nature Center	Austin Nature and Science Center	9/7/1995	29
30	North Oaks	North Oaks Neighborhood Park	11/03/1983	30
31	North Star MUD	Gracywoods Neighborhood Park	9/3/1992	31
32	Onion Creek Greenbelt	Onion Creek Greenbelt	11/03/1983	32
33	Perry Park	Perry Neighborhood Park	07/01/1948	33
34	Piney Creek Bend	Piney Bend Neighborhood Park	9/28/2000	34
35	Resaca Ranch and Lake Austin Metro Park	Commons Ford Ranch Metropolitan Park	11/03/1983	35
36	Rosewood Park for Negros	Rosewood Neighborhood Park	11/03/1983	36
37	Rutland	Quail Creek Neighborhood	07/15/1993	37
38	Sierra Oaks and Sierra Nevada	Great Hills Neighborhood Park	5/23/1996	38
39	Springdale	Springdale Neighborhood Park	11/03/1983	39
40	Steck Valley Greenbelt	Steck Valley Greenbelt	11/03/1983	40
41	Swede Hill Park	Swede Hill Pocket Park	8/11/1997	41
42	Tarrytown	Tarrytown Neighborhood Park	11/03/1983	42
43	Travis County Park	Oak Hill Neighborhood Park	11/03/1983	43
44	Triangular Median on West Lynn	Palma Plaza	11/3/1988	44
45	Veterans Park	Veterans Pocket Park	11/6/2008	45

Officially named Parks

46	West Austin	West Austin Neighborhood Park	11/03/1983	46
47	West Bouldin Creek Greenbelt	West Bouldin Creek Greenbelt	11/03/1983	47
48	Westenfield Neighborhood	Westenfield Neighborhood Park	11/03/1983	48
49	Whispering Oaks Park	Longview Neighborhood Park	11/03/1983	49
		106	Named Parks	
	34.91%	37	Men	
	13.21%	14	Women	
	5.66%	6	Family Name	
	46.23%	49	Other	