



BOARD/COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

Parks and Recreation Board

Recommendation Number: 20210126-B3: Recommended Changes to the Naming and Renaming Ordinance 20160324-021

WHEREAS, the current process and timeline for naming or renaming of a park or park facility has caused confusion among applicants and community members interested in providing feedback on a proposed name or name change; and

WHEREAS, the current naming/renaming ordinance could greatly benefit in clarity of language, transparency, and process for both Parks and Recreation Department staff and Austin residents; and

WHEREAS, the current naming and renaming process has not previously considered equal representation across the city by considering racial, ethnic, gender, and economic disparities in the naming or renaming of a park, park facility, or park feature; and

WHEREAS, naming and renaming parks and park facilities after individuals has been a cost and staffing burden to the Parks and Recreation Department; and

WHEREAS, parks and park facilities named after geographical or historical areas are long-term and can aid in directional knowledge of the city; and

WHEREAS, the cost associated with renaming a park, park facility, or park feature should be recovered from the applicants to relieve that cost from the Parks and Recreation Department; and

WHEREAS, community engagement during a proposed naming or renaming should be conducted to accommodate wide public participation and be easy for staff to facilitate.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Parks and Recreation Board encourages the Austin City Council to incorporate the recommended changes to the Ordinance 20160324-021 in order to make the naming and renaming process more transparent, more efficient, more equitable, and less costly for the Parks and Recreation Department.

Date of Approval: January 26, 2021

Record of the vote: 10-0 with Vice Chair Romteen Farasat absent.

Attest: _____

Dawn Lewis