

CITY OF EL PASO, TEXAS
AGENDA ITEM DEPARTMENT HEAD'S SUMMARY FORM

DEPARTMENT: **Parks and Recreation**
AGENDA DATE: **May 12, 2009**
CONTACT PERSON/PHONE: **Nanette Smejkal, 541-4331**
DISTRICT(S) AFFECTED: **1**

SUBJECT:

APPROVE a resolution / ordinance / lease to do what? OR AUTHORIZE the City Manager to do what? Be descriptive of what we want Council to approve. Include \$ amount if applicable.

Approve a Resolution naming the facility located at 701 Montana, as Pat O'Rourke Recreation Center.

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION:

Discussion of the what, why, where, when, and how to enable Council to have reasonably complete description of the contemplated action. This should include attachment of bid tabulation, or ordinance or resolution if appropriate. What are the benefits to the City of this action? What are the citizen concerns?

The naming of parks and recreation facilities follows a Council adopted policy. The Friends and Neighbors United Committee (FANUC) played a key role in helping to establish a new recreation center at 701 Montana (formally the YMCA), and provided the naming application and petitions. Construction of the facility is commencing. The Naming Subcommittee and the entire Parks and Recreation Advisory Board reviewed the naming application and heard from supporters. Consensus was reached and they recommend naming the facility "Pat O'Rourke Recreation Center." Attached please find minutes and letter from FANUC.

PRIOR COUNCIL ACTION:

Has the Council previously considered this item or a closely related one?

AMOUNT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING:

How will this item be funded? Has the item been budgeted? If so, identify funding source by account numbers and description of account. Does it require a budget transfer?

BOARD / COMMISSION ACTION:

Enter appropriate comments or N/A

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board voted to approve the naming recommendation on April 7, 2009 and forward to City Council for consideration with the recommendation to approve.

*****REQUIRED AUTHORIZATION*****

LEGAL: (if required) _____ **FINANCE:** (if required) _____

DEPARTMENT HEAD: _____
(Example: if RCA is initiated by Purchasing, client department should sign also)

Information copy to appropriate Deputy City Manager

APPROVED FOR AGENDA:

CITY MANAGER: _____

DATE: _____

Attachments

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council accept the recommendation from the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board to name the recreation facility located at 701 Montana Avenue, El Paso, Texas, more specifically known as Block 269, Campbell Addition, City of El Paso, El Paso County, Texas, as the **PAT O'ROURKE RECREATION CENTER**.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EL PASO:

THAT the recreation facility located at 701 Montana Avenue, El Paso, Texas, more specifically known as Block 269, Campbell Addition, City of El Paso, El Paso County, Texas, shall henceforth be named and known as the **PAT O'ROURKE RECREATION CENTER**; and,

THAT the City, through its capital improvement program, shall incur the customary costs associated with the placing of signage on a newly constructed park facility. (District 8)

PASSED AND APPROVED this _____ day of _____, 2009.

CITY OF EL PASO

John F. Cook
Mayor

ATTEST:

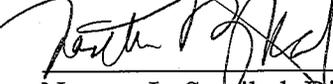
Richarda Duffy Momsen
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Kristen L. Choi
Assistant City Attorney

APPROVED AS TO CONTENT:



Nanette L. Smejkal, Director
Parks and Recreation Department

FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS UNITED COMMITTEE
El Paso, Texas

April 2, 2009

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Memorial Senior Center
1800 Byron
El Paso, Texas 79930

Dear Parks Advisory Board Members,

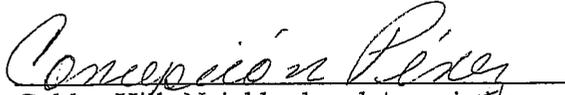
Thank you for hearing our proposal to rename the new central recreation center at 701 Montana the Pat O'Rourke Recreation Center. Mr. Pat O'Rourke was an El Paso County Commissioner, County Judge and small business owner who was passionately involved in ways to better the community.

Mr. Pat O'Rourke was born in El Paso in 1942 and grew up in central El Paso. He attended Austin High School and Texas Western College. He served as an El Paso County Commissioner from 1978-1982 and as El Paso County Judge from 1982-1986. Mr. Pat O'Rourke pushed for the creation of El Paso Community College in the mid 1970's.

Beyond serving as Commissioner and Judge, he volunteered on many committees, commissions and boards and was instrumental in pushing for a more vibrant, dynamic and diverse El Paso. He was known for his enthusiastic support of recreational and outdoor activities in El Paso and supported league and team sports throughout the community. As a child, he spent countless hours at the central YMCA as part of the GRA-Y Club after school program.

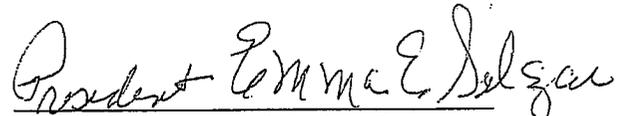
O'Rourke was also a lifelong cyclist. He completed a cross-country bicycle trip in 2000. He was killed in 2001 while riding his bike in El Paso. His life is a testimony to the youth, elderly, and future generations.

We the members of the Friends and Neighbors United Committee(FANUC) do hereby unanimously ,proudly yet humbly submit our proposal to you by evidence of our signatures enclosed below:

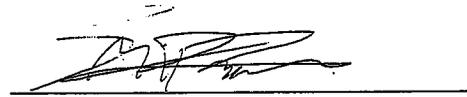

Golden Hills Neighborhood Association


Chihuahita Neighborhood Association

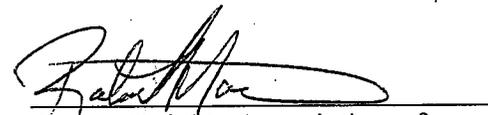

El Paso High School Neighborhood Assoc.


Houston Park Neighborhood Assoc.


Central El Paso Civic Organization


Ciudad Nueva Association


Sunset Heights Neighborhood Improvement Association


Sunset Heights Association of Community Friends

Michael Armstead commented that the Rose Garden is a valuable asset to the community and the classes conducted by master gardeners had significant participation.

Richard Falvo, new Parks and Recreation Advisory Board member, was introduced by Michael Armstead. Henry Stokes, Chair, welcomed Mr. Falvo to the Board. Mr. Falvo gave the board a brief biography and accomplishments.

Agenda Item #5. Subcommittees:

- a. Discussion and Action: Naming Committee recommendation that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board forward a request to City Council to approve naming the new central recreation center at 701 Montana as Pat O'Rourke Recreation Center (Michael Armstead)

Michael Armstead reported the nomination met all the criteria and the committee supported the recommendation that the new recreation center be named the Pat O'Rourke Recreation Center.

Public Comment: Ms. Emma Salazar, President of the Houston Park Association, on behalf of the members of the Friends and Neighbors United Committee (FANUC) endorsed the Naming Committee's recommendation. Ms. Salazar gave a summation on the life of Pat O'Rourke and distributed a Letter of Recommendation to the Board (Handout).

William Medrano stated that Mr. O'Rourke also gained notoriety while protesting by burning the United States flag and that the military community might take offense at the dedication. Matthew Carroll mentioned that he was not aware of the incident and felt this would not be a significant factor in the recommendation.

Motion made by Matthew Carroll to send to City Council for their approval for 701 Montana to be named the Pat O'Rourke Recreation Center. Second by Michael Armstead. Motion passed: 9 ayes, 1 abstain, Chair no vote.

- b. Discussion and Action: Open Space Committee update from recent meetings (as needed)

Carl Pataky reported on a meeting held March 23, 2009. Participated in a TXDot visit at Tom Mays Park to evaluate culverts and passageways under Transmountain. Next meeting to be held on April 27th.

No action needed.

- c. Discussion and Action: Grievance Committee update from recent meetings (as needed)

None, no action needed.

- d. Discussion and Action: Appointments to Subcommittees (as needed)

Henry Stokes, Chair, advised Richard Falvo a vacancy exists on the Grievance Committee and he will meet with him to assist with his decision. No action needed.

Agenda Item #6. Discussion and Action: Determination of Board Goals and Objectives (Henry Stokes)



DRAFT

PARKS & RECREATION PARK NAMING SUBCOMMITTEE

MINUTES

Tuesday, March 3, 2009

4:00 p.m.

Memorial Senior Center, 1800 Byron

Members Present

Matthew Carroll
Michael Armstead
Henry Stokes
James Tolbert
Ralph Cloud
Fred Shuford

Members Absent

Rodolfo Troncoso

Staff Present

Nanette Smejkal, Director
Judy Weiss, Assistant Director
Joel McKnight, Assistant Director
Maggie Binkley, Administrative Assistant
Lucy Calderon, Recording Secretary

Late Arrivals/Early Departures:

1. Meeting called to order at 4:00 p.m.
2. Discussion and action on selection of subcommittee Chair: Motion made by James Tolbert to nominate Michael Armstead as Park Naming Subcommittee Chair; seconded by Fred Shuford; all in favor; motion passed unanimously.
3. Discussion and action on naming of the new central recreation center at 701 Montana as Pat O'Rourke Multipurpose Center. Joseph Nevarez with Sunset Heights Association of Community and Friends and also Friends and Neighbors United Committee (FANUC) discussed the life of Pat O'Rourke. Motion made by James Tolbert to accept the proposal to rename the Central Recreation Center to Pat O'Rourke Recreation Center; seconded by Matthew Carroll; all in favor; motion passed 3 to 2. 3-ayes: James Tolbert, Matthew Carroll, Fred Shuford 2-nays: Michael Armstead and Ralph Cloud 1-abstention: Henry Stokes.
4. Discussion and action on the naming of new park at 12930 G R. Campuzano Drive to George D. Thomas, Jr. Park. Jose Lares with East Montana Joint Venture (Park Developer) discussed the area being developed by George Thomas Builders. Motion made by James Tolbert to deny the request and have the developer get community input and the 50 signatures required for that area; seconded by Matthew Carroll; all in favor; motion passed unanimously.
5. Discussion and action on the naming of new linear park at 1746 Shreya Street and 2080 Shreya Street as Frank T. Hourigan Park. Applicant: Jose Lares with East Montana Joint Venture (Park Developer). Item Tabled, application incomplete, area not completely developed. Community input needed.
6. Meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.