

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

DEPARTMENT: Parks and Recreation
AGENDA DATE: August 17, 2010
CONTACT PERSON/ PHONE : Joel McKnight, Assistant Director, 541-4331
DISTRICT(S) AFFECTED: District 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 authorizing the renaming of Westside Recreation Center as Don Haskins 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 name Westside Recreation Center was a geographically descriptive name. Following the park naming policy, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board recommends that City Council approve the renaming of the recreation center as Don Haskins Recreation Center. Please see attached narrative.

PRIOR COUNCIL ACTION:

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

N/A

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?

No cost to the City

BOARD / COMMISSION ACTION:

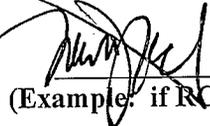
Enter appropriate comments or N/A

June 21, 2010 the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board unanimously voted to recommend that the City Council approve the renaming of Westside Recreation Center as Don Haskins Recreation Center.

*****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: _____

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council accept the recommendation from the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board to rename the Recreation Center located at 7400 High Ridge, El Paso, Texas, more specifically known as the Westside Recreation Center, City of El Paso, El Paso County, Texas, to the **DON HASKINS RECREATION CENTER**.

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

THAT the recreation center located at 7400 High Ridge, El Paso, Texas, more specifically known as the Westside Recreation Center, City of El Paso, El Paso County, Texas, shall henceforth be named and known as the **DON HASKINS RECREATION CENTER**; and,

THAT Efren Ortega III is the person requesting this specific name and shall incur the customary costs associated with the renaming of the Recreation Center, such as installing or replacing signs with the new name or any other signs posted or affixed for a facility. Any proposed signs shall be acceptable to both the Parks and Recreation Department and the individual(s) or group making the request. (District 1)

PASSED AND APPROVED this _____ day of _____, 2010.

CITY OF EL PASO

John F. Cook
Mayor

ATTEST:

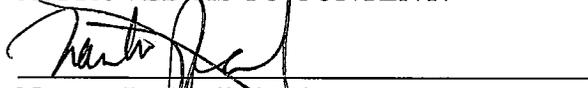
Richarda Duffy Momsen
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Kristen L. Choi
Assistant City Attorney

APPROVED AS TO CONTENT:



Nanette L. Smejkal, Director
Parks and Recreation Department



City of El Paso PARK NAMING/CHANGING Application



Applicant information

Please print or type the information in black ink

Applicant Name: EFREN ORTEGA III
 Mailing Address: 7121 Luz de Espejo City: El Paso Zip: 79912
 Home Phone: 915 845 8020 Work Phone: _____ Cell Phone: 915-355-0937
 Email Address: efrenortega3@yahoo.com
 Organization _____ Non-Profit.

Proposed Name / Change

Park/Facility Location/Address: Westside (Park on High Ridge)
 Current name of Park or Facility: West Side Recreation Center Not Applicable

Suggested Name: Don Haskins Recreation Center

Category:

- Outstanding Individual(s)
Acknowledges the sustained contribution that has been made by such individual(s) to the City of El Paso and/or the development and management of the City's park and recreation system.
- Common usage identifying the Neighborhood
Acknowledges the geographic location or common name that gives a particular identity to a neighborhood.
- Historical Event, Person, Place
Preserves and honors the history of El Paso, its founders, other historical figures or local landmarks.
- Natural or Geographical Feature to the area
Acknowledges a prominent or unique natural or geological feature in the surrounding area.
- Benefit/Organization Acknowledgement
Major gift, acknowledges the significant benefit of a donation
- Other
Describe:

PLEASE DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA
 PARKS AND RECREATION
 STAFF ONLY

Date Received by PARD: 2/23/10
 Date of Committee Meeting: 6/14/10
 Date of PRAB Meeting: 6/21/10
 Date of City Council Meeting: _____

Don "The Bear" Haskins

Donald Lee Haskins, nicknamed "The Bear" was born on March 14, 1930 and lived until September 7, 2008. He was an American collegiate basketball coach and player. He played for three years under legendary coach Henry Iba at Oklahoma A&M, now Oklahoma State University. He was the head coach at Texas Western College (renamed the University of Texas at El Paso in 1967) from 1961 to 1999, including the 1966 season when his team won the NCAA Tournament over the Wildcats of the University of Kentucky.

In his time at Texas Western, he compiled a 719-353 record, suffering only five losing seasons in his 38-year career. He won 14 Western Athletic Conference championships, four WAC tournament titles, had fourteen NCAA tournament berths (in 1992 advanced to the Sweet 16 after upsetting No. 2-ranked Kansas) and made seven trips to the NIT. Haskins led UTEP to 17 20-plus win seasons and served as an assistant Olympic team coach in 1972 in Munich. Inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in 1997, Haskins was fourth in victories among active coaches when he retired in 1999 with a 719-353 record. During a time of racial discrimination, especially on a basketball court, it would take a bold brave man to stand up for what's right, and cross a line that was never crossed before. A man by the name of Don Haskins would soon change all of this. He took the head coaching job at Texas Western University to try and turn their basketball program into a winning program. Haskins would lead his team to a 27-1 record with seven African American players and they would soon be on their way to a National Championship game. Putting five black players on the court wasn't

meant as a statement for racial equality. It was a lineup put together to win a championship game. Haskins and his Miners weren't trying to change anything when they took the court against the University of Kentucky in the National Championship game, and the argument could be made that they really didn't although it would be another season before a black player took the court in the Southeastern Conference, and two more after that before Kentucky's team was integrated. The 1966 team was nominated in its entirety to the Basketball Hall of Fame, and was inducted to the Hall on September 7, 2007. As the years passed and particularly with the success of the 2006 Disney film "Glory Road," which was based on the coach's bestselling autobiography -- Haskins became well-known for the changes he implemented at a time when there were no black players at many colleges and universities.

Don Haskins shaped college basketball into what it is today. He broke the racial barriers that prevented truly talented players to be allowed to contribute their skills on the court because of their race. Even though Don Haskins received a lot of negative feedback he still pushed on for what he believed was right. When asked if what he did was to set an example Haskins simply replied "He was just trying to play the best players and they just happened to be black." Some people really can't grasp the motivation this single act put on the future of athletics but it opened many doors for athletes of all ethnic backgrounds. Don Haskins loved the city of El Paso, and having the winning reputation he consistently held on too that could have taken his remarkable career else where, Haskins still stayed in El Paso where he was looked up to as a hero and a role model to many. He was a deeply loved and respected man by peoples of all ages, and to this we owe so much to

him. He is survived by his wife, Mary; three sons Brent, David and Steve and three grandsons, John Paul, Cameron and Dominick. A fourth son, Mark, died in 1994.