

Mayor and Council Communication

DATE: 06/14/22

M&C FILE NUMBER: M&C 22-0403

LOG NAME: 80ECHOLAKECOMPLEXNAMING

SUBJECT

(CD 9) Authorize the Naming of the Ballfield Complex Located at Echo Lake Park as the Patrick Zamarripa Ballfield Complex and Keep Current Field Names

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that City Council authorize the naming of the Echo Lake Park Ballfield Complex, Patrick Zamarripa Ballfield Complex and keep the current named fields within the complex, Ciquio Vasquez Field and Tony Cervantes Field.

DISCUSSION:

PARK HISTORY:

In 1975, Tarrant County was deeded the Echo Lake property by the Missouri Pacific Railroad Company. From that time until 2017, Tarrant County owned and maintained the property as a public park known as Echo Lake Park. The 41.3-acre park currently consists of an approximately 17-acre lake and numerous park amenities including sports fields.

In September 1989, the County deeded 2.3 acres to the City, for what is now the Worth Heights Community Center site. Since 1976, the County had allowed the Southside Little League organization to utilize a portion of the property. In 2016, the County approached the Park & Recreation Department (PARD) regarding conveying Echo Lake Park to the City as dedicated parkland since park management was not a core function of the County.

On March 21, 2017, City Council approved the authorization to enter into an interlocal agreement with Tarrant County for the donation to the City of the 41.3 acres of land known as Echo Lake Park, located in Council District 9. The City assumed ownership of the park on May 1, 2017 in "as is" condition.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The PARD was approached by Councilmember Elizabeth Beck on July 9, 2021 with a request to recognize Officer Patrick Zamarripa who lost his life in the line of duty on July 7, 2016 along with four other City of Dallas based peace officers. Officer Zamarripa grew up in Fort Worth, attended Fort Worth Independent School District schools and played baseball at both Paschal High School and with the Southside Little League, the latter of which home fields were located at Echo Lake Park.

NAMING OF CITY-OWNED FACILITIES:

On August 26, 1980, the City Council adopted a Resolution establishing procedures for the naming of City-owned facilities. The Resolution provides that in order for a City-owned facility to be named after an individual, the individual must be deceased. Under the Resolution, recommendations for naming City-owned facilities are subject to evaluations from the appropriate department (in this instance PARD) and the City Manager's Office, and are forwarded to the City Council for consideration and action. In addition, the PARD has established its own internal Park and Facility Naming Policy, endorsed by the Park & Recreation Advisory Board (PARAB) which follows the parameters of the City Council Resolution, but also requires, (i) the submission of a petition signed by users of the particular park or facility to demonstrate community support for the proposed naming, (ii) publication in the newspaper, (iii) a public comment period, (iv) a report and recommendation by the Park & Recreation Director to the PARAB, and (v) consideration and action by the Board. In lieu of a petition from the requesting organization, a letter of request and commitment from Councilmember Elizabeth Beck is attached.

In addition to all of the above conditions, the requestor shall provide a biographical sketch and documentation of the individual's contributions to the park system; public notice of the proposed name change must be published in the City's official newspaper three times during a ninety (90) day period; citizen comments must be in writing to the Director of PARD and be postmarked within the ninety (90) day public notice period. At the end of the ninety (90) day public notice period, PARD Director shall submit a summary of the comments and recommendations received to the PARAB for review; after the review by the PARAB the name shall be submitted to the City Council for their approval.

On September 22, 2021, the Park & Recreation Advisory Board received Informational Item VI.A. regarding this naming request. At that time, the Board concurred with the staff's recommendation that the public notice period be adjusted to thirty (30) days, due to the fact this was not a park renaming but naming of an athletic complex.

ECHO LAKE PARK MASTER PLAN:

The proposed 2022 Bond Program includes a \$5,000,000 allocation for the renovation of Echo Lake Park. Given the predominant baseball history at this site it is anticipated that community input will include ballfields in the master plan. While the total number of fields is unknown at this time, it is

expected there will be at least two fields which make a “complex”. In accordance with the Park and Facility Naming Policy, the PARD does not name individual ballfields.

The naming of the complex after Officer Zamarripa would be an excellent way to honor his memory as a person who grew up in the neighborhood, served his country and gave his life in the line of duty protecting others. Moreover, the impact of his commitment to community and country can serve as a good example to future little leaguers that they too can make a positive difference for their community. Moreover, this naming would serve as testament to the intended outcome of developing youth by the Southside Little League founder and longtime volunteer Ciquio Vasquez.

The Southside Little League Baseball Complex is currently unnamed. Of the five fields in Echo Lake Park, two of the fields are physically named (signage is in place on the fields): Ciquio Vasquez Field and Dent Law Firm Field. Tarrant County provided no Commissioners Court legislative action i.e. resolution, which officially named these fields. It should be noted that in the case of Ciquio Vasquez, who was the founder of the Southside Little League, a proclamation issued on June 5, 1986 by County Commissioner Precinct 1 Dick Andersen recognizing his contributions to the League and “proclaiming and rededicating the Echo Lake North Ballfield in his honor” was provided to the PARD. In January 2017 Tarrant County provided official documentation in the form of Commissioners Court Communication #89890, dated April 1, 2013, naming a field after Tony Cervantes, who served as Vice President and President, however when the City took over the property no signage existed on any field. Southside Little League is currently inactive at Echo Lake Park and is not under contract with the Park & Recreation Department.

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION:

Public notice of the consideration of naming was announced on October 12, 2021, with a public notice sign placed in Echo Lake Park and notification ad in the Fort Worth Star Telegram. In addition, the notice was posted on the Nextdoor App on October 25, 2021, and on the City of Fort Worth Community Engagement Office website on October 28, 2021 where it was posted for two weeks.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC NOTICE PROPOSALS RECEIVED:

In response to the public notices, the PARD received three emails regarding the naming proposal. All emails registered opposition to naming the facility Patrick Zamarripa Ballfield Complex and referenced retaining the field name of Ciquio Vasquez.

On November 17, 2021, the Park Board approved a motion to name the Echo Lake Park Ballfield Complex, Patrick Zamarripa Ballfield Complex.

A Form 1295 is not required because: This M&C does not request approval of a contract with a business entity.

FISCAL INFORMATION / CERTIFICATION:

The Director of Finance certifies that this action will have no material effect on City funds.

Submitted for City Manager's Office by: Valerie Washington 6192

Originating Business Unit Head: Richard Zavala 5704

Additional Information Contact: Richard Zavala 5704

Expedited