

Mayor and Council Communication

DATE: 06/14/22

M&C FILE NUMBER: M&C 22-0402

LOG NAME: 80ECHOLAKEPARKNAMING

SUBJECT

(CD 9) Authorize the Renaming of Echo Lake Park to Ciquio Vasquez Park

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council authorize the renaming of Echo Lake Park to Ciquio Vasquez Park.

DISCUSSION:

On May 25, 2022, the Park & Recreation Advisory Board voted and approved Action Item VI.A renaming Echo Lake Park to Ciquio Vasquez Park.

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.

Mr. Vasquez was born November 18, 1927, in Fort Worth and grew up in the Worth Heights Community. He served in the United States military during the Korean War. In 1976, he founded Southside Little League and was an involved member until his passing in 2012. On June 5, 1986, Tarrant County issued a Proclamation, naming one of five fields, Ciquio Vasquez Field in his honor. On April 5, 1986, Ciquio was honored by the Hispanic Organizations of Tarrant County for his commitment to Echo Lake Park and Southside Little League. In 2004, Mr. Vasquez was recognized as Regional Citizen of the year by the Cross Timbers Urban Forestry Council for his contribution to planting trees in Echo Lake Park. On July 31, 2012, the Texas State Senate issued Proclamation No. 1049, in memory of the life and contributions of Mr. Vasquez. Ciquio Vasquez remained a prominent and influential member of the Worth Heights Community throughout his life. The positive impacts he made have had an everlasting influence on Echo Lake Park and surrounding neighborhoods.

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 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.

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 approval of this recommendation will have no material effect on City funds.

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Expedited