

METROPOLITAN PARKS AND RECREATION PARKS ADVISORY BOARD PARK NAMING POLICIES

General Board Philosophy:

The MPRPAB is tasked with hearing requests and making recommendations related to the renaming of Parks within the City of Albuquerque. This document sets out policies related to this duty and was adopted unanimously by MPRPAB on March 26, 2013 by a quorum of the Board. This meeting was advertised to allow for public input. This matter has been a discussion item on Board Agendas at least three times in the last six months. These policies are a reaffirmation of previous policies informally followed by the Board.

Consideration shall be given to names which reflect geographical locations, natural or geological features, or names in common usage, which will align the park with a particular neighborhood or location within the City. A park name shall be changed only if the current name does not have geographical, historical or other significance. Parks named after an individual should not be considered for a change in name, except in compelling circumstances supported by overwhelming public interest.

There are instances when it is the desire of members of the community to rename a park in honor of an individual. Our community is composed of people accomplished in education, sports, public service, entertainment, medicine, military achievement, banking and finance, land development, and many other fields. Each of these persons played an important part in the development and progress of our city. Individuals have achievements on local, statewide, national and international levels. There are a limited number of parks in our City and many individuals who have made important contributions to the community. To memorialize an individual by naming or renaming a park after than individual **will not be the standard practice of the Board.**

Creating a memorial to these individuals is more appropriate and may include commemorative statues or other works of art, naming of gardens or other special features in parks or other public places, donations of money or land or other contributions to the community in the name of an individual, etc.

Undeveloped parks may be named by City Parks and Recreation Department following notification to neighboring associations where the park is located. If the transitional name identified at acquisition is not significant, a recommendation can be made to the Metropolitan Park Advisory Board, without the requirement for an application for a name change.

Public Involvement to Consider Parks and Recreation Facility Names:

- a. A standard application form, with supporting letters and/or documentation, will be submitted to the Board for each proposed park-naming request. A copy of the standard application will be mailed to any individual and/or group requesting that the Board consider a name for a park. The applicant is responsible for providing full and complete information on said application. Incomplete or inaccurate information shall be grounds for denial or deferral of a request. The application shall be accompanied with a reasonable non-refundable application fee, currently set at \$50.00.

- b. Any name proposed for a park shall be given public NOTICE as follows:
 - 1. APPLICANT shall contact the Office of Neighborhood Coordination requesting the names of affected neighborhood association(s) and send them a copy of the application and a letter explaining the request.
 - 2. Parks Department shall send a notice of the proposed park naming application to a daily newspaper, requesting publication of the time and date of the Board meeting where discussion of the proposed naming will be considered.
 - 3. Parks shall provide sign(s) to be posted at the park under discussion at least 15 days prior to the Board meeting at which the name change will be discussed. APPLICANT shall be responsible for posting said sign(s.)
- c. The Board will take into consideration all suggestions and requests from individuals, neighborhood associations, the Parks and Recreation Department or other groups for naming of specific parks.
- d. Parks will be named for geographic locations, historic events, significant features, or names in common usage.
- e. A park name shall be changed only if the current name does not have geographical, historical or other significance. No park named after an individual should be considered for a change in name, except in compelling circumstances supported by overwhelming public interest.
- f. Proposed donations for purchase, development or renovation of a park or recreation facility or portions of shall not be the determining factor in making a recommendation on an application for park naming. Such donations are encouraged as a means of contributing to the community, and persons who make such donations are to be commended. These donations may be helpful in defraying the cost of creating a memorial to these individuals.
- g. As each new park name is considered, the need for informational signs will also be discussed, and if the Board feels that they are necessary, a recommendation will be made that those signs will be prepared and displayed.
- h. Before a request renaming a park is considered by the Board, Parks staff shall research the original name and provide that information at the Board meeting.
- i. Generally the APPLICANT will be required to raise the cost of the name change, or memorial since the Parks department has such limited funds.

ADOPTED by MPRAB 1/7/14