



April Board Cycle

Milwaukee County Parks
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Wauwatosa, WI 53226
(414) 257-PARK

Date: March 21, 2019
To: Theodore Lipscomb, Sr., Chairman, County Board of Supervisors
From: Guy Smith, CPRP, Executive Director
Subject: **Process for renaming a park, parkland, or park structures (INFORMATION)**

Issue

All recent renaming or naming of parks, parkland, or park structures has been at the direction of the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors. Although there have been attempts by the County Board and Milwaukee County Parks to create a process for the naming or renaming of parks, parkland, or park structures, no process currently exists.

Background

Milwaukee County has a long history of attempting to create a process for the naming or renaming of parks, parkland, or park structures.

In 1968, the Milwaukee County Park Commission adopted guidelines for the naming of Milwaukee County Parks, as follows:

1. Identification with a local person who participated in park affairs and made a major contribution to the County Park System. In using local individual names for parks, a reasonable period of time should elapse after the person's demise.
2. The geographical location or historical significance of the park area.
3. Identification with an Indian tribe.

These guidelines were never adopted by the County Board but were used by the Park Commission until it was disbanded in 1981.

In 1975, the County Board adopted resolution File No. 75-732 that established a policy for all boards, commissions, institutions, and departments of Milwaukee County, that there should be no name assigned to, or any change in the name of, any county institution, building, or facility, without prior approval of the County Board. This policy was a

response to an action by the Milwaukee County Board of Public Welfare that attempted to rename the County Hospital. Several files are attached to File No. 75-732 that relate to naming or renaming of parks and park facilities, including:

- The naming of Pulaski Pool in 1976 at the recommendation of the Park Commission
- The renaming of Parksite No. 54 to Leo Tiefenthaler in 1978 at the recommendation of the Park Commission
- The renaming of Parksite No. 62 to Richard S. Falk Park in 1979 at the request of the Park Commission with the concurrence of the City of Oak Creek's Common Council
- The renaming of Garfield Park to Clinton E. Rose Park at the petition of the Five W's Seniors in 1982

Shortly after the 1975 policy was established, a County Supervisor requested that the County Board establish a unified procedure for naming parks, File No. 75-855, but the request was placed on file and no policy was adopted.

In 1996, two County Supervisors passed a resolution, File No. 96-869, noting that Milwaukee County had no adopted policies or guidelines for the naming or renaming of public buildings, facilities, parks, parkways, county trunk highways, or county drives. The resolution directed the Director of Parks to work in conjunction with County Board staff to develop an ordinance modeled after a City of Milwaukee ordinance.

In March of 1997, in response to File No. 96-869, the Director of Parks provided a report to the County Board with the requested research and recommended ordinance specifying guidelines for the naming or renaming of parks, park buildings, facilities, equipment, athletic fields, and various miscellaneous donated items. It was amended extensively and passed at Parks Committee and then was referred to the Transit Committee to receive input from the Director of Public Works. No changes or recommendations were made at the Transit Committee and the ordinance went to the County Board for final approval on September 25, 1997. During the County Board meeting the ordinance was amended several times and a motion was made to send it back to committee. The motion failed. Other motions were made, in the end the County Board voted to place the item on file with a vote of 14-11. The resolution/ordinance was never adopted.

More recently, there are several examples of naming or renaming by resolution of the County Board, including:

- In 2012, a portion of Carver Park was renamed James W. Beckum Park in honor of the founder of the Beckum-Stapleton Little League (File No. 12-288)
- In 2014, certain Milwaukee County-owned woodlands in the City of Oak Creek were named Barloga Woods after a well-known and respected naturalist (File No. 14-468)
- In 2018, a room in the Humboldt Park Pavilion was named the Ruth M. Simos Great Room to honor the contributions of Mrs. Simos to her community and Humboldt Park (File No. 18-269)

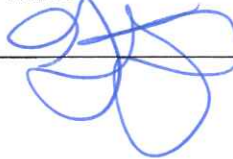
Though there have been attempts to develop policies and procedures for the naming or renaming of parks, parkland, and park structures, none have been successful. The 1975 policy remains the only naming requirement currently applicable to parkland.

Recommendation

No recommendation this report was informational only.

Prepared By: Erica Hayden, Contracts Manager, Milwaukee County Parks

Approved By: Guy Smith, CPRP, Executive Director



Attachments

- Attachment 1 – County Board File No 75-732
- Attachment 2 – County Board File No 96-869

Copy

- Chris Abele, County Executive
- Raisa Koltun, Chief of Staff, County Executive's Office
- Jason Haas, Parks, Energy & Environment Chair, Supervisor District 14
- Sheldon Wasserman, Parks, Energy & Environment Vice-Chair, Supervisor District 3
- Marcella Nicholson, Parks, Energy & Environment Committee Member, Supervisor District 5
- Felesia Martin, Parks, Energy & Environment Committee Member, Supervisor District 7
- Steven Shea, Parks, Energy & Environment Committee Member, Supervisor District 8
- Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, County Board of Supervisors
- Kelsey Evans, Committee Coordinator, Office of the County Clerk
- Emily Peterson, Research & Policy Analyst, Office of the Comptroller
- Parks Fiscal Mgt. Analyst, Admin & Fiscal Affairs/DAS



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