



DATE: December 4, 2023

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council through City Manager

FROM: Rachel Beer, Recreation Supervisor
Drew Halter, Director of Parks and Recreation

SUBJECT: Resolution Dedicating the Tennis Courts at McNear Park, the Lynn Haggerty King Memorial Tennis Courts in Accordance with the City's Public Parks and Facilities Naming Policy, and in Recognition of Significant Contributions and Service to the Community

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the City Council adopt the attached Resolution to support naming the tennis courts at McNear Park, the Lynn Haggerty King Memorial Tennis Courts, in accordance with City public facilities naming policy.

BACKGROUND

The City of Petaluma, through Council Resolution No. 89-304 N.C.S, adopted formal policies and criteria to aid the City Council in exercising its final authority in naming all public parks and facilities within its jurisdiction. While the naming of all public facilities remains solely the responsibility of the City Council, historically those facilities located in city parks or under the responsibility of the Parks and Recreation department, have been preceded by soliciting public input and a formal recommendation by the Recreation, Music, and Parks Commission.

The City's adopted park naming policy and procedures, provides the Council, community, and staff with guidelines that inform the process of bringing forward recommendations to name or rename parks and/or facilities, as well as provides specific criteria for naming new facilities and parks through a public process.

The Facilities Naming Policy and Procedure (included as Attachment A to the staff report) provides two objectives for City Council to consider when exercising their authority. This includes:

1. To name public facilities so that they will be easily identified as to geographical location and/or function.

2. To encourage the dedication of land or funds for public use by individuals/groups, in recognition of their achievements or community contributions.

The policy objectives further provide details for naming public facilities under section II, Criteria for Naming Public Facilities by detailing examples of service recognition, which state;

1. Recognition of individuals, groups and organizations for important service contributions which have:
 - a. Had a recognized direct positive effect on the community.
 - b. Contribution by a profit-making organization shall have been outside the normal function of the organization.

Lynn Haggerty was born on July 22, 1956 in North Carolina, and spent most of her early years in New York. Lynn attended law school at Golden Gate University, where she met her husband, Dave. They married and moved to Petaluma in 1986, where they would live together for the next 30 years. Lynn Haggerty King worked for 16 years practicing Law but took time away to focus on her family after her first daughter was born. Lynn was an outdoor enthusiast, who in addition to being an avid tennis player, became involved in strengthening the local tennis community as a coach, a board member, or volunteering her time to support community programming. Lynn's contributions to her community included serving as an active Cool City Block leader, and her involvement in the Tomorrow's Leaders Today program, which assists high school students with developing their leadership skills. Additionally, Lynn represented southern Sonoma County on the Local Law Enforcement Task Force (<https://www.petaluma360.com/article/news/lynn-king-petaluma-community-stalwart-dies-at-66/>). Lynn served as an early supporter of the Blue Zones project, and helped in developing and leading the first version of Safe Routes to School, a program that also provided parents with tools to address bullying and issues facing adolescents in schools.

Whether as an avid tennis player, a coach, a mentor, a volunteer, or community supporter, Lynn Haggerty King was well known by family, friends, and community members for devoting her time in service of others and providing an example of dedication to strengthening community.

DISCUSSION

Following Lynn King's passing in February of this year, staff was approached by a group of community members, leaders, colleagues, and friends of Lynn King, who came forward with a request of staff to consider a formal dedication of the McNear Park tennis courts in honor of Lynn Haggerty King's service and devotion to others. The community group cited Lynn's many contributions and lifelong service to the community. Support for the formal naming effort also included a community-led endorsement which garnered 175 signatures, as well as letters of support by the Petaluma Tennis Association (PTA) President and Board of Directors.

The policy criteria provided when considering naming public facilities in recognition of service includes:

1. Recognizing of individuals, groups and organizations for important service contributions which have:
 - a. naming a public facility in honor of a person who provided major contributions to the community.

Based on the established criteria provided in the public facilities naming policy and in recognition of the significant positive impact Lynn Haggerty King has had on the community, Parks and Recreation staff formally recommend that the City Council act to formally dedicate the tennis courts at McNear Park, the Lynn Haggerty King Memorial Tennis Courts, in recognition of her major contributions and service to the Petaluma community.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

Staff presented a recommendation for the formal dedication of the tennis courts at McNear Park to the Recreation, Music, and Parks Commission for discussion and public participation during a meeting on Wednesday, October 18, 2023. Following the discussion, the Commissioners voted 7-0 in support of the staff's recommendation to bring the item forward to City Council for consideration.

This agenda item appeared on the City's tentative agenda document on 11/20/23 which was a public noticed meeting.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

This item does not constitute a "project" pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15378 as naming a tennis court is an organizational action which will not have environmental impacts.

FINANCIAL IMPACTS

Staff anticipate minimal impact to the Parks and Recreation general fund budget as a result of action taken to formally dedicate the courts at McNear Park. Costs associated with action would include producing dedicated signage and assigning staff time to install on site, and these costs can be absorbed by the current fiscal year adopted budget.

ALTERNATIVES

The City Council may elect not to formally dedicate the tennis courts at McNear Park and has the final authority in naming all public parks and facilities within its jurisdiction in fut.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Council Resolution No. 89-304 N.C.S
2. City of Petaluma - Park Naming Policy
3. Community Signatures of Support
4. Resolution Dedicating the Tennis Courts at McNear Park, the Lynn Haggerty King Memorial Tennis Courts