



REPORT TO MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR
AND CITY COUNCIL

DATE: September 1, 2009

SUBJECT: Approve Naming Spring Lake “N2” Park as “Jack Slaven Park”

Report in Brief

The City Council approved the plans/specifications for the “N2” park as required by the Spring Lake Specific Plan and authorized staff to publicly bid the construction of the park at the Tuesday, April 21, 2009 Council Meeting. The award of a construction contract was made at the June 2, 2009 Council Meeting and construction started by the first week of July 2009. Park construction, weather permitting, is scheduled to be completed December, 2009. In anticipation of the park dedication, the Parks and Recreation Commission have recommended naming the “N2” park “Jack Slaven Park.” In association with the Commission’s action, staff has scheduled a presentation regarding the N2 park naming for the September 1 City Council meeting.

Staff recommends that the City Council approve the name of the Spring Lake “N2” park as Jack Slaven Park.

Background

The Spring Lake Specific Plan “N2” park is the first of 4 parks to be built in the specific plan area. It is an 8-acre neighborhood park located between Mickle Avenue, Ortiz Avenue, Camacho Way, and a future school site. Park features for “N2” park were included in the 2004 Parks Master Plan Update included a picnic area, play apparatus, and restrooms. The design process for “N2” park included input from City staff, receiving public comments, and review by the Parks and Recreation Commission. A design contract with Stantec Consulting was executed in June 2008. The City Council approved the final design and awarded a construction contract on April 21, 2009. The “N2” park will include landscaping, trees, and turf, off-street parking, four shaded picnic areas with tables, a play structure for children 5-12 years old, and a tot-lot for children 0-5 years old, water play apparatus, restrooms, bicycle parking, volleyball stanchions, walkways, benches, trash enclosures, and a demonstration garden. The project also includes the adjacent streetscape improvements along Mickle and Ortiz, the greenbelt improvements along Camacho from Farmer’s Central Road to Parkway Drive, and traffic-calming features on Ortiz.

The Parks and Recreation Commission have been considering names for the “N2” park. The Commission considered seven naming alternatives including local citizens who have made outstanding contributions to the community, a past U.S. President, and geographic references. The Commission considered staff and community input and at the July 27, 2009 Commission meeting unanimously approved recommending that the “N2” park be named in honor of local citizen Jack Slaven.

Discussion

The Parks and Recreation Commission recognized Jack Slaven as the first Recreation Director for the City of Woodland. Mr. Slaven was appointed to that position in 1952 when Recreation and Parks were separate departments. Mr. Slaven served in that capacity for twenty years growing the recreation program from its infancy to one recognized across the state. Mr. Slaven emphasized youth and sporting activities, forming leagues and hosting tournaments at City facilities. Under Mr. Slaven’s direction, recreation programs were expanded to most of the parks located throughout the City. His enthusiasm and energy for recreation programs generated a strong demand for such services in the community. To broaden access to sporting activities throughout the City, Mr. Slaven developed sports clinics that instructed youth in the fundamentals of baseball, basketball, track and field, softball, gymnastics, and volleyball. Mr. Slaven worked to enhance the aquatics program beginning at the municipal pool (later named Hiddleston). The demand for this program increased dramatically under Mr. Slaven which led to the construction of the Brooks Swim Center. Mr. Slaven enlisted community volunteers to help deliver recreation programs and initiated agreement with the Woodland schools for the joint use of facilities. Mr. Slaven pushed to merge the recreation and parks departments which occurred in 1972.

Mr. Slaven is also recognized for his dedication and commitment to Woodland youth as a teacher, coach, and school administrator. His educational career spanned 37 years, retiring in 1988. After he retired Mr. Slaven organized and directed a senior softball program in the City for twenty years. Mr. Slaven served on the Parks and Recreation Commission for six years and was elected to the City Council in 1992, serving for four years. Mr. Slaven has been previously honored by the community as the recipient of the Outstanding Citizen Award from the Chamber of Commerce in 1966, recognized for his community service by The Daily Democrat in 1976, inducted into the Woodland Sports Hall of Fame in 1980, and presented a Community Service Award by the City Council in 2001.

In consideration of Mr. Slaven’s contributions and service to the community, especially in the area of sports and recreation, the Commission recommended placing his name on the Spring Lake “N2” park.

Fiscal Impact

This action has no direct fiscal impact. Plaques and documenting identifying the park are included in the “N2” project budget.

Public Contact

This action has been posted on Parks and Recreation Commission agendas and subject to public discussion, and has been included on the posting of the City Council agenda.

Commission Recommendation

The Parks and Recreation Commission approved an action to recommend the naming of the Spring Lake “N2” park as Jack Slaven Park to the City Council during their regular meeting of July 27, 2009.

Recommended Actions

Staff recommends that the City Council approve the name of the Spring Lake “N2” park as Jack Slaven Park.

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