

Agenda Report

DATE: DECEMBER 15, 2003

TO: CITY COUNCIL

FROM: CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: NAMING THE BASEBALL FIELD AT ALLENDALE PARK "STAN GRAY FIELD AT ALLENDALE PARK"

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council approve the request to name the Allendale Park Baseball Field in honor of Stan Gray.

RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION:

At its December 2, 2003, meeting, the Recreation and Parks Commission voted unanimously to support the request to name the Allendale Park Baseball Field in honor of Stan Gray.

BACKGROUND:

Stan Gray was a lifelong Pasadena resident and a baseball enthusiast. After playing baseball at Pasadena High School and Pasadena City College, Mr. Gray went on to play semi-pro baseball in the Pacific Coast League. In 1949, he founded what is now known as the Southern California Chapter of the Babe Ruth League. Much of Mr. Gray's life was devoted to coaching and mentoring participants in youth sports in Pasadena. His efforts were formally recognized in 1970, when he was inducted into the Babe Ruth Hall of Fame. Mr. Gray's passion for youth sports and his sense of community are reflected in his legacy of a philanthropic foundation for youth sports scholarships and animal welfare.

On September 16, 2003, a letter was sent on behalf of the Stan Gray Trust to the President of the Pasadena Southwest Little League. The purpose of the letter was to seek the League's permission to name the baseball field at Allendale Park in honor of Stan Gray and to erect "meaningful historical structures with permanent script." In a letter dated October 2, 2003, the President of Pasadena Southwest Little League advised that the League voted unanimously to recommend changing the field's name to Stan Gray Field at Allendale Park. In addition, the league supported the purchase of a plaque or bust and formally expressed their appreciation for the Trust's anticipated \$5,000 annual donation to the Pasadena Southwest Little League. A letter requesting the designation of the

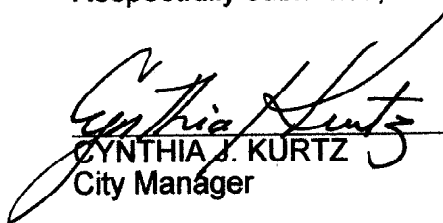
field at Allendale Park, to be named Stan Gray Field, was sent to Vice Mayor Sidney F. Tyler, Jr. on September 16, 2003. Mr. Tyler has forwarded this request along with his endorsement to the Recreation and Parks Commission for its consideration and recommendation to the City Council.

Other examples of honoring prominent residents through the naming of a public facility/park area include the Jackie Robinson Ball Field, the Jess Hughston Bikeway, and the Alice Frost Kennedy Off-Leash Area of Eaton Wash Park. Staff believes that the contributions made by Stan Gray are significant and worthy of naming the field in his honor.


FISCAL IMPACT:

The proposal does not entail any fiscal impact to the City. The Stan Gray Trust has indicated they would pay for the cost of the memorial and signage designating the field.

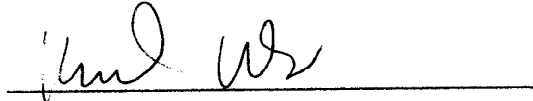
Respectfully submitted,


CYNTHIA J. KURTZ
City Manager

Prepared by:

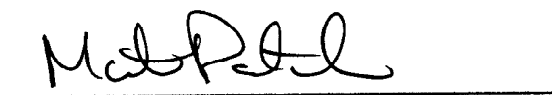

CHARLES PERETZ
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Reviewed by:



KATHLEEN WOODS
Administrator, Parks and Natural Resources

Approved by:


MARTIN PASTUCHA
Director of Public Works