

Agenda Report

TO: CITY COUNCIL

DATE: November 7, 2005

FROM: CITY MANAGER

RE: RECOMMENDED NAME CHANGE FOR EATON-WASH PARK

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council approve a change in name from Eaton Wash Park to Viña Vieja Park.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSION:

At the Recreation and Park Commission meeting of October 4, 2005 the commission voted 4-1 to support the recommendation to change the name of Eaton Wash Park to Viña Vieja Park.

BACKGROUND:

During the planning stages and development of Eaton Wash Park, currently under construction at 2036 East Orange Grove Blvd., several members of the neighborhood surrounding the park had raised concerns that the name "Eaton Wash" is confusing. They support a change in name because there are two other parks in Pasadena with "Eaton" in their names: Eaton Sunnyslope Park and Eaton Blanche Park. In addition, there is another significant park in the area, Eaton Canyon Park located in nearby Altadena.

As more discussion of the existing name continued, the neighbors indicated they would like a name that offers historical significance to the area surrounding the park. Some neighbors have ties back to the days before the northern portion was developed and recall that the area where the park is now located was referred to as "La Viña", because the vacant land had remnants of grape vines. The memories of the vineyard in this area and the children playing in "La Viña", led the East Eaton Wash Neighborhood Association to recommend that the park be named Viña Vieja Park, which means the old vineyard. This new name provides a unique identity for the park while providing the historical significance sought by the surrounding neighbors.

Staff has received additional recommendations for names for the new park. The first of which is Twombly Park in honor of Fred Eugene Twombly, a water pioneer of Pasadena. Diana Twombly has presented the history of her great grandfather, Fred Twombly, at past Recreation and Parks Commission which highlighted his career in Pasadena with a membership on the original Chamber of Commerce. In addition, Mr. Twombly was a City Trustee as well as a City Councilmember, where his significant contribution was launching the Municipal Water Supply for Pasadena. Recognizing his significance in Pasadena, the Department of Water and Power named a well located just to the south of the new park in his honor in 2003.

Another recommendation that has been received is that of the Alice Frost Kennedy Park. The off leash area of the park officially bears the name of Alice Frost Kennedy for her significant contribution to the City of Pasadena as a member of the Urban Forestry Advisory Committee, the street tree representative of the Pasadena Beautiful Foundation and her love of animals. Her family made a significant financial contribution to the park and requested that that the off leash area of the park be named the Alice Frost Kennedy Off-Leash Area. The City Council approved this request on July 16, 2001.

Finally, staff has received a recommendation that the park be named in honor of the historical Orange Groves of Pasadena, "Orange Grove Park".

The City of Pasadena's Public Park and Recreational Facility Naming Policy requires the use of the following criteria in determining the names for city parks and recreational facilities:

- a. Geographical location of the park or facility; or
- b. Natural or geological features proximate to the park or facility; or
- c. Cultural or historical significance to the City or surrounding neighborhood; or
- d. The name of an individual who has made significant contribution to the community, country, state, or the field of parks and recreation.

The policy also requires that "Existing names shall not be subject to change unless... the proposed name is found to be more appropriate than the existing name..."

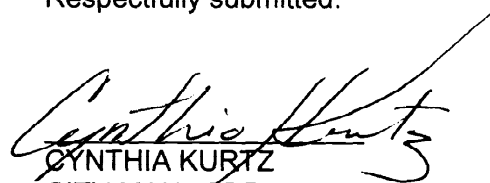
After careful consideration of each proposed name change for Eaton Wash Park, staff finds that Viña Vieja Park best meets the criteria identified in the policy. The name was proposed by Vivian Perez, a 77 year resident of the neighborhood, and was voted overwhelmingly as the top choice of the East Eaton Wash Neighborhood Association, the neighborhood association representing the neighborhood to the east of our new park.

Prior to the Recreation and Parks Commission meeting of October 4, 2005 all residents within 1000 feet of the new park site (totaling 990 addresses) were notified that a proposal to change the name of Eaton-Wash Park would be considered by the Commission. The same notification has been given to these same addresses in preparation for this evening's City Council meeting.

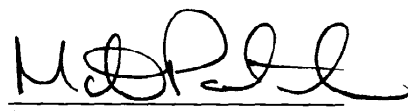
FISCAL IMPACT:

There would be no fiscal impact associated with the adoption of this recommendation. The costs associated with park signage are budgeted in capital project 78289 (Eaton Wash Park – Implement Master Plan) and would not be impacted by this action.

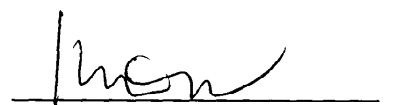
Respectfully submitted:


CYNTHIA KURTZ
CITY MANAGER

Reviewed by:


Martin Pastucha
Director of Public Works

Prepared by:


Kathleen Woods, Administrator
Parks and Natural Resources

Kathleen Woods, Oct. 21, 2005
I like to give my opinion regarding
the name change of the Eaton Wash Park
to Vina Viija Park. My opinion is do not
change the name, please
Mrs. Danny H. Ecker

POST CLERK
CITY OF PASADENA

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