

CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION

Resolution establishing a new policy and procedure for naming public parks and park and recreation facilities, and repealing Resolution No. 8229.

Kathryn Gerla, City Attorney, 452-7220
Karen Phu, Assistant City Attorney, 452-4086
City Attorney's Office

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Resolution establishes a new policy and procedure for naming public parks and park and recreation facilities that provides for consideration of broader contributions to the City and additional priorities such as diversity, equity, and inclusion, and repeals the City's existing naming policy (Resolution No. 8229).

RECOMMENDATION

Move to adopt Resolution No. 10151.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

At its June 9 through 11 meeting, Council requested staff bring back to Council for consideration potential changes to Council's existing resolution establishing a new policy and procedure for naming public parks and recreation facilities which considers broader contributions and priorities such as diversity, equity, and inclusion. Section 1 of the current Parks naming policy (Resolution No. 8229 passed on June 6, 2011) provides that the City's policy for choosing names for parks and recreation facilities is based upon the following four criteria:

- (1) Neighborhood or geographical identification (e.g., North Bellevue, Lake Hills, Overlake);
- (2) A natural or geographical feature (e.g., Kelsey Creek, Mercer Slough);
- (3) An historical figure or name of historical or cultural significance (e.g., Bicentennial Park, Children's Park); or
- (4) A corporation, non-profit organization, or an individual (living or deceased) who has made a significant land and/or monetary contribution to the park system and who has a compelling connection to Bellevue and/or the park system.

The proposed Resolution expands criteria No. 4 to include recognition of "other contributions" to the parks system, in addition to contributions of land or money. This change would expand the criteria for individuals who have made notable non-financial contributions to the City's parks system, such as outstanding civic service, unique social contribution, or other achievement, to be eligible for consideration in the naming of park facilities. The proposed Resolution also adds a new criteria No. 5 to provide that in naming facilities for individuals or historic figures, "the City should consider how such name meets other City priorities, including diversity, equity, and inclusion." This change reflects the City's commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion by factoring in how an individual or figure may have helped advance these priorities when up for consideration for naming. Included as Attachment B to this agenda memo is a strike draft showing the changes proposed to the City's naming resolution.

Naming public facilities is a way that municipalities can honor or recognize the service or accomplishments of an individual. By creating more opportunities for recognition based on measures of achievement other than financial giving and on priorities such as diversity, equity, and inclusion, the City could foster further awareness of the Council's vision that Bellevue welcomes the world and views diversity as a strength.

POLICY & FISCAL IMPACTS

Policy Impact

Council 2021-2023 Priority No. 15 provides for continued implementation of the Diversity Plan, including determining the availability of and need for multicultural programming in the City and completing the cross-cultural study already underway.

Diversity Advantage Plan – Cultural Competence in the Community Recommended Action No 8: Increase public awareness through branding work that incorporates key messaging about Bellevue as a welcoming community with a world-wide view, and acceptance of diversity as a positive aspect of living and working in Bellevue.

Fiscal Impact

There is no fiscal impact associated with implementing these changes.

OPTIONS

1. Adopt the Resolution establishing a new policy and procedure for naming public parks and park and recreation facilities, and repealing Resolution No. 8229.
2. Do not adopt the Resolution and provide alternative direction to staff.

ATTACHMENTS

- A. Resolution No. 8229
- B. Strikedraft of Resolution No. 8229 reflecting changes
Proposed Resolution No. 10151

AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL LIBRARY

N/A