

City of Garden Grove

INTER-DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM

To: Allan L. Roeder
Dept: City Manager
Subject: CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST TO
RENAME THE GARDEN GROVE WEST
LIBRARY AFTER CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL
OF HONOR RECIPIENT TIBOR RUBIN

From: Maria Stipe
Dept: City Manager
Date: January 27, 2015

OBJECTIVE

The purpose of this report is for the City Council to consider and approve a request to rename the Garden Grove West Library after Congressional Medal of Honor Recipient Tibor Rubin.

BACKGROUND

Several months ago, staff was approached by the family of Congressional Medal of Honor recipient Tibor Rubin requesting that the City honor Mr. Rubin for his valor by naming a city park or building after him while he is still in relatively good health. Mr. Rubin is presently 85-years old and has lived on the west end of the City for over 40 years. He is a Holocaust survivor who immigrated to the United States in 1948 and received the Congressional Medal of Honor in 2005 for his gallant actions during the Korean War. Of the 6.8 million Americans who served in the U.S. Armed Forces during the Korean War, only 145 received the Medal of Honor. More than two-thirds of the recipients were killed in action. Only nine are alive today, including Tibor Rubin.

Mr. Rubin's Medal of Honor citation recognizes extraordinary heroism in Korea when he was assigned to stay behind to keep open a vital road link used by his withdrawing unit. During a personal 24-hour battle, he single-handedly slowed the enemy advance, allowing his regiment to complete its withdrawal successfully. Corporal Rubin was later severely wounded and captured by the Chinese. Despite offers from the Chinese to return him to his native Hungary, Rubin disregarded his own personal safety and chose to stay with his fellow soldiers in the POW camp. He began sneaking out of the camp at night in search of food for his comrades, risking certain torture or death if caught. Rubin provided not only food to the starving soldiers, but also desperately needed medical care and moral support for the sick and wounded. His brave, selfless efforts were directly attributed to saving the lives of as many as 40 of his fellow prisoners.

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DISCUSSION

When staff met with the Tibor Rubin family, the concept of potentially renaming the Garden Grove West Library located at 11962 Baily Street was raised. The placement of a bronze bust and plaque near the library entrance was also discussed and desired by the family.

Staff has since reviewed the feasibility of renaming the Garden Grove West Library after Tibor Rubin and determined that it meets the City's guidelines for naming parks (also applied to buildings) after persons. The name change is also allowed and supported by the Orange County Public Libraries. While the County of Orange operates the library, the property is owned by the City and the City has the ability to change the name.

It is proposed that the Library be renamed "Garden Grove Tibor Rubin Library". According to the County Librarian, the standard format for naming libraries after people lists the City first followed by the name (e.g., Irvine Katie Wheeler Library, Seal Beach Mary Wilson Library, Costa Mesa Donald Dungan Library). The proposed name change is supported by the Tibor Rubin family. In addition to renaming the library, placement of a bronze bust and plaque near the library entrance is also proposed.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is a nominal cost associated with renaming the library, most of which will be absorbed by the County for changing the name in the library system. The cost for the bronze bust and plaque is estimated to be \$15,000 and will be paid for within the existing budget from the Cultural Arts fund.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the City Council:

- Consider and approve renaming the Garden Grove West Library, "Garden Grove Tibor Rubin Library".
- Approve placement of a bronze bust and plaque near the library entrance.



MARIA STIPE
Deputy City Manager

Recommended for Approval

Attachment: Council Policy No. 700-04, Guidelines for Naming Parks



Allan L. Roeder
Interim City Manager

SUBJECT:

GUIDELINES FOR
NAMING OF PARKSPOLICY
NUMBER

700-04EFFECTIVE
DATE

07-18-72

It is the policy of the City Council that the guidelines below be followed in the naming of parks:

II. PARKS TO BE NAMED AFTER PLACES AND FEATURE NAMES - (Priority #1)

- A. The name should reflect a recognizable area, neighborhood, street, or school in the community.
1. The name should aid a person finding the park and should relate to the location name.
 2. When parks are adjacent to schools, or are a part of the school property, the park does not necessarily take on the school name. In some cases, however, it may be to an advantage to continue with the same name in order to aid in its location.
- B. Avoid the use of assumed names.
1. A park should be named previous to acquisition or immediately thereafter in order to avoid being named after an assumed name, which may not meet the criteria for the permanent park name.
 2. Continuing with assumed names often leads to difficulty in changing the name which more properly meets the criteria for the permanent name.
- C. Naming parks with horticultural type names.
1. Horticultural type names or features should be encouraged for park naming. Names such as Ferndale, Woodland, Forest, etc., often provide good names for park areas.
 2. This type of name should be consistent with the horticultural appearance of the park so as to have some logical relationship to the name.

III. NAMING PARKS AFTER MYTHOLOGICAL NAMES - (Priority #2)

- A. The mythological name must fit the general design and concept for the total park. -
1. Oftentimes, elements within a park will receive a mythological name to identify that particular segment, such as Atlantis Play Center.
 2. The mythological names should have a wholesome connotation and one which can be acceptable by the general community.
 3. The name should describe the total area involved.
- B. Parks can be named after a general theme.
1. The theme adopted for the park should logically describe the entire park area.

2. Oftentimes, theme names are utilized only for certain elements or play areas in the park, rather than the total park.
3. A theme name should be used only when the total park is constructed commensurate with the theme name.

IV. NAMING PARKS AFTER HISTORICAL EVENTS - (Priority #3)

- A. The historic event must be of a major local or national significance.
1. Such events as space missions, early settlement sites, discoveries, etc., would be satisfactory.
 2. The name should definitely tie in the park site with the event, if of local significance only.
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V. PARKS TO BE NAMED AFTER PERSONS, UTILIZING PERSONAL NAMES
(Priority #4)

- A. Park areas donated by persons.
1. The park could be named after the person if the major area of the park is donated by the person, or family.
- B. Naming parks for persons not donating park areas.
1. The park could be named after persons living or dead, providing the following criteria are met:
 - (a) The person should be a Garden Grove resident who has gained national significance resulting from his public service.
 - (b) He should be as non-controversial as possible and held in high regard by the community.
 - (c) If not a local resident, the person should be recognized nationally for his significant contribution to the national public.
 - (d) The person should not be a contemporary local official. Naming parks after contemporary local officials should be avoided.
 - (e) If deceased, memorials could be named after persons of local significance and/or national significance.
- C. Parks should not be named after commercial businesses, even if land is donated by the business for park purposes. Personal names of businesses should be avoided.
- D. Total park areas would not be named after civic organizations; however, individual units within a park can be named as donated by civic organizations.
1. The civic organizations often participate in the construction of units or elements in the park. These elements could be named after the organization, or in some way designate the organization as the donor.
 2. The park names should avoid giving the impression that the park is for use by a particular group or organization, such as Rotaryland, Girls' Park, Scout Haven, etc.