

## HOFFMAN ESTATES PARK DISTRICT MEMORANDUM # 17-116

To: A&F Committee  
From: Dean Bostrom, Executive Director  
Craig Talsma, Deputy Director/Director Admin & Finance  
Mike Kies, Director Recreation & Facilities  
Date: October 13, 2017  
Re: Naming and Renaming of Park Sites, Policy 5.05

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### **Background**

Mr. David Kumpula submitted a letter dated August 17, 2017, attached, requesting to rename Sycamore Park in honor of the late Mayor Michael O'Malley. In addition, Mr. Kumpula submitted a letter dated August 22, 2017, attached, requesting the installation of a plaque on the concession stand at Sycamore Park recognizing the 1987 HEAA Board and coaches. Both requests are subject to Park District Board Policy 5.05 *Naming and Renaming of Park Sites*, which is outlined below:

### **5.05 NAMING AND RENAMING OF PARK SITES**

The Board shall select names for new parks, buildings, facilities, athletic fields, or, when appropriate, to change the name(s) of existing parks, buildings, facilities, or athletic fields of the district that have not been dedicated. The Board may consider the following elements in determining the naming or renaming of parks, buildings, etc. (for purposes of this section only, "parks" shall mean parks, buildings, facilities, athletic fields, or other "namable" property of the District):

- A. Parks may be named after streets, geographical locations, historical figures, events, concepts or as otherwise determined by the Board.
- B. Parks may be named for individuals or groups that have donated land or facilities to the District or made a significant financial contribution toward the development of parks.
- C. Parks may be named for individuals or groups that have made exceptional contributions to the community. Names of individuals, including, but not limited to, District Commissioners or other public officials, may not be given to a park, building, facility or athletic field unless the individual is deceased or if the Board determines that there are substantiated extenuating circumstances whereby the naming of the park, building, facility or athletic field prior while the individual is alive serves the best interests of the district.
  - 1) The Board at public meeting should first

- announce the proposed name of the park, building, facility or athletic fields (requires a 5/7 vote).
- 2) A park site should only be confirmed and the name made official after a waiting period of at least sixty (60) days before the confirmation vote. However, when the substantiated extenuating circumstances clause noted in C above is invoked, the 60 day official waiting period may be waived at the discretion of the Board before the confirmation vote.
  - 3) A 5/7 vote by the Board is required to name a park, building, facility, or athletic field or to change the name of an undedicated park, building, facility or athletic field of the District.

The Park District has four park sites that are currently named after individuals consistent with Policy 5.05:

In 1999 Kelly Park was renamed Cannon Crossing Park in recognition of **Bill Cannon**. Bill was a very active volunteer in the Hoffman Estates community and longtime Park District volunteer for various youth athletic programs.

In December of 2010, the Community Center and Ice Arena was renamed the Scott R. Triphahn Community Center and Ice Arena in recognition of **Scott Triphahn**. Scott was a highly influential Park District Commissioner for 12 years, a passionate volunteer youth athletic coach, founding President of Friends of H.E. Parks Foundation and steadfast pillar of Hoffman Estates.

In January 2015, Highpoint Park was officially renamed Joseph L. Fabbrini Park. **Joseph L. Fabbrini** was an individual who made exceptional contributions to the community and was one of several early community leaders who had a vision of creating a Park District for Hoffman Estates. Joe served as one of the first Park District's Commissioners and the first Director through 1967.

In January 2016, Victoria Park Playground was renamed Peter M. Smith Playground. **Peter Smith** was a true champion and advocate for promoting equal access for all individuals with disabilities. Peter Smith was credited with being responsible for creating the Village of Hoffman Estates model accessibility ordinance. This ordinance was the first of its kind in Illinois and required that all public buildings be architecturally accessible to the handicapped. Peter served as Park Board Commissioner of the Hoffman Estates Park District, served on the Park District's Special Recreation Committee and was instrumental in spearheading the district's drop-in center for physically handicapped adults. Peter served as an active member of the Hoffman Estates Commission on Seniors and Disabled.

### **Implications**

Mr. Kumpula's letter dated 8/17 requesting to rename Sycamore Park in honor of the late Mayor Michael O'Malley, reiterates the generosity of the late Mayor who on numerous occasions during the summer of 1985/1986 treated young baseball players to

pizza and ice cream following their games. Mr. Kumpula's request is further supported by Carol Salley who submitted the attached email received on 9/24. Ms. Salley in her email also speaks to the Mayor's generosity in buying post-game treats for young baseball and football players. In addition, Ms. Salley wrote about how HEAA was unable to secure the Village's required permit to operate the concession stand prior to their first game in 1988. Mayor O'Malley was able to secure the permit in time for the first game of the season.

Both letters of support to rename Sycamore Park after the late Mayor O'Malley deal with the late Mayor's compassion for young athletes who participated in both the Hoffman Estates Community Baseball Association (HECBA) and HEAA programs which are independent of the Hoffman Estates Park District. Staff inquired with former Park District Commissioners who served on the Park Board at the time Mayor O'Malley served as the Mayor of Hoffman Estates (1989-2000). Three former Commissioners responded all agreeing that Mayor O'Malley was very gracious, friendly and well liked within the community. However, two of the three Commissioners expressed that during Mayor O'Malley's tenure as Mayor of the Village of Hoffman Estates, Park District/Village relations were often times strained and no examples were provided as to how the Village, during the Mayor's tenure, made exceptional contributions to the Park District. In addition, it was pointed out that on November 17, 2001 the Village named its Fire Station 22/Headquarters in honor of the late Mayor Michael O'Malley.

Mr. Kumpula's letter dated 8/22/2017 requested that the Park District install a plaque on the concession stand at Sycamore Park to recognize the 1987 HEAA Board and coaches. As this request specifically involves HEAA, which is a separate 501(c)3 organization totally autonomous from the Park District, Mr. Kumpula's letter was forwarded to Mark Mueller, President of HEAA.

It was communicated to Mark Mueller that if the HEAA Board agreed with the request to install the plaque, that the Park Board would then evaluate the request as submitted by Mr. Kumpula and endorsed by HEAA. Mark Mueller, however, communicated back to the Park District that the HEAA Board was not interested in installing a plaque to recognize the 1987 HEAA Board and coaches. Therefore, the Park District should not act on this request without the support of the HEAA Board.

#### Recommendation

It is well documented that the late Mayor Michael O'Malley was very generous to many of the young players who participated in both the HEAA and HECBA programs and his contributions to the community have been considered to be exceptional. However, his contributions to the community as Mayor of Hoffman Estates were previously recognized with Fire Station 22 named in his honor. It appears that during his tenure with the Village of Hoffman Estates, no significant contributions were made to the Park District, therefore, it is recommended that Sycamore Park not be renamed after the late Mayor Michael O'Malley per Mr. Kumpula's request. Furthermore, as the HEAA Board does not support the request to install a plaque on the concession stand at Sycamore Park to recognize the 1986/87 HEAA Board and coaches, that no further action from the Park District be taken on this request.