



Roll Call Number

Agenda Item Number

58

Date December 8, 2014

Request to speak from Council Member Gray to speak regarding the naming of a proposed new disc golf course at Prospect Park, located at 1225 Prospect Road, in honor of Becky Zallek, and receipt of letter from Council Member Gray regarding same.

MOVED by _____ to receive and file such proposal and refer to the City Manager and Park and Recreation Board for review and recommendation.

COUNCIL ACTION	YEAS	NAYS	PASS	ABSENT
COWNIE				
COLEMAN				
GATTO				
GRAY				
HENSLEY				
MAHAFFEY				
MOORE				
TOTAL				

MOTION CARRIED

APPROVED

Mayor

CERTIFICATE

I, DIANE RAUH, City Clerk of said City hereby certify that at a meeting of the City Council of said City of Des Moines, held on the above date, among other proceedings the above was adopted.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal the day and year first above written.

City Clerk

December 8, 2014

The Honorable Mayor
And
Members of the City Council
City of Des Moines

Re: Naming of new disc golf course in Prospect Park

Dear Mayor and Fellow City Council Members:

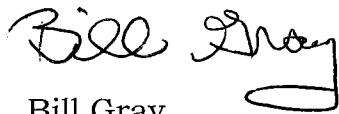
I believe that it would be appropriate for the City to consider naming a new disc golf course in Prospect Park after Becky Zallek. After Becky's untimely passing, her friends and family have proposed to raise all the funds for design and construction of a new disc golf course in Prospect Park in her honor because of Becky's passion for the sport of disc golf.

Disc golf is a very popular sport and Des Moines has three existing courses in Grandview, Crivaro and Ewing Parks. As you can see from her attached resume, Becky was instrumental in working with the Des Moines Disc Golf Club to design, raise funds and work with the City to ensure that the courses at Grandview and Ewing Parks were constructed.

In addition to her work on Des Moines disc golf courses, she also worked as an advocate and supporter of growing the number of women playing disc golf in Des Moines and elsewhere.

I would recommend that this action be referred to the City Manager and staff for evaluation. If it is recommended by staff, I would appreciate the Park and Recreation Board's consideration for recommendation to the City Council this winter so that, if it is determined that the proposed facility will be named Becky Zallek Disc Golf Course, it will be dedicated as such when the course is completed in the fall of 2015.

Sincerely,



Bill Gray
City Councilperson, Ward 1

Cc: Scott Sanders, City Manager
Ben Page, Parks and Recreation Director

PDGA Resume: Becky Zallek

I would like to give a special thank you to Jeff Homburg for nominating me and to Rick Rothstein, Lynne Warren, Brian Hoeniger, Chuck Kennedy, and all the other Hall of Famers who voted for me!

Many thanks also go out to my husband, Mike "Kuzi" Susanin (PDGA # 7114), who introduced me to and nurtured my life-long love of disc golf; my mom, Sandra Zallek; my brother, Dr. Chris Zallek and his lovely family: Dr. Sarah Zallek, Anna and Zoe; my sister JoAnne Zallek and her partner, Dave Champion.

My career started with an undergraduate degree major in Management and Insurance. I then earned my Master's Degree in Adult Education Training and Development. I have been a trainer and technical writer for over 25 years! My disc golf career includes the following:

Tournament Leadership:

- Juniors TD for Des Moines Open, 1993-2005
- Juniors TD for Des Moines Challenge, 1993-2005
- Ice Bowl TD, 1997-1999
- Glow Tournament TD, 1997-2005
- World's Biggest Director, 1995-2005

Courses Installed

- 1995 Margo Frankel: Course Proposal written by Steve Nixt (PDGA# 4399) and Becky Zallek (PDGA# 9388). Course designed by DSM Disc Golf Club members led by Steve Nixt. Course paid for by Saylor Township. Club members installed the course.
- 1997 Grandview: Course Proposal written by Steve Nixt, Rodney Gardner (PDGA# 10567), and Becky Zallek. Course designed by a team of DSM Disc Golf Club members. Course fundraised by Becky Zallek and installed by DSM Disc Golf Club.
- 1998 Walnut Ridge: Course Proposal written by Steve Nixt, Rodney Gardner, and Becky Zallek. Course designed by a team of DSM Disc Golf Club members. Course fundraised by Becky Zallek and installed by DSM Disc Golf Club.
- 2001 Ewing Park: Course Proposal written by Becky Zallek. The City of Des Moines paid for 9 baskets and Becky Zallek did the fundraising for the other 9 baskets, tee pads, and tee signs. Course designed by DSM Disc Golf Club members led by Jon Latch. Course installed by DSM Disc Golf Club members.

I Have Worked Extensively With the PDGA!

- Volunteered for the non-profit Professional Disc Golf Association. I was advisor to PDGA World Championship bids and answered tournament director questions for 5 years. I also assisted international PDGA members in Canada, Sweden, France, Switzerland, Japan and 40 states and multiple municipalities and Convention and Visitor Bureaus.
- Helped with questions from clubs all over the U.S who were interested in obtaining non-profit status.
- Awarded the IT (Inspiration to Tulsa) Trophy by the 2006 PDGA Tulsa Amateur World Championship Leadership Team for assisting them during the three years leading up to their event. I initiated and calculated the 2006 Am Worlds economic impact to the city of Tulsa, OK.
- Created and compiled the results of the surveys for the 2006 PDGA Amateur Worlds and the 2006 US Women's Disc Golf Championships.
- Contributed content to the international Disc Golf World News magazine, PDGA Club Operations Guide, and wrote the PDGA World Procedures for how to run World Championship events, which I shared with all those doing bid inquiries.
- Collaborated with subject matter experts to help create Worlds Procedures.
- Contributed content to the PDGA Club Operations Guide created by Chuck Kennedy.
- Attended the 2003–2006 Spring and 2006 Fall PDGA BOD Summits.
- Wrote the Disc Golf World article covering the 2004 US Women's National Championships.

I am Passionate In My Promotion and Fund Raising Efforts for Disc Golf!

- DM Disc Golf Club Newsletter Editor and Sole Contributor for 6 years (November 1994 - March 2000).
- Des Moines World's Biggest Director and Organizer for 9 years (1995, 1996: won nationwide contest for 9 hole course for having the largest attendance with 367 players (Union Park, DSM), 1997-98, 2001-05).
- Ice Bowl Tournament Director and Organizer for 3 years (1997-1999). Selected and ordered all Ice Bowl Merchandise from Disc Golf World News from 1997-2006. In 1997, Des Moines won the Disc Golf World News contest for having the most pounds of food and cash donated and won a basket.
- Glow Course Development Fundraising Tournament, Director and Organizer for 7 years (1998– 2004).
- Juniors Tournament Director and assisting TD's with the DSM Open and DSM Challenge– 12 years (1993-1998 and 2000-2005).
- Taught weekly Summer Adult Education Women's Disc Golf Lessons for 10 years (1994–2003).

- Fundraised over \$1000 a year from local businesses for each of our two "B" level tournaments for 11 years (1994-2004).
- Fundraised for 2004 Worlds and secured a major discount on the players meeting venue.
- Des Moines Disc Golf Club Secretary from 1994-2005.
 - Responsibilities included: PDGA Club Affiliate sign-up, taking meeting minutes and publishing them, planning and organizing club celebrations, instituting and keeping the Des Moines media machine rolling for many years by creating and sending out press releases for our events, establishing and maintaining relationships with our local newspaper reporters, doing multiple interviews for our local newspaper and four television interviews regarding disc golf for various projects over the years. Created manuals for DSM Club Board of Directors in 2005 before transitioning off.

I Gave Back to the Community!

- Attended meetings and made presentations from 1994 to 1995 with Club President Steve Nixt to convince Board of Trustees to install Margo Frankel disc golf course. Helped clean Margo Frankel Park to install the course. Over a three year period (1995-97) attended over 60 neighborhood, Park Board, and City Council meetings to give presentations with Steve Nixt and Rodney Gardner to install Grandview Park. I went around the neighborhood and knocked on doors in a ten block radius to visit with neighbors and obtained 637 signatures on a petition to support the installation of the course. Assisted in course work days.
- Fundraised over \$7,000 from businesses and individuals for the Grandview Park disc golf course installation. Helped install the course by digging and backfilling tee pads. Led Club fundraising efforts for the additional \$3,000 by organizing Club raffle ticket sales and other fundraising events.
- Fundraised \$2,500 for trees and another \$2,500 for cement tee pads at the Walnut Ridge disc golf course.
- Since 1998 I have planted over 300 trees at the Grandview and Walnut Ridge courses.
- In 2000 I fundraised \$1,500 and wrote a grant proposal for matching funds to the state of Iowa for the Million More by 2004 program. I was awarded the grant for the additional \$1,500 for trees for Grandview. The city put me in charge of purchasing the trees. I was able to negotiate discounts to obtain more trees than originally planned.
- Fundraised for planting over 2000 perennials and 25 bushes at Grandview Park disc golf course since 1997.
- Organized and participated in 3-4 course clean-up days each winter at Big Creek and worked to improve fairways from 1999 through 2002. Organized many work-days for our other courses over the years.
- Gave five disc golf demonstrations at Des Moines Sports and one at a local elementary school. Also set up a disc golf booth at the North High School Spring Festival. Gave two disc golf demonstrations for a South Des Moines neighborhood association annual picnic.
- Wrote, presented and submitted the contract/proposal to the city of Des Moines to install the new course at Ewing Park. Fundraised \$7,000 for Ewing Park in 2001 and was co-project lead with Jon Latch to get it installed. Attended neighborhood association meetings to answer questions and give presentations to install the course.

Attended and gave presentations at Park Board meetings and City Council meetings to install the course. Fundraised an additional \$6,500 for trees for Ewing Park and organized club work days to plant trees.

- Was awarded two achievement awards in 2000 for contributions made for Des Moines parks. One was from the Des Moines Park Board and the other was a Volunteer of the Year Award from the City Council of Des Moines.
- I won the 2004 Volunteer of the Year award from the Des Moines Visitors and Convention Bureau, Hometown Hero Award.
- I was awarded the 2004 PDGA Tournament Director of the Year, the 2006 PDGA Volunteer of the Year award, the 2011 For Service to the PDGA and the Sport, and now the Hall of Fame Class of 2013!

I love to play disc golf! PDGA Player #9388:

- I played my first two tournaments in 1992 as a non-PDGA member. The first was in Algona, Iowa (second to Juliana Korver), and the second was in Waterloo, Iowa (Juliana first – and I got third!). Then I joined the PDGA!
- Played my first KC Wide Open Super Tour in 1994. Some of the other Super Tours and NT Events I've played in over the years (many of them multiple times) are the: Peoria Open, Minnesota Majestic, the Scottsdale Memorial, Veteran's Park Open, Great Lakes Open and the Des Moines Challenge. Played in the 1994 and 1995 Bud Light US Women's National Championship, the 1997 PDGA Amateur World Championships in Grand Rapids (11th Place), 2006 Am Worlds in Tulsa (4th Place), 2006 PDGA Pro World Championships in Augusta (6th Place) and four US Women's Nationals.
- Course Tournament Director for the 2003 PDGA Amateur Worlds in Kansas City. Course TD for 2009 Combined Worlds in Kansas City. Toured extensively in the early years of playing and then fundraised for courses and helped install them!
- Played disc golf in these states and the number of courses played: Iowa (76), Minnesota (3), Illinois (7), Michigan (6), Kansas (7), Missouri (3), Nebraska (3), Ohio (6), Arizona (5), Texas (6), Oklahoma (6), Arkansas (2), Georgia (13), Hawaii (2), Pennsylvania (2), Delaware (1), New York (1), Connecticut (1), California (8), and South Carolina (2). Note: Indiana to be added to this list in August 2013!

Additions to Becky Zallek's Disc Golf Resume – by Jon Latch

Co-Tournament Director for the combined Pro, Amateur and Junior Worlds in 2004 – Touted as the “Best Worlds Ever” and Largest Disc Golf event ever held to date at the time. 911 players in 22 divisions.

As a dedicated worlds TD in training Becky travelled to the 2003 Pro Worlds to provide a status update to the board and assist with the event.

<http://www.pdga.com/files/documents/2004-02-24BODMeetingMinutesApproved.pdf>

PDGA ProAmJr World Championships Update

Worlds TD Becky Zallek provided a progress report and budget review.

This was listed in the Disc Golf World News Fall 2004 Issue #71

Becky Zallek: Committee of seven (main leadership group), scheduling, pool assignments, sponsorship, merchandise selection, information to website, signed contracts as needed (hotels, permits, etc), TD and scoring team recruitment and scheduling, pool scheduling, banquet assistant, trophy procurement, transportation liaison to DSM Convention Bureau, volunteer coordinator, main respondent (email/phone calls) for player inquiries), secured course permission, secured Hy-Vee food, players packs, worlds bid.

Over the years, Becky helped to build and nurture a healthy and mutually respecting relationship with the Parks and Recreation Departments in Des Moines as well as Altoona. They enjoyed working with her and recently honored her with a special award for her dedication to our parks.

Becky was a huge advocate and supporter of growing the number of women playing disc golf in Des Moines and elsewhere. She was always willing to meet people individually to provide guidance on how to play disc golf. She also helped to organize and sustain a women's only league in an effort to nurture those women who were too shy to play in the DMDGC league until their skills had some time to advance.

Beautifully documented here by Juiliana Korver: <http://www.julianakorver.net/IALeague.php>

Of all the ideas I've run across, this seems to be one of the most effective to get new women involved in disc golf. The idea is to have free lessons for women by other women. This can be set up as an informal league that meets once a week. The idea is to create a very non-threatening environment for new female players to learn the game and gain some skill. It can be very intimidating for a new player to step out on the course and try to throw when they see a number of quality players already playing at a high level. This way they can learn in a little more isolated environment before striking out by themselves in front of the local crowd.

This method has found success in Des Moines, IA, Kansas City, MO, Medina, OH, and Houston, TX (to name a few).

Continue to read a description of just such a league by IA golfer, **Becky Zallek**

Kris O'Malley of the Des Moines Disc Golf Club came up with the idea of free women's lessons in 1995. We've had seven complete summers of the lessons and have discovered what makes the lessons successful. We conduct the

lessons at a course that has amateur and pro tee pads. We play from the amateur tee pads. The average length of the short tee is 250 feet. After a couple of weeks of lessons, the women are able to score well and encourages them.

The first thing we do each year is advertise the free lessons for women. We hand out flyers to participants of World's Biggest Disc Golf weekend and post brightly colored flyers on course bulletin boards. We contact the local free weekly paper and the paper runs a paragraph each week the lessons are given. The last three years we have advertised the lessons in the city's adult education summer calendar.

EQUIPMENT

We keep a box of disc (many of them are light weight) in the car that we loan out to the women who need them.

We give each woman two stable drivers and a putter. After they've played a few times, the women usually go out and buy some discs of their own. But they don't need to if they don't want to, because we share the discs anytime.

FORMAT

The first year of lessons, Kris divided the groups up and put one experienced woman player with two or three new players. Everyone would play nine holes. Then the next week she divided up the groups again and made sure the new players would go with a different experienced player than the one they went with the week before. This worked well because each of the experienced players had different techniques for different types of shots, and we'd let the new players know that they could try the different techniques and see what works best for them.

During the second year of lessons, pro player Juliana Korver volunteered to help. This was truly exciting for everyone who who attended the lessons to have a pro woman help out! Juliana would start out each Thursday with a half-hour lesson on technique. Each week she focused on something different such as: driving, putting, approach shots, UD shots and how to throw when you're behind a tree or in the trees. We'd then break up into groups again and one experienced player would go with the new players.

The last three years, Barb Thacker and I have been giving the lessons. We shortened the lessons to six weeks only, for two hours once a week. The first two weeks we concentrate on approach shots, the next two weeks we practice putting, and the last two weeks everyone learns how to drive.

PRIZES

Kris received donations of discs and shirts from The Des Moines Disc Golf Club, Lance Coles, Brian Malone, and The Disc Golf Journal. She gave these out to the new players after attending three or more times. She also had putting and driving contests where only the new players could participate. Barb

and I have donated discs to the new women players, after they have been to the lessons for a few weeks.

WHAT WE LEARNED

Make sure when you start your women's lessons, that you have them at one of your smaller courses. It's best to have the lessons at the same course and at the same time each week. We also gave a handout to each woman the first night they show up, explaining what disc golf is all about.

Continue to be as positive as possible. After the first year of lessons, we had three women players who started attending the mixed league and participating in tournaments.

A few comments that I just pulled off the pdga board:

<http://www.pdga.com/discussion/showthread.php?p=1468815>

Quote:

Originally Posted by John Hernlund

Question for the history buffs: Have any previous Worlds been run by women?

Wasn't 2004 in Iowa headed up by Becky Zallek? I know the Des Moines club gets the credit, but I seem to recall she was in charge.

Maine Disc Golf - the way disc golf should be
R.T.F.R.B.

Quote:

Originally Posted by jconnell

Wasn't 2004 in Iowa headed up by Becky Zallek? I know the Des Moines club gets the credit, but I seem to recall she was in charge.

Becky was the TD of the 2004 Worlds, and a darn good one. On a side note, Becky is suffering from a type 4 glioblastoma multiforme, a type of brain cancer, and has been fighting it for almost 18 months now. Becky is still as cheerful as she always is despite her condition (I was glad to be able to see her at the Wide Open this year). Becky and her husband Kuzi (Mike Susanin) are as good folk as you'll ever see, and have done much for Iowa disc golf. Becky is probably the best equipped person to handle her current situation, and the least deserving of it. Keep her in your thoughts.

Chap

John Chapman
Curmudgeon-in-training

2004 -- Iowa -- Becky Zallek -- a near perfect production. I marshaled that year so my son could play (junior under 13). At the time I couldn't afford for us both to play but wanted him to experience a disc golf worlds. I marshaled, he played. Glad I did. Another note for the history buffs...it was also the first worlds for another junior... guess who...

Disc Golf - Just Play!!