

 <p style="text-align: center;">Council Communication Office of the City Manager</p>	Date: April 8, 2013
	Agenda Item No. 55 Roll Call No. <u>13-0611</u> Communication No. <u>13-156</u> Submitted by: Benjamin R. Page, Director of Park and Recreation

AGENDA HEADING:

Approve the naming of the dog park located at 3520 Hubbell Avenue as Reno Memorial Dog Park.

SYNOPSIS:

Approving a recommendation from the Park and Recreation Board on the naming of the dog park under development at 3520 Hubbell Avenue as Reno Memorial Dog Park.

FISCAL IMPACT: NONE

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

On October 8, 2012, by Roll Call No. 12-1587, the City Council approved the development of a dog park at 3520 Hubbell Avenue. Council Members Mahaffey and Moore led the initiative to repurpose the 3.7 acre property that was formerly the flood-devastated Grandview Mobile Home Park. The parcel is a good location and ideal size for this type of facility and includes existing mature trees, established turf, and minimal grade change. Its close proximity to Sargent Park, which is located along the East Douglas boundary of the property, provides parking and restroom facilities that minimized the cost to develop this area into a dog park.

On December 17, 2012, by Roll Call No. 12-1950, the City Council approved the bid for fencing services for construction of the dog park. Other improvements being implemented or planned include a dog waste containment system, signage, paved walkways, and additional landscaping; the facility's opening is scheduled for late spring.

On January 14, 2013, by Roll Call No. 13-0064, the City Council received, filed, and referred to the City Manager a request by Council Member Mahaffey to name the new dog park in memory of the long-serving, decorated, retired Des Moines Police dog K9 Reno that died of a tumorous growth in December 2012. In a follow-up to the naming request, as is required by the City's naming/renaming policy, Park and Recreation staff researched the history of Reno.

Under the supervision of Senior Police Officer Tim Nading, the 11-year-old German shepherd was part of the Des Moines Police K9 unit from 2003 to 2011. Police K9s like Reno are a valuable resource and partner in solving Police Department crime investigations. Reno was known for being a survivor of two gunshot wounds he received in October 2004 as the result of police pursuit of a suspect wanted in another shooting. On another occasion Reno received praise for his work in assisting with locating a bank robbery suspect who had fled the scene of the crime, leaving some clothing with his scent behind.

Reno's scent-tracking expertise led officers to a parking lot several blocks away, where the suspect was apprehended.

Park and Recreation staff agrees that naming the dog park to honor the memory of Reno would comply with the criteria in the City's policy for naming of a park facility. Through informative signage at the facility, the honor would forever create an awareness of the benefits of the City's Police K9 program and demonstrate the importance it plays in the safety and security of the public.

The City's naming policy states that, in conjunction with consideration of the naming of facilities, boards and commission are to conduct a public hearing on the proposed naming or renaming prior to making a recommendation to City Council. The required hearing was held March 26, 2013, and no members of the public appeared to render an opinion. At their regularly scheduled meeting this same date and time, the Park and Recreation Board voted unanimously to recommend to City Council that it approve the designation of the new dog park name as the Reno Memorial Dog Park.

Since the October 12, 2012 City Council meeting at which development of the dog park was approved, the City received a generous donation of \$10,000 toward construction costs from Mr. James Conlin.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: January 14, 2013

Roll Call Number: [13-0064](#)

Action: [Receive](#), file, and refer to the City Manager communication from Council Member Bob Mahaffey regarding naming of the Eastside Dog Park. Moved by Mahaffey to receive, file, and refer to the City Manager for review and recommendation. Motion Carried 7-0.

Date: October 8, 2012

Roll Call Number: [12-1587](#)

Action: [Approving](#) development of a dog park at 3520 Hubbell Avenue. ([Council Communication No. 12-536](#)) Moved by Mahaffey to approve. Motion Carried 7-0.

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S):

Board: Park and Recreation Board

Date: March 26, 2013

Resolution Number: N/A

Action: Hold public hearing and approve a recommendation that City Council name the dog park located at 3520 Hubbell Avenue as Reno Memorial Dog Park.

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS: NONE

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