

Date March 25, 2013

Request to speak from Council Member Mahaffey to speak regarding the naming of the Birdland Park Shelter House located at 2100 Saylor Road, in honor of Jay N. "Ding" Darling.

Moved by \_\_\_\_\_ to

:

COUNCIL ACTION	YEAS	NAYS	PASS	ABSENT
COWNIE				
COLEMAN				
GRIESS				
HENSLEY				
MAHAFFEY				
MEYER				
MOORE				
TOTAL				

**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.

MOTION CARRIED APPROVED

\_\_\_\_\_ Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_ City Clerk



March 25, 2013

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

Re: Naming of enclosed shelter in Birdland Park

Dear Mayor and Fellow City Council Members:

I believe it would be appropriate for the City to consider naming the historic, soon-to-be-renovated Birdland Park shelter house, located at 2100 Saylor Road, in honor of Jay N. "Ding" Darling. The renovation is expected to be complete and the facility reopened this June.

Ding was a renowned editorial cartoonist at the Des Moines Register, who advocated conservation of our nation's natural resources. Father of the Federal Duck Stamp Program, founder of the National Wildlife Federation, and creator of the Cooperative Fish & Wildlife Research Unit Program, Ding Darling laid the groundwork for the system of today's National Wildlife Refuges. Additionally, Ding and his family donated a portion of what is now Prospect Park, which is located on the south side of the Des Moines River, and served on the Des Moines Park and Recreation Board in the 1930s.

In honor and recognition of his work, much of the greenway from downtown Des Moines to Saylorville Dam has been named after him. The shelter house at Birdland Park sits about midway through this greenway and would be a great location to celebrate his work and passion for natural resources and to educate shelter users about Ding.

I would like to request 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 spring so that, if it is determined that the facility will be named Jay N. "Ding" Darling Shelter House, it will be dedicated as such when the shelter house reopens to the public in a few months.

Sincerely,

Robert Mahaffey  
City Councilperson, Ward 2

Cc: Richard A. Clark, City Manager  
Ben Page, Parks and Recreation Director