

**CITY OF BLOOMINGTON  
CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION  
109 E. OLIVE ST.  
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2013, 6:40 P.M.**

1. Sunnyside Park – Park Naming Policy Discussion (*10 minutes*)
2. Adjourn at 6:50pm

**Bloomington Parks and Recreation  
Policy on  
NAMING (RENAMING) PARKS AND FACILITIES**

- 1.0 Statement of Purpose. The parks and facilities of the City of Bloomington are important parts of community life and the selection of names for these recreation areas, if any, is a matter of considerable public interest. The following statements shall govern the naming or renaming of parks and facilities when the city council determines it appropriate that a specific park or facility be designated by a name.
  
- 2.0 Community and Neighborhood Parks as Defined in the Comprehensive Park and Recreation Plan, November 1997.
  
- 2.1 The following criteria in the order listed in sections 2.11 through 2.14 shall be given priority over each succeeding paragraph in the naming and renaming of community and neighborhood parks:
  - 2.11 Park features such as topography, natural assets, the purpose of the park or activities to be held in the park (i.e. Prairie Vista).
  - 2.12 Names of areas, such as the neighborhood in which a park is located or after schools when park is adjacent (i.e. Northpointe, Pepperidge).
  - 2.13 Major street names surrounding the park site (i.e. White Oak, Clearwater).
  - 2.14 Former Presidents of the United States or significant historical events (i.e. Lincoln Leisure Center, Marie Litta).
  
- 2.2 The additional criteria set forth in 2.21 and 2.22 below may also be used in the naming or renaming of neighborhood parks only.
  - 2.21 Donations to the City wherein the donor's name or that of a third party is used.
  - 2.22 Names of former City Council members, Mayors, City Officials or citizens who have contributed substantial services in the expansion and growth of the Parks and Recreation Department or who were closely associated with a significant community event.

- 3.0 Special Conditions. The following special conditions shall prevail in the naming or renaming of parks:
- 3.1 A formal written request must be received by the City Council. A councilman member may also submit a written request to his/her fellow councilman. The request must specify the proposed name and rationale in support of the request.
- 3.2 A minimum of 60-days shall transpire from the Council's initial discussion of a request to name (or rename) until a formal vote may be taken.
- 3.3 A 2/3 affirmative vote of the Council is required to name or rename a park.
- 3.4 No park shall be name by reason of a donation to the City, unless:
- 3.41 The donation is of land for the park site or cash, services, or personal property donated equals the market value of the park site for which the name is proposed.
- 3.42 The proposed name to be used receives the consent of the person to be honored, if living, or if deceased, consent of the closest living family member(s).
- 3.5 When a park is named (or renamed) by reason of a donation, the term (length) of the naming (or renaming) shall be mutually agreed to by the prospective donor and the City Council at the time the naming request is discussed.
- 3.6 A park may be named after a former Mayor, Councilmen, City Official only after the individual has been retired from office for a minimum of five (5) years. The waiting period may be waived if the individual is being honored posthumously.
- 3.7 The Council may conduct a public contest for the naming of parks. Such contest shall be conducted in accordance with these policies.
- 4.0 Facilities. Facilities (or portions thereof) and/or amenities within parks may be named or renamed in accordance with Section 3 above.

9/24/2013

Bloomington City Council

My name is Dodie Dunson and I was born and raised on Bloomington's west side of the city and attended the Bloomington Public School District. I am currently the Director of the Lawrence Irvin Neighborhood Community Center (LINC) and have been employed there for the past 23 years. I have been associated with the 'center' since the late 1960s. Why am I giving you this history? There is a park located down from LINC called Sunnyside Park. Children from the center and from the housing projects often play at this park. I am writing you today with a request. This request is to honor an extraordinary man from the Bloomington area that has been instrumental in many aspects of the black community. His name is Willie Brown. It would mean so much to the community to rename the Sunnyside Park to the *Willie Brown Park* in honor of his loyalty and dedication to the community.

Willie Brown is well-known not only the Bloomington but also the Normal community for so many positive reasons. He has been a life-long resident who has been inspirational to many. He has dedicated his entire life to investing in the others, especially our youth. He has invested over 4 decades of his time as well as financially. He is someone that has made a huge impact in the black community and renaming this park is just one way to honor him for his outstanding commitment. I have no doubt that this request will be supported by many individuals in Bloomington-Normal.

Sincerely,



Dodie Dunson