



Lowell City Council

Parks & Recreation SC Minutes

Michael Q. Geary
City Clerk

Date: March 19, 2019
Time: 5:30 PM
Location: City Council Chamber
375 Merrimack St., Lowell. Ma.

PRESENT:

Present on Roll Call were C. Mercier, C. Conway and C. Leahy. Also present C. Nuon and C. Elliott.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

C. Mercier called meeting to order noting motion of C. Elliott.

ORDER OF BUSINESS:

C. Mercier noted that the meeting was scheduled for a discussion. C. Mercier noted that park had been named for Roberto Clemente and she commented on his legacy. C. Mercier recognized the effort to change name to Palin Park and noted that the Board of Parks has the final authority regarding that. Meeting was opened to public and following individuals addressed the subcommittee: Sambath Bo; John Che; Suzy Chhung; and S. Chien. C. Elliott commented on the history of the motion and noted that there is a Roberto Clemente Field in the City as well. C. Elliott noted the need to adapt to the changes in the neighborhood and that it is only fair for Cambodians have a park dedicated to them in this City. C. Elliott noted it was more than symbolic and that it promoted unity and appreciation for their culture. C. Elliott noted Board of Parks had final say and that this subcommittee should move it their without delay and with a positive recommendation. C. Nuon commented on legacy of Roberto Clemente and the respect for him. C. Nuon commented that the park was the social center for the community. C. Conway noted the immigration of Cambodians into the City. **Motion** by C. Conway to recommend to the Board of Parks to rename Roberto Clemente Park to Palin Park. Not acted upon as it had not been seconded. C. Mercier commented on Dough Boy Statute attempt to be relocated and that there is a need for a policy to be put in place and that a request to the City Manager and Law Department should be made to develop such a policy. C. Leahy noted concern with not having a process in place to rename a park and would be more



comfortable if the Roberto Clemente name was still present. C. Elliott noted the issue with name sharing at this park and commented on the dedicated field for Roberto Clemente. C. Leahy recognized changes in the neighborhood but commented that preserving history was important. C. Mercier indicated that she had inquiries from the Latin Community and was concerned with their interest in the matter. **Motion** by C. Mercier to request City Manager and Law Department provide a policy and process that can be done to name or rename of City Parks in order to guide proper entities to honor those requests. Not acted upon as it had not been seconded. C. Nuon noted that the request should be supported and that timing was right for a change of name and that it was not done with any disrespect to Roberto Clemente. C. Conway noted there should be no debate and that the Cambodian community should be honored with this change of name. C. Leahy recognized the contributions of the Cambodian community. C. Elliott noted that the park serves many uses. C. Leahy noted it was a difficult discussion but that there is a need for caution when reviewing these requests. C. Elliott noted park has already gone through a name change from Washington Park. **Motion** by C. Leahy, seconded by C. Mercier to refer matter to Board of Parks for their decision regarding change of name from Roberto Clemente Park to Palin Park. Adopted per Roll Call vote, 3 yeas. So voted. C. Conway noted the pride of Cambodian community and that they are staying in Lowell.

ADOURNMENT:

Motion "To Adjourn" by C. Leahy, seconded by C. Mercier. So voted. Meeting adjourned at 6:29 PM.

Michael Q. Geary, City Clerk
