

RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION APPROVING A REQUEST BY COMMUNITY LEADERS TO NAME THE I-240 SPORTS COMPLEX, LOCATED AT 3820 EAST INTERSTATE 240 SERVICE ROAD, THE “DOUGLAS R. KUPPER SPORTS COMPLEX,” IN HONOR OF FORMER OKLAHOMA CITY PARKS AND RECREATION DIRECTOR DOUGLAS R. KUPPER.

WHEREAS, The City of Oklahoma City (City) provides and maintains a variety of parks and recreational venues and services for the use and enjoyment of the public; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the City’s Parks and Recreation Department (OKC Parks) is to provide cultural, social, and recreational experiences to our community so they can have the opportunity to cultivate wellness and enjoy a healthy lifestyle; and

WHEREAS, staff received input from members of several City trusts, commissions, and committees about the naming request described above; and

WHEREAS, the I-240 sports complex features eight regulation-sized softball fields, covered bleachers, concession and restroom buildings, and a parking area; and

WHEREAS, the City purchased the I-240 sports complex in 2019, using 2017 General Obligation Park Bonds dedicated to obtaining additional park facilities for Ward 4; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Kupper was a parks and recreation professional for 47 years, serving in multiple communities across the United States; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from Ohio State University in 1976, he helped mow and maintain parks in Toledo, Ohio; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Kupper then worked as a Naturalist for the National Park Service in New Mexico and in Florida; and

WHEREAS, later, he served in parks leadership positions in Broward County, Florida, and in Tampa, Florida; and

WHEREAS, then, Mr. Kupper was Parks and Recreation Director for the City of Wichita, Kansas, before becoming OKC Parks Director on May 27, 2014; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure as OKC Parks Director, Mr. Kupper led initiatives to modernize and improve the City’s park system; and

WHEREAS, he oversaw final construction and opening of several 2007 General Obligation Park Bond projects serving varied recreational interests, including Kitchen Lake Park and the Wendel Whisenhunt Sports Complex in Woodson Park; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Kupper helped develop and implement the 2017 General Obligation Park Bond Program, which will provide significant upgrades to the City's park system; and

WHEREAS, he oversaw design and initial construction of the Willa D. Johnson Recreation Center, the first such facility built by the City in more than 40 years, which is scheduled to open in 2023; and

WHEREAS, he also guided development and construction of Manuel Perez Park improvements, including the "Medal of Honor Memorial Plaza," which stands in tribute to all Oklahomans who earned the Medal of Honor; and

WHEREAS, during Mr. Kupper's tenure, the City acquired new regional parks in Ward 3 (Swisher Park) and in Ward 8 (Lone Oak Park); and

WHEREAS, as a lifelong advocate for parks accessibility, Mr. Kupper helped secure funding to build an adaptive ballfield at Route 66 Park, creating opportunities for those with disabilities to compete in baseball, softball, and similar activities; and

WHEREAS, as an advocate for innovative recreation designs, he was a driving force in obtaining several outdoor fitness courts for our parks; and

WHEREAS, he also worked to enhance the City's multi-use trail system; these efforts culminated in revamped trails wayfinding signage and final plans for the Deep Fork Trail and the Greenway Trail, which will help complete the City's "trail loop"; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Kupper welcomed the energy and enthusiasm of Oklahoma City's residents and set new standards for community engagement in park planning, programming, and design; and

WHEREAS, his wisdom and leadership by example propelled OKC Parks into a modern era of excellence, and his impact on our park system will be felt for generations to come; and

WHEREAS, community leaders believe the naming request is a fitting way to honor Mr. Kupper's legacy of public service and work on behalf of OKC Parks; and

WHEREAS, on October 20, 2021, following a review and public-comment period consistent with the City's *Park Naming and Renaming Policy* (see Exhibit A, incorporated herein), the Park Commission recommended approval of the naming request; and

WHEREAS, if the City Council approves the naming request, staff will design and install appropriate signage to identify the "Douglas R. Kupper Sports Complex."

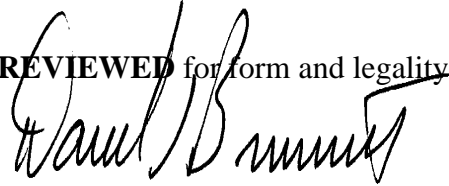
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of The City of Oklahoma City to hereby approve a request by community leaders to name the I-240 sports complex, located at 3820 East Interstate 240 Service Road, as shown in Exhibit B, incorporated herein, the "Douglas R. Kupper Sports Complex," in honor of former Oklahoma City Parks and Recreation Director Douglas R. Kupper.

ADOPTED by the Council of The City of Oklahoma City this ____ day of _____, 2021.

City Clerk

Mayor

REVIEWED for form and legality.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Brummett", is written over a horizontal line.

Assistant Municipal Counselor

Exhibit A

Park Naming and Renaming Policy

(Attached)

Exhibit A

CITY OF OKLAHOMA CITY

PARK NAMING and RENAMING POLICY

Purpose

The purpose of the policy is to establish standard procedures and guidelines for the naming of public parks, park areas, and park facilities owned and/or operated by The City of Oklahoma City.

This policy may not be consistent with existing names of parks, park areas, and park facilities. No suggestion is made or intended that existing names be changed. This policy is a basis for future decisions.

Authorization

The naming of sites shall be the function of the Park Commission, which shall seek input from a Park Naming Committee appointed by the Park Commission Chair. Diversity, balance, and creativity will be sought during adoption of names. These names shall be recommended to The City of Oklahoma City Council for final approval.

Objectives

- A. Provide name identification for individual parks, park areas, and park facilities, as well as ensure duplication of names is avoided.
- B. Provide criteria for citizen input into the process of naming parks, park areas, and park facilities.
- C. Ensure that the naming of parks, park areas, and park facilities is controlled by The City of Oklahoma City Council through recommendations from the Park Commission, with advice from City staff.

Qualifying Names

Names submitted for consideration should provide some form of individual identity in relation to the following:

- A. The geographic location of the park, park area, or park facility. This includes descriptive names.
- B. An outstanding feature of the park, park area, or park facility.
- C. A subdivision, street, school, or natural feature adjoining the park, park area, or park facility.

- D. A commonly recognized historical event, cultural significance, symbol, group, organization, or individual (living or deceased).
- E. An individual or organization that contributed significantly to the acquisition or development of the park, park area, or park facility to be named. This can include either a deed or substantial monetary contribution, or contribution toward acquisition and/or development of the park, park area, or park facility (typically not less than 50 percent of the value of the property or improvements).
- F. Outstanding accomplishments by an individual for the good of the community. Quality of the contribution should be considered, along with the length of service by the individual—this to be fully substantiated by the person making the request.
- G. An individual who provided an exceptional service in the interest of the park system as a whole. Typically, while serving in a public office, public officials should not be considered as candidates for naming.

Other Naming Alternatives

- A. Parks, park areas, and park facilities that are donated to the City can be named by deed restriction by the donor. The naming and acceptance of land is subject to approval by the City Council.
- B. Park facilities within a park or park area can be named separately from the park or park area in which they are located, subject to the general guidelines outlined in this policy.

Naming Process — Existing Un-named Facilities

- A. Individuals, groups, and/or organizations interested in proposing a name for an existing, un-named park, park area, or park facility shall do so in writing, presented to the City's Parks and Recreation Department Director, for consideration by the Park Commission and the Park Naming Committee.
- B. The Park Commission shall consider the request at a public meeting and allow for public comment prior to the next, regular Park Commission meeting.
- C. Following the public-comment period, the Park Commission shall recommend to the City Council action on the request.

Naming Process — New Facilities

- A. A temporary name may be designated by City staff for identification during acquisition and/or development of the park, park area, or park facility.
- B. Individuals, groups, and/or organizations may suggest names for the park, park area, or park facility in writing, presented to the Parks and Recreation Department Director, for consideration by the Park Commission and the Park Naming Committee.

- C. The Park Commission may appoint the Park Naming Committee or a study group to make a name recommendation. The Park Naming Committee or the study group may choose from a variety of means to select a name (citizen contests, recommendations from previous owners, historical review of the site, etc.), but in all cases, citizen involvement is encouraged.
- D. The Park Commission shall consider the request at a public meeting and allow for public comment prior to the next, regular Park Commission meeting.
- E. Following the public-comment period, the Park Commission shall recommend to the City Council action on the request.

Park Renaming

The renaming of parks, park areas, and park facilities shall be discouraged. Critical examination shall be conducted to ensure that renaming the park, park area, or park facility does not diminish the original justification for the name or the prior contributions. Renaming will follow the same procedures as naming the park, park area, or park facility. Provided, however:

- A. Parks, park areas, and park facilities named by deed restriction shall not be considered for renaming.
- B. Parks, park areas, and park facilities named after individuals shall never be changed unless it is found that, because of the individual's character, the continued use of their name would not be in the best interest of the community.

October 2014

Exhibit B

“Douglas R. Kupper Sports Complex”

(Attached)

Potential "Douglas R. Kupper Sports Complex" Naming Site

