

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

NO. 02-370

DATE November 6, 2002

C.D. 10

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: SECOND AVENUE PARK: PROPOSED NAME CHANGE TO BENNY H. POTTER WEST ADAMS AVENUES MEMORIAL PARK

J. Combs _____
A. Corrales _____
J. Duggan _____
J. Kolb _____

H. Fujita _____
M. Matthews [Signature]
L. Barth _____

[Signature]
General Manager

Approved _____

Disapproved _____

Withdrawn _____

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Board approve the renaming of Second Avenue Park to Benny H. Potter West Adams Avenues Memorial Park.

SUMMARY:

In September, 2001, the Department of Recreation and Parks received a request by a community group, the Benny H. Potter Memorial Park Committee, to change the name of Second Avenue Park to Benny H. Potter West Adams Avenues Memorial Park. Second Avenue Park is located at 2413 Second Avenue (see Exhibit A). Subsequently, this item was presented to the Board as an Informational Board Report on October 16, 2002.

Benny H. Potter was a resident of the neighborhood near Second Avenue Park for twenty years and was beloved by his local community. He cared for his neighbors when in need, took care of their pets, and watched out for crime. Mr. Potter was a decorated WWII veteran and set an example to youth that "you don't have to be a big shot to be of service and value to the neighborhood." A petition accompanied the request for the name change, as well as a letter of support from Congresswoman Diane Watson.

Community meetings on this proposal were held on April 20 and September 7 of this year, at which most attendees expressed support for the proposal. The West Adams Avenues Association, has expressed support for renaming the park to Benny H. Potter West Adams Avenues Memorial Park. Staff has reviewed the request and recommends approval of the name change. The Superintendent of the Griffith/Metro Region concurs with the recommendation. Councilmember Holden supports the efforts of the community in the renaming of Second Avenue Park to Benny H. Potter West Adams Avenues Memorial Park.

Report prepared by Camille Didier, Supervisor, Advance Planning/Special Project.