

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

NO. 03-388

DATE December 10, 2003


C.D. 8

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: DENKER RECREATION CENTER: PROPOSED NAMING OF THE NEW BUILDING IN HONOR OF ERIC A. DOLPHY, JR.

L. Barth _____
A. Coroalles _____
H. Fujita _____
J. Kolb _____

*B. Lukehart BSL.
F. Mok _____
G. Stigile _____


General Manager

Approved _____

Disapproved _____

Withdrawn _____

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Board name the Denker Recreation Center's new building in honor of Eric A. Dolphy, Jr.

SUMMARY:

The Board has received numerous letters of support in favor of a proposal to name the new building at Denker Recreation Center, located at 1550 W. 35th Place, in honor of Eric Dolphy, Jr, a noted jazz musician. Those expressing their support for this proposal include Councilmember Bernard Parks of Council District 8, in whose District this facility is located.

At the community meeting held on November 15, 2003, Ms. Dale Pierson, the spokeswoman for the naming sponsors and supporters, spoke eloquently about the area's history, the vision for the future, the significance of the accomplishments of Mr. Dolphy, and the potential for an exciting and beneficial music program at Denker Recreation Center that will benefit the youth. Several musicians spoke in favor of the proposal, as well. It appears that all persons attending the meeting were impressed with Mr. Dolphy's accomplishments as a musician, as well as his personal qualities, and agree that he would serve as a positive role model for the youth. However, of the 79 persons attending, the majority did not immediately support the proposal.

It should be noted that this proposal has not been presented to a Park Advisory Board (PAB) due to the fact that one is still in the process of being formed. However, this proposal has been presented to and approved by the Local Neighborhood Councils. Further, this proposal is supported by the Office of Congresswoman Diane Watson, leading local community organizations and the music industry.

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There is concern over the promise of the pursuit of funding and proposed music programs for the center. Staff estimates that initial costs associated with the naming of the facility and the program will cost approximately \$5400. These include signage (\$1000), bronze plaque (\$400), and start-up costs for music equipment. It is recommended that these initial and all other costs associated with the naming and the music program be paid for by the naming sponsors. It should be noted that Department staff costs for the program operation, travel, etc. have not been determined at this time. Staff can work with the supporters to draft an agreement relative to the creation and operation of the proposed music program.

The Department has received overwhelming support for the proposed naming and music program. These include numerous letters from the various segments of the community at large; the music industry, including the Los Angeles Philharmonic Association; the Office of Congresswoman Diane Watson; and Councilmember Bernard Parks of Council District 8. Further, the community input (both for and against) was obtained at the meeting held on November 15, 2003. The above satisfy the Department's requirement for the naming of a facility. Therefore, staff, in accordance with the Department's Policy on Naming Facilities, staff recommends that the proposed naming be approved.

Report prepared by Camille Didier, Supervisor, Advance Planning/Special Projects