

  
**REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION**

Date: **9/24/2018**

Item No.: **7.e**

Department Approval

City Manager Approval



Item Description: Consider Name Recommendation for Park Property at 1716 Marion Street

**BACKGROUND**

In 2016, the city purchased a .68 acre parcel of property at 1716 Marion Street for park purposes. The property is located in the midst of numerous apartment buildings.

In May of 2017, the City Council hired LHB for planning and design services to assist in the development of a Park Master Plan for 1716 Marion Street.

In February of 2018, after a planned community engagement process, the City Council approved the preferred Park Master Plan for 1716 Marion Street and authorized development of the park. Since that time, details of the development have continued as well as name considerations.

The Parks and Recreation Commission (Commission) has studied the naming of this property as per the attached city policy. The Commission used the following process:

1. Review of city policy for assigning names to city facilities
2. Solicitation of suggestions from the community (see enclosed list)
3. Discussion of the history of the property
4. Discussion of options for names

Following several months of discussion, the Commission has recommended the name for the new park area at 1716 Marion Street to be Unity Park. The Commission stated reasons for recommending this name based upon the following rationale:

- It honors the partners who made the park possible
- It is simple and provides the greatest impact to celebrate the larger idea of what this park represents
- The name was particularly significant with the future direction

Commission Chair Nancy O'Brien and others will be at your meeting to review their recommendation.

**POLICY OBJECTIVE**

The process for involving community members to review, discuss and recommend is consistent with the city's efforts for community engagement and input. The established city policy is to refer to the Parks and Recreation Commission for recommendation on the naming of city facilities.

29 **FINANCIAL IMPACTS**

30 None

31

32 **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

33 Based upon the policy, the established resident input process and the recommendation of the Parks and  
34 Recreation Commission, the staff recommends that the name for the new park at 1716 Marion Street be  
35 Unity Park.

36 **REQUESTED COUNCIL ACTION**

37 Motion to name the park property at 1716 Marion Street - Unity Park.

Prepared by: Lonnie Brokke, Director of Parks and Recreation

Attachment:

- A. Policy on Assigning Names to City Facilities
- B. Full list of community suggested names
- C. Parks and Recreation Commission top 5 list of preferred names
- D. Draft Minutes of the September 4, 2018 Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting
- E. Research prepared by Commission Member Phil Gelbach

**Roseville Parks and Recreation Department  
2660 Civic Center Drive - Roseville, Minnesota 55113  
651/792-7006**

**OPERATING POLICY # 40**

**DATE: October, 1988**

**POLICY TITLE: Assigning Names to City Facilities**

**PURPOSE:** From time to time there is a need to name City of Roseville parks and recreation facilities. The adopted policy contains an orderly process for accomplishing this need.

**DESCRIPTION:**

**The following policy adopted by the City Council on October 5, 1988, shall be used for assigning names to city Parks and Recreation facilities:**

It shall be the policy of the City of Roseville to refer to the Parks and Recreation Commission, any activity involving the naming or changing of names of any city-owned parks or recreational facilities.

The Commission shall recommend to the City Council for approval, names for new sites, facilities or portions of facilities. This includes any changes in names to existing facilities.

The naming of parks and recreational facilities will be given consideration by the Parks and Recreation Commission based on the following factors:

- natural habitat, i.e., vegetation, terrain, animals, etc.
- geographic location, i.e., street names, directions, etc.
- appropriate non-descript terminology, i.e., acronyms or joining of two words or names or activities, etc.

Only under certain and exceptional circumstances will consideration be given to the names of individuals (alive or deceased) and/or organized groups, associations or businesses. To be considered the individual, group, association or business must have made a significant and exceptional contribution to the site involved or to the community as a whole. Such contributions, (immediate or deferred) should be for recreation purposes and may include:

- substantial financial donations
- substantial property donations

In addition, recognition plaques, memorial plaques or dedications may be placed throughout the Park and Recreation system by the Parks and Recreation director and with the recommendation of the Parks and Recreation Commission.

# Community Suggested Name Possibilities 1716 Marion Street (25 Suggestions)

- Acorn
- Alexander Ramsey
- Apple Tree
- Aspen
- Breezy
- Buttercup
- Cherry Blossom
- Dogwood
- Forest
- Frank B. Kellogg
- Grasshopper
- Grefenberg
- Leaf
- Marion
- Oak
- Partners
- Patchwork
- Petal
- Pine Squirrel
- Rainbow
- Tiger Lily
- Tree Branch
- Unity
- Verdant
- Newday

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**Parks & Recreation Commission**  
**Top 5 List**  
**1716 Marion Street Site**

- Marion Park
  - Unity Park
  - Marion Hill Park
  - Marion Unity Park
  - Marion Hill Unity Park
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-

1                                   **ROSEVILLE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**  
2                                   **MEETING MINUTES FOR**  
3                                   **September 4, 2018 6:30pm**

4  
5 **PRESENT:**                   Baggenstoss, Bole, Gelbach, Heikkila, Hoag, O’Brien, Quick,  
6                                   Stoner, Warzecha  
7 **ABSENT:**                   Newby  
8 **STAFF:**                    Brokke, Christensen, Johnson  
9

10 **1) INTRODUCTIONS**

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12 **2) ROLL CALL/PUBLIC COMMENT**

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14 **3) APPROVAL OF MINUTES – AUGUST 2, 2018 MEETING**

15 Commissioner Gelbach moved to approve the August 2, 2018 meeting minutes.  
16 Commissioner Hoag seconds. Commissioner Stoner abstained. Motion passed.  
17

18 **4) GARE OVERVIEW**

19 Parks and Recreation Assistant Director, Matt Johnson, provided an overview of the  
20 Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE) program that the City is currently  
21 participating in. GARE is a “national network of government working to achieve racial  
22 equity and advance opportunities for all”. In Minnesota, 14 government units are  
23 participating in 2018.  
24

25 The importance of racial equity include: yielding a better community, more effective  
26 provision of services to the community as a whole, and it is morally the right thing to do.  
27

28 The Roseville GARE leadership team has 14 staff members (two from Parks and Recreation)  
29 and includes representatives from each organizational level. To date, the team has learned the  
30 history of racial inequity, created informational handouts on Roseville’s demographics, a  
31 Racial Equity Narrative and has learned how to utilize the Racial Equity Toolkit.  
32

33 The role of Parks and Recreation in racial equity is to help strengthen communities, reduce  
34 racial anxiety and help to build trust in municipal government. The National Recreation and  
35 Park Association (NRPA) has established Social Equity as one of their “Three Pillars of  
36 Impact” of Parks and Recreation.  
37

38 The future goals for the GARE leadership team include working to normalize, organize, and  
39 operationalize. They will be utilizing the racial equity lens and tool kit where applicable. The  
40 team will continue with GARE training through 2018, and will develop a Racial Equity  
41 Action Plan.

42 Staff asked Commissioners to consider racial equity implications when advising or making  
43 decisions, to participate in community opportunities that positively impact racial equity, and  
44 to continue to learn more about racial equity issues.

45  
46 Commissioner Stoner inquired if we currently track the demographics of participants in Parks  
47 and Recreation programs. Staff confirmed that at this time we do not currently collect racial  
48 data for program participants.

49  
50 Commissioner Gelbach noted that he would like to see future goals created sooner rather than  
51 later.

52  
53 Chair O'Brien stated that staff did an excellent job with 1716 Marion Street outreach.  
54 However, she cautioned against complacency in reaching out to other underserved  
55 community members.

56  
57 Vice-Chair Baggenstoss suggested the City show vulnerability when asking questions of the  
58 public.

59  
60 **5) ONGOING TOPICS**

61 **a) Cleveland Avenue and Marion Street Park Site Update and Naming Discussion**

62 At the August 2, 2018 meeting the Commission agreed to narrow down the name options  
63 to 5 potential names for each park:

64 2134 Cleveland Avenue:

- 65 • Midland Park
- 66 • Midland Gardens Park
- 67 • Midland Parallel Park
- 68 • Pollinator Park
- 69 • Cleveland Park

70  
71 1716 Marion Street:

- 72 • Marion Hill Unity Park
- 73 • Marion Unity Park
- 74 • Marion Park
- 75 • Unity Park
- 76 • Marion Hill Park

77  
78 Commissioner Gelbach provided the Commission a historical overview and background of  
79 each of the 10 names based on his research.

80

81 Commissioner Stoner suggested Cleveland Gardens Park because Horace Cleveland was a  
82 prominent landscape architect in the area and the fact that this pocket park will most likely  
83 always have a garden onsite.  
84

85 Commissioner Hoag explained that he prefers that individual areas have identifiers. He  
86 believes that the 2134 Cleveland Avenue area is the “Midland” area due to the wide use of  
87 the name in the area.  
88

89 The Commission discussed the following rationale for the Midland Gardens Park name:

- 90 • “Midland” provides a location marker for the Park
  - 91 • Midland is a potential nod to the 45<sup>th</sup> Parallel
  - 92 • The “Garden” name will differentiate it from the other Midland locations/businesses
  - 93 • The park will most likely always have a garden on-site
- 94

95 **Commissioners Recommendation:**

96 Commissioner Gelbach moved to recommend the name of Midland Gardens Park for the new  
97 park at 2134 Cleveland Avenue to the City Council. Commissioner Hoag seconds. All in  
98 favor except Commissioner Heikkila. Motion passed.  
99

100 The Commission discussed the name options for 1716 Marion Street.

101  
102 Vice-Chair Baggenstoss suggested that plaques should be included at parks that have a  
103 backstory as he believe this would help in cultivating a deeper connection to our parks.  
104

105 Staff responded that there will be an explanation in the 1716 Marion Park of the contributors  
106 that were involved in the creation of the park.  
107

108 Commissioner Warzecha explained that she likes the simplicity of the name Unity Park as  
109 unity is the key meaning behind the park and she feels that the name Unity Park makes the  
110 greatest impact.  
111

112 Vice-Chair Baggenstoss suggested Unity Hill Park as it incorporates the Unity name and  
113 provides a location marker.  
114

115 The Commission discussed the pros and cons of the names Unity Hill Park vs. Unity Park.  
116

117 Chair O’Brien noted that the Unity Park name celebrates the broader unity of the whole city  
118 and embraces a larger idea instead of a specific location marker.  
119

120 Commissioner Heikkila asked about potentially bringing the names back to the partners in  
121 the Karen community for input.

122  
123 The Commission discussed the following rationale for the Unity Park name:

- 124 • Honors the partners who made the park possible
- 125 • It is simple and provides the greatest impact to celebrate the larger idea of what this  
126 park represents

127  
128 **Commissioners Recommendation:**

129 Commissioner Warzecha moved to recommend the name of Unity Park for 1716 Marion  
130 Street to the City Council. Commissioner Gelbach seconds. All in favor except Vice-Chair  
131 Baggenstoss. Motion passed.

132  
133 **6) STAFF REPORT**

- 134 • A community meeting was held for the youth pump track proposal on August 23<sup>rd</sup>.  
135 The engagement process has been completed with the community. Volunteer work  
136 will begin on September 24-28 to create the pump track pilot program.
- 137 • The 1716 Marion Street and 2134 Cleveland Avenue Parks are moving forward. Staff  
138 thanked the Public Works staff for their help with the projects.
- 139 • Pollinator Garden Planting – September 15<sup>th</sup> at 2134 Cleveland Avenue (10:00am-  
140 12:00pm)
- 141 • Community Playground Build – October 15<sup>th</sup> at 1716 Marion Street (10:00am-  
142 complete)
- 143 • Wild Rice Festival – September 15<sup>th</sup> at Harriet Alexander Nature Center (10:00am-  
144 6:00pm)
- 145 • A reminder of rental opportunities at the Roseville Park Buildings and the Cedarholm  
146 Community Building and Golf Course
- 147 • Tapped and Uncorked – September 28<sup>th</sup> at the OVAL (6:00pm-10:00pm)
- 148 • Ash tree wraps with information about Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) are being  
149 researched by Parks and Recreation staff.

150  
151 **7) OTHER**

152 Youth Commissioner Quick provided a presentation on the impact of plastic straw use.  
153 According to his research 8-20 million tons of plastic ends in the ocean each year. By 2050,  
154 the oceans will contain more plastic waste than fish. Plastics never fully degrade, rather they  
155 turn into micro plastics which are then potentially consumed by animals and humans. Youth  
156 Commissioner Quick is working to inform local restaurants and government representatives  
157 of the impact of plastic straws on our environment in an effort to get their usage reduced.

158  
159

160 Meeting adjourned at 8:21pm  
161  
162 Respectfully Submitted,  
163 Danielle Christensen, Department Assistant

DRAFT

## Park Naming

Function of the park name is to acknowledge the space's individual character and/or provide a sense of history, community and belonging

1. Locate the park within the Roseville park system structure
2. Identify or acknowledge a natural or geographic feature (Marion Hill Park)
3. Identify or acknowledge a benefit to the neighborhood (Unity Park)
4. Highlight its historical or cultural uniqueness (Cleveland Park, Cleveland Pollinator Park)

### Park at 2134 Cleveland Avenue

#### Midland

**Name reasoning (by submitter):** "Midland Hills Park. Because this area is anchored by the Midland Hills golf course and is generally known as the Midland Hills area. One problem with this name is that the park is flat! Alternatively, Cleveland Park, given its street location."

**Name origin:** Opened in 1921 as the University of Minnesota Golf Club by university professors who wanted a golf course close to the campus, the members soon found name restrictive. Hoping to include non-faculty members to expand the membership, they voted to rename it Midland Hills so that it would appear to be more open to the business and professional community. The change of name was formally recorded on April 21, 1922. The name has been in use in the area for 96 years.

Other uses of the name in the area include:

- Midland Grove Rd (Apartments N. of Park)
- Midland Hills Rd (off Roselawn, just east of Fulham)
- Midland View Ct N (off Cty Rd B W.)

#### Pollinator

**Name reasoning:** 2134 Cleveland Avenue is the only Roseville park specifically designated to have pollinator plantings. The City and Parks Commission seek to demonstrate the City's commitment to a safe and healthy community environment through the implementation of practices that protect pollinators on city parks, open spaces, and city property.

**Name origin:** The City of Roseville has many established programs and practices that help protect pollinators, including preservation of natural areas, enhancing habitat and use of native plants in gardens and plantings, limited use of insecticides and herbicides in the landscape. Our native bees, honey bees and other pollinators are a necessary component of a healthy ecosystem and food system, providing essential pollination of plants in order to grow vegetables, herbs, and fruits. This park will be an exemplar for pollinator education

and outreach to the community where citizens can visit and see a range of pollinator friendly plantings that they can reproduce in their own gardens.

**Note:** Future custodians of the park may choose to redirect the plantings away from pollinators.

## Cleveland

**Name origin:** The name comes from **Horace Cleveland**, an internationally known (*in the late 1800s*) landscape architect. He visited the city of St. Paul in 1872 and proposed a citywide park system; shortly thereafter Lake Como was purchased, eventually to be the anchor of Como Park, Zoo, and Conservatory. Cleveland also designed St. Anthony Park and the University of Minnesota campus. In the 1880's he worked for the Minneapolis Park Board. The result of Cleveland's vision is the famous "Grand Rounds," an interconnected series of parkways, and parks, centered on the Mississippi River. The official title "Grand Rounds," came much later, but Cleveland's vision for the scenic byway is timeless, and the Minneapolis Grand Rounds are known today as one of the best urban park systems in the world. A similar system was planned for St Paul but was never completed.

As noted above the park is located at the intersection of Cleveland Avenue and County Rd B.

**Note:** Roseville and the rest of the metropolitan community owes a debt of gratitude to Horace Cleveland for the award-winning park systems we now enjoy. Cleveland Park would acknowledge this.

## Midland Parallel

**Name origin:** (see, Midland, above)

**Name reasoning (by submitter):** In this name 'Midland' refers to the Roseville neighborhood location (see above) and 'Parallel' refers to the 45th parallel.

**Note 1:** The park is not located on the 45<sup>th</sup> parallel, but north of it.

**Note 2:** The 45th parallel north is an imaginary circle of latitude that is 45 degrees north of Earth's equator. It crosses Europe, Asia, the Pacific Ocean, North America, and the Atlantic Ocean. It supposedly marks the halfway point between the Equator and the North Pole (not actually a true fact due to global squish that pushes the equator outward as the world spins on its axis).

There is nothing particularly special about the 45th Parallel, except as a geographic curiosity. The 45th Parallel is an abstract idea, but the marker may alert passersby to think about how Roseville is connected to the rest of the globe.

**Note 3:** In Roseville, there is a monument located one block north of Roselawn on Cleveland avenue (not actually in the park), north of a short cul-de-sac called Loren Road on the east side of the street. It reads,

*“The forty-fifth parallel of north latitude on the surface of the earth runs through this boulder.*

*It is an east and west line which is exactly one-half the distance between the Equator and the North Pole or a distance of 3102 miles each way.*

*Located by Ramsey County Surveyor  
November 1940*

## **Midland Gardens**

**Name origin:** (see, Midland, above)

**Name reasoning:** Although a small “pocket” style park, 2134 Cleveland Avenue will have a pollinator garden, trees and other green features as well as a playground installation (“a play piece”).

## **Park at 1716 Marion Street**

### **Marion Park**

**Name origin:** Marion is the street name in Roseville where the park is situated. The street runs from downtown St. Paul where West Kellogg Boulevard turns north at the Mississippi River in St. Paul and becomes Marion Street, roughly at the intersection of Concordia Street one block west of Rice Street at the Minnesota State capitol. Marion continues north until it terminates at Como Avenue (blocked by the Great Northern Railroad tracks. It picks up again north of the tracks at Atwater street until blocked again at Ivy Avenue. It goes north again, cut by Arlington, then a short spur below Mc Carrons lake where the park is located. It continues north in fits and starts until it terminates just south of Lake Owasso. (searching for other significance).

**Note:** Have not learned the origin of the Marion name.

### **Marion Hill**

#### **Marion Hill Unity Park**

#### **Marion Unity Park**

#### **Unity Park**

**Name reasoning (by submitter):** “I've lived in Roseville for the last 20 years. I have never felt such tension among various groups of people more than now. But a park is a chance to gather together with people in our community whom we might not meet otherwise. It gives us neutral ground to come together in fellowship with others in our community.

Our diversity and different viewpoints are a tremendous asset to Roseville. Unity is what will help our community to continue to thrive and strive together toward a great future for all of us. This new park will help provide that opportunity.

That is why I propose naming our new park "**Unity Park**".