



**CITY OF ELK GROVE
CITY COUNCIL STAFF REPORT**

AGENDA TITLE: Consider a resolution naming one park in the Madeira East Subdivision

MEETING DATE: July 27, 2016

PREPARED BY: Kevin Bewsey, Senior Civil Engineer

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Bob Murdoch, P.E.
Public Works Director/ City Engineer

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Staff recommends the City Council consider naming an approximately five-acre park site to be developed in the central part of the Madeira East subdivision of the Laguna Ridge Specific Plan "Singh and Kaur Park".

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

City Council adopted a policy for naming City-owned land, buildings and facilities on August 27, 2008 (Attachment 2), which established formal guidelines and a procedure for considering appropriate names. As required by policy, the Council shall authorize the naming of all City facilities within its jurisdiction by a majority vote of the Council.

Beginning in 2011, the City became responsible for the delivery of all parks in the Laguna Ridge Specific Plan (LRSP) area and adopted a fee program for their construction. The fee program identified many parks by theme name, but a majority were identified with generic identifiers (i.e. Madeira East (Central) and Madeira East (East)) to be themed and named at a later date. Under the current Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the City and Cosumnes Community Service District (CCSD) (adopted April 2015), park naming in Laguna Ridge is reserved for the City.

At the February 11, 2015 City Council meeting, a presentation was made concerning park delivery prioritization, park theme naming, and the funding for Reardan Park. Although comments were expressed during discussion

regarding naming the parks after prominent residents, the Council directed that the park naming would continue as part of the park theming process. At the June 24, 2015 City Council meeting, staff presented the Council with theme based naming options for the naming of two parks - “Madeira East (Central)” and “Madeira East (East)”. The Council adopted the Portuguese-themed name “Porto” for the “Madeira East (East)” park, but expressed a desire to consider a name based on prominent residents for the other park. Council directed staff to obtain the names submitted to the CCSD by the community for their various parks and bring these back to the Council for consideration.

At the October 14, 2015 City Council meeting, staff presented the names and nomination forms previously submitted to the CCSD, as well as the City’s Facility Naming Policy. City Council directed staff to utilize the City’s Facility Naming Policy to name this five acre park site, filter the previously proposed names from the CCSD that met the City’s Policy, provide an open nomination process to add more names, and have the City Manager return with a final list of names for consideration.

PARK NAMING EVALUATION AND OUTREACH:

Staff evaluated previous nominations from CCSD and determined that only eight of the previous 18 nominations received by the CCSD within the past 10 years met the guidelines in the City’s Facility Naming Policy. These nominations are summarized in Table 1 below.

Table 1 – Summary of Park Names

Proposed Park Name	Living/Deceased*	Person Submitting Nomination	Year Submitted	Contributions to Community
Gary Dreher	Deceased	Juliana Dreher	2005	EGHS math teacher and baseball coach
Joseph Nurre	Deceased	Karen Goesch	2005	military veteran, killed in action
Theo & Mary Soares	Deceased	Robert Vanderveen	2005	Portuguese immigrants, WWI veteran, established Elk Grove S.E.S. Hall
Bill & Frances Cumpston	Deceased	Gail Brokaw	2009	historic family, small business owners, volunteers, charter members of EG Historical Society
Milton Dick	Deceased	Gerald Derr	2015	EGHS music teacher
Lorin Brown	Deceased	Karianne (Brown) Morgan	2015	music teacher, volunteer
Singh and Kaur	Deceased	Amar Shergill	2015	volunteers, memorial

Proposed Park Name	Living/Deceased*	Person Submitting Nomination	Year Submitted	Contributions to Community
				park
Bill Swiston	Deceased	Jalynne Callori	2015	youth sports coach, volunteer

Staff conducted outreach by starting a Name that Park campaign asking the public to submit nominations from January 1, 2016 through February 29, 2016. The City received one submission to name the park Singh & Kaur Park. The CCSD previously received this nomination (Attachment 3) as shown in the table above.

Due to the opportunity to name the park after two individuals and the name being nominated multiple times, the name Singh & Kaur Park is recommended by the City Manager to memorialize and honor Surinder Singh, Gurmej Singh Atwal and their families. Mr. Singh and Mr. Atwal were fatally shot when walking in their Elk Grove neighborhood. The proposed name ‘Singh and Kaur Park’ is in memorial for the two men that have passed and in recognition of their families they leave behind and the community that embraced them. The use of both ‘Singh’ and ‘Kaur’ was proposed to represent not only the men who had died but also the wives they left behind. It is important to note that ‘Kaur’ is the common last name used for women in the culture of the Sikh community.

It should be noted that the recommended name could be interpreted as differing from the City’s Facility Naming Policy which states “[f]acilities will not normally be named after living persons” and “..names shall be specific so they are not confused with similarly named individuals”. The name Kaur references surviving spouses and using only the surname of Singh could be confused with others of the same name.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with the naming of the park. Active development of the park will begin this fiscal year in coordination with Cosumnes Community Service District.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Resolution
2. Facility Naming Policy
3. Nomination Submittal

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ELK GROVE
NAMING AN APPROXIMATELY FIVE-ACRE PARK SITE TO BE DEVELOPED IN
THE CENTRAL PART OF THE MADEIRA EAST SUBDIVISION OF THE LAGUNA
RIDGE SPECIFIC PLAN “SINGH AND KAUR PARK”**

WHEREAS, City Council adopted a policy for naming City-owned land, buildings and facilities on August 27, 2008; and

WHEREAS, in 2011 The City became responsible for the delivery of all parks in the Laguna Ridge Specific Plan area; and

WHEREAS, City Council directed staff to utilize the City’s Facility Naming Policy, to name this five acre park; and

WHEREAS, staff filtered the previously proposed names from the Cosumnes Community Service District (CCSD) and opened the nomination process to add additional names; and

WHEREAS, staff evaluated the previous submissions to CCSD, eight met the guidelines and the City received one submission from the outreach.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Elk Grove hereby authorizes the naming of an approximately five-acre park site to be developed in the central part of the Madeira East subdivision of the Laguna Ridge Specific Plan “Singh and Kaur Park”.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Elk Grove this 27th day of July 2016.

GARY DAVIS, MAYOR of the
CITY OF ELK GROVE

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

JASON LINDGREN, CITY CLERK

JONATHAN P. HOBBS,
CITY ATTORNEY

TITLE

City of Elk Grove Facility Naming Policy

PURPOSE

To establish a formal and uniform policy regarding the naming of City facilities; subject to the approval of the City Council.

POLICY

The policy of the City of Elk Grove is to name facilities in a manner that will provide an easy and recognizable reference to the City’s residents and visitors.

CITY FACILITIES

Public facilities included in this policy are as follows:

- A. Buildings: City-owned buildings used for City administration or other City related business or service provided to Elk Grove residents. Such facilities include, without limitation, City Hall, Police Station, Teen Center, Library, and any new or future buildings.
- B. Support Facilities: City-owned facilities that support field operations. Support facilities include, without limitation, the corporation yard, pump stations, roads, bridges, and any new or future facilities.
- C. Land: City-owned land that supports services or functions of the City. Land includes, without limitation, open-space, creeks and channels, trails, parks, and any new or future land.

GUIDELINES

In determining the names to be given to City owned or leased facilities, the City Council will give particular consideration to the following policy guidelines:

Names will provide easy and recognizable references for City residents, corporate citizens and other visitors.

Names shall represent broad community principles, which enhance the values and heritage of Elk Grove and will be compatible with community interest.

Names shall have timeless qualities and shall make a statement of significance to future generations.

Names shall recognize geographic, topographic or historical attributes of Elk Grove.

Names shall incorporate the words “ELK GROVE” or “CITY OF ELK GROVE” where deemed important for civic or other reasons for a facility to be identified with the City.

Facilities may be named in honor of persons who have served the nation, the State of California and/or the City of Elk Grove in an exceptional and distinguished manner and where such action is warranted by a contribution of service which is deemed to be of major significance.

Facilities will not normally be named after living persons unless it is deemed appropriate to take such action on the basis of a significant contribution, monetary or otherwise, which warrants a deviation from these policy guidelines.

The naming of facilities in honor of deceased persons shall not take place until two years after their deaths. This particular policy guideline is not intended in any way to reflect on the merits of any deceased individual who may have been a prominent civic leader. However, it is felt appropriate to establish such a waiting period to ensure that an individual's accomplishments or contributions will stand the test of time and that decisions shall not be made on an emotional basis immediately following a person's death.

Facilities may be named after individuals, families, businesses or agencies who have donated the land, building, facility or funds for a significant capital project, particularly if such naming is set forth as a condition of the donation.

All names shall be specific so they are not confused with similarly named individuals. Generally, a name shall not be considered if it is already popularly in use and assigned to facilities within the City or elsewhere.

Naming, renaming, and removing of names shall be the responsibility of the City Council. However, places within City-owned facilities such as a room or area, which does not require formal dedication by the City Council, may be named by the City Manager or his/her designee.

PROCEDURE AND CITY COUNCIL ACTION

Names will be considered whether submitted by Council Offices, City Commissions / Committees, staff, civic organizations and/or general public. The selection process may include, where deemed appropriate, a contest or competition, if it is felt that such an alternative would promote greater community-wide interest and participation.

All proposed names will be forwarded to the appropriate project manager or to the City Manager's Office. The City Manager will informally consult with the City Council to determine if naming is appropriate. The City is under no obligation to name a City owned facility even when names are submitted.

The City Manager or City Council may, at their discretion, request creation of a Council Ad Hoc Facilities Naming Committee, which shall consist of two City Council Members appointed by vote of the Council, and the City Manager. The Ad Hoc Committee may bring forth screened, evaluated and prioritized selections to the full City Council.

Upon direction from the City Ad-Hoc Committee or the City Manager, City staff will present a formal naming resolution to the City Council for consideration.

The City Council shall authorize naming all City facilities within its jurisdiction by a majority vote.

FOLLOW-UP TO SELECTION OF NAME

Subsequent to approval by the City Council, the new name for the City-owned facility shall be conveyed to the Department of Public Works for incorporation in official City maps and plans.

REMOVAL

Existing place names are deemed to have historic recognition. City policy is not to change the name of any existing facility, particularly one whose name has City or regional significance, unless there are compelling reasons to do so. Further, the City will consider renaming to commemorate a person or persons only when the person or persons have made major, overriding contributions to the City and whose distinctions are as yet unrecognized.

MONETARY CONTRIBUTIONS / DONATIONS

Where a facility or unit is to be named in consideration of a financial contribution, the money or other property shall be transferred to the City, or its future transfer shall be legally assured, before a naming action shall be taken. All monetary contributions or donations will be earmarked for applicable facility's purchase, improvements, repairs or maintenance at the direction of the City Manager and Finance Director.

GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIPS

If the City is working in partnership with another government agency on a particular facility, the Council, at their discretion, may partner in the naming of said facility. Each entity will create a two person Ad Hoc Committee to screen, evaluate, and prioritize names. The full Ad Hoc Committee will select a top contending name for the facility which will need to be ratified by each governing body. This policy shall be the standard for all Government partnerships unless there is a specific signed document already outlining a facility naming policy.

Unless supported by compelling reasons, the final facility name shall comply with all guidelines established in this policy.



Nomination Application Form

Please complete the form below and attach any/all supporting documentation to complete your application.

1. Proposed Park Name: _____

2. Proposed Name to Honor (circle the one that applies)

- Individual
- Pair (2 individuals)
- Family
- Group (3 or more individuals)
- Geography, Topography or Historical Attribute
- Theme (fill in if chosen): _____

3. Did the nominee(s) live in Elk Grove? Yes No n/a

4. How long did they live in Elk Grove? _____ years or n/a

5. Date(s) of Birth: 1st Individual _____ or n/a

2nd Individual _____ or n/a 3rd Individual _____ or n/a

6. Date(s) of Death: 1st Individual _____ or n/a

2nd Individual _____ or n/a 3rd Individual _____ or n/a

7. Describe the contributions of the nominee to the country/state and/or City of Elk Grove that would warrant a City owned facility to be named in their honor? For themes, geographical, topographical or historical nominations, please describe the significance of the resource to the City.

8. Attach up to three (3) letters of support and up to five (5) pages of ancillary information that support this nomination. Documents may include newspaper articles, a listing of accomplishments and/or affiliations, resumes, photos, etc.



9. Your Contact Information

- Name _____
- Email address _____
- Daytime Phone _____ Mobile phone? Yes No
- Evening Phone _____
- Address: Street _____
City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Questions: Contact Andrea Koerner at 916-478-2247 or akoerner@elkgrovecity.org.

Submit Your Nomination on or before February 29, 2016.

1. Email a scanned copy of the nomination packet to akoerner@elkgrovecity.org
2. Mail or hand deliver the nomination packet to:
City of Elk Grove
Public Works Department, Park Naming Project
8401 Laguna Palms Way
Elk Grove, CA 95758
ATTN: Andrea Koerner

City of Elk Grove

Park Naming Nomination Narrative

'Singh and Kaur Park'

Surinder Singh and Gurmej Singh Atwal were not well known to many of us during their lives, but their passing left an indelible mark on our community. [On March 4, 2011, these two turban-wearing grandfathers were walking in their neighborhood as they had done so many times before, when they were shot by a still unknown assailant.](#) Neither of the men survived the attack.

Gurmej Singh Atwal was 68 when he came to the United States with his wife, Balbir Kaur, and his children, Sarnjit Singh, Talwinder Kaur, Balkar Singh and Kamaljeet Singh. He was blessed to have a productive and active life into his eighth decade. Mr. Atwal was devoted to his family and believed that the best way to serve his community was to ensure that his ten grandchildren were independent and capable. He led by example; working hard in a career with the State Government of Punjab, volunteering at his local Sikh Temple and exercising daily after retirement.

Surinder Singh immigrated to the United States in 2005, when he was 60 years old. A retired farmer, he and his wife, Amarjit Kaur, spent most of their days with their eight grandchildren. He was committed to the welfare of his family, particularly passing wisdom and cultural heritage to his



grandchildren so that they might have the type of successful and productive life that he envisioned when he adopted America as his new home. He was 65 when he was murdered.

In many communities, the passing of Surinder Singh and Gurmej Singh would have been reported in the news and perhaps quickly forgotten but, in Elk Grove and the surrounding region, this heinous crime moved the community to action. [People of all faiths, ethnicities and political backgrounds came together](#) to denounce the horrific crime. [There was an outpouring of support for the families and the Sikh community which felt the loss so deeply.](#)

The pictures included with this submission are of the children and grandchildren of Surinder Singh and Gurmej Singh at the [vigil held after the shooting](#). The event was attended by

countless religious, community and civic leaders. It was the beginning of a fundamental and beautiful change in the relationship of the Sikh community in the Elk Grove area. As a direct result of this tragedy, Sikhs became truly aware of the love in the community for and from people of all faiths, races and backgrounds. Sikhs now participate more in civic affairs, community events and interfaith programs. Such participation is a testimony to the true meaning of community as shown by the residents of Elk Grove.



In naming the facility 'Singh and Kaur Park', the City of Elk Grove will honor the memories, not only of two men, but of two families and a community that came together in a time of sadness. This park will represent the true spirit and strength of the people of Elk Grove; strength that could not be shaken and a spirit that continues today. 'Singh and Kaur Park' will be an example today and to future generations that we are at our best when we stand together with our neighbors.

Board of Directors
Consumnes Community Services District
c/o Jenny Smith
Wackford Community & Aquatic Complex
9014 Bruceville Road
Elk Grove, CA 95758

Respected Board Members,

We write to you in support of the nomination to name a new 13.7 acre community facility 'Singh and Kaur Park' in honor of the late Gurmej Singh Atwal, the late Surinder Singh, their wives and their families. Mr. Atwal and Mr. Singh were murdered in March 2011 but, in the sadness of that loss, the community of Elk Grove and the surrounding region came together in love and support for the affected families and the Sikh community. By honoring these two families and their patriarchs, we remember their contributions and the strength of our community during a time of tragedy.

We encourage you to accept this nomination as a permanent memorial to Mr. Atwal and Mr. Singh. We look forward to attending the official opening of the park and once again bringing together our diverse community in remembrance of the departed.

Sincerely,

Senator Richard Pan
Assemblymember Jim Cooper
Gary Davis, City of Elk Grove Mayor
Steve Detrick, City of Elk Grove Councilmember
Steve Ly, City of Elk Grove Councilmember
Darren Suen, City of Elk Grove Councilmember
Nancy Chaires, City of Elk Grove Unified School District Board Member
Kevin Spease, City of Elk Grove Planning Commissioner
Doug Haaland, Executive Director, Sacramento County Republican Party
Kamran Malik, Pakistani American Sports & Cultural Association
Dr. Gurpreet Singh Chahal, President, Singh Sabha Sikh Temple (Elk Grove)
Balwant Singh Virk, President, Sacramento Sikh Society (Bradshaw Rd.)
Avtar Singh Atwal, President, Dashmesh Darbar Sikh Temple (South Sacramento)
Balbir Singh Dhillon, President, Sacramento Sikh Temple (West Sacramento)
Darshan Singh Mundy, Board Member, American Sikh Political Action Committee
Amar Singh Shergill, Board Member, American Sikh Public Affairs Association