



COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Meeting Date: March 16, 2011
Staff Report # NA
Agenda Item # C-6

REGULAR BUSINESS: Recommendation to Waive City Council Policy CC-86 “Naming and/or Changing the Name of Facilities” and to Recommend to the City Council to Re-name the renovated Recreation Center the *Arrillaga Family Recreation Center* and, once completed, name the gymnastics facility the *Arrillaga Family Gymnastics Center*.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommend that the Parks & Recreation Commission recommend that the City Council waiving Policy CC-86 “Naming and/or Changing the Name of Facilities” in order to rename the renovated recreation Center the *Arrillaga Family Gymnasium*, and the new gymnastics facility the *Arrillaga Family Gymnastics Center*, honoring John Arrillaga for his generous donations.

BACKGROUND

Following the completion of the new gymnasium, John Arrillaga, a local developer active in Menlo Park’s recreation programs for over thirty years as a participant, coach and mentor to youth in the community, came forward as a donor to complete the design and construction of a new gymnastics facility. When it appeared that construction start up would take several months, Mr. Arrillaga also agreed to pay all costs for not only the gymnastics center project above the City’s contribution of up to \$6.2 million from the Measure T and Rec-in-Lieu funds, but would donate roughly \$2 million for a complete renovation of the Burgess Recreation Center. The donations received approval by the Parks & Recreation Commission and City Council.

The Burgess Gymnastics Center has an estimated project budget of \$12 million with the City funding a total of \$6.2 million (\$4.15 million from Measure T and \$2.05 million from Rec-In-Lieu). and the donor funding the remaining expense. The proposed 19,400 square-foot gymnastics center replaces the existing 17,400-square-foot gymnasium/ gymnastics center and will be located in generally the same location. The front entrance for the building will be oriented toward the soccer field, and the rear of the building facing Laurel Street. The design contains a large gymnastics room, a smaller pre-school tumbling room, a multipurpose room, exercise room, lobby, office, locker rooms, and storage/mechanical rooms.

The Recreation Center renovation, scheduled to be completed in the next few weeks, includes a 900 square foot addition, improvements to HVAC systems including air conditioning, replacement of all doors and windows, new flooring, new paint and finishes, new AV capabilities, new restrooms, lighting and wiring upgrades, reconfiguration of classroom space, a new roof and extensive renovations to the patio areas.

Mr. Arrillaga's vision for the new facilities will not only improve the health and wellness of our community and provide recreational experiences for all ages and abilities but will provide alternative and positive choices for youth; promote lifelong learning and foster human development; celebrate family connections; and create a greater sense of community and pride in Menlo Park.

ANALYSIS

Without the significant donation and contribution of John Arrillaga it would have been unlikely the City would have had the financial resources to build neither the new gymnastics facility or renovate the recreation center, an older facility (1962) with numerous issues making it inefficient and ineffective at meeting current recreation needs. Therefore, staff recommends the Parks & Recreation Commission recommend naming the gymnasium the *Arrillaga Family Gymnasium* to acknowledge John Arrillaga's major donation to the City of Menlo Park.

This action requires waiving the existing policy restricting naming new facilities, which the Commission also recommends at this time in order to allow signage and other items to be incorporated into the construction process.

IMPACT ON CITY RESOURCES

Approval of the recommendation does not impact city resources.

POLICY ISSUES

This recommendation does represent a deviation from existing City policy. City Council Policy #CC-86, dated February 25, 1986 states "...The City will modify existing names only with the greatest reluctance and only to commemorate a person or persons who have made major, overriding contributions to the City and whose distinctions are as yet unrecognized." The policy also states the naming will recognize a deceased person no sooner than five years after that person's death.

The City Council has made exceptions to the policy in the past. In October 2004, the City Council waived the policy by naming the Burgess Park Little League field in honor of Tom Harrison, former Chair of the Park and Recreation Commission. In September 2008, the policy was waived by changing the name of Bayfront Park to Bedwell-Bayfront Park in honor of Michael Bedwell, former City Manager from 1964 to 1991. Last fall Council approved naming the new gymnasium after the Arrillaga Family. Staff is recommending an exception to the policy in this case due to the major financial and leadership contributions by John Arrillaga to the City.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Approval of the recommendation does not represent a project under the California Environmental Quality Act.

Cherise Brandell
Director of Community Services

PUBLIC NOTICE: Public Notification was achieved by posting the agenda, with this agenda item being listed, at least 72 hours prior to the meeting.

ATTACHMENTS

A. City Council Policy CC-86 "Naming and/or Changing the Name of Facilities"