

1480 South Citrus Avenue
Escondido, CA 92027

June 12, 2008

Menlo Park Parks and Recreation Commission
c/o Barbara George
Director of Community Services
City of Menlo Park
701 Laurel Street
Menlo Park, California 94025

RE: RENAMING BAYFRONT PARK TO BEDWELL BAYFRONT PARK

Dear Chairman and Commission Members:

I am unable to attend the meeting and want to thank you for considering this action. Our sons, Allan and Patrick Bedwell, will be present.

Mike and the many people who worked with him to make this Park a reality will be honored by having his name added to that of the Park. Many have already made their comments and wishes known.

I want to add two points from a personal perspective.

- Mike knew firsthand the importance of open space throughout one's life.

He experienced this growing up in the open hillsides of rural Escondido. From the time he was a small child he and his dog would set out from the back of the Ranch and explore through the valley and up Hogback, the hill across the way. Scrambling among large granite boulders and through the southern California scrub, his imagination would roam.

With his parents he traveled often to the Owens Valley on the eastern side of the Sierra where generations of his family lived, and where he was born. Anyone who has been to the eastern side knows its clear blue skies, the startling 12,000-14,000 ft mountains that rise sharply from the high desert floor, and the endless vistas. This was another of his boyhood landscapes and he returned often throughout his adult life, usually with us in tow.

Mike knew in his soul the importance of natural, unfettered open space.

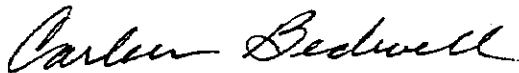
- The Park was very special to Mike—for the open space and for the difficulties that had been overcome.

He spent years working with the complex and sometimes convoluted mix of regulatory, technical, financial, environmental and political issues that had to be resolved to successfully transform the dump owned by the Sanitary District and operated by the Scavengers into a widely supported City-owned natural open space. He talked about it at home a lot; sometimes it seemed doomed, sometimes there was a small victory. And he kept working away.

In 1990 when he retired, the community and the City held an "I LIKE MIKE" Day. Events were scheduled from first thing in the morning til late evening. A friend had provided a limousine and driver to transport us from event to event. When the driver arrived, we were all dressed up and ready to go. To my surprise, Mike asked him to start with something not on the schedule: to drive through Bayfront Park. With early morning light on the Bay, the sleek white stretch limo slowly moved over the dirt roads and mounding hills. No one else was about. Mike didn't say anything. He looked out the window, taking it all in. After a while the limo circled back to the entrance and the events of I LIKE MIKE Day began.

In the family we have known for years how strongly he identified with this Park. For us it has always been "his park".

With appreciation for your deliberations and your consideration,



Carleen Bedwell (Mrs. Michael A. Bedwell)

Copy: Mayor and City Council
City Manager Glen Rojas
Anne Moser, Friends of Bayfront Park

June 10, 2008

Chairman and Members
Menlo Park Parks and Recreation Commission
City of Menlo Park
701 Laurel Street
Menlo Park, CA 94025

Dear Commission Members,

I would like to add my name to the list of those in support of renaming Bayfront Park to Bedwell Bayfront Park in honor of former Menlo Park City Manager Mike Bedwell. When I first heard of the idea to rename the park in memory of Mike, I was immediately struck by the thought of how appropriate it would be to rename the park which Mike Bedwell worked so hard to create. He served and loved our city for many years and will forever be remembered as the finest city manager Menlo Park ever had.

Sincerely,

Mark Flegel

6/11/2008

Chairman Nick Naclerio and members
Menlo Park Parks and Recreation Commission
c/o Barbara George
Community Services Director
City of Menlo Park
701 Laurel Street
Menlo Park, CA 94025

We understand that the commission is meeting to consider renaming Bayfront Park and we want to express our interest to the commission, our strong desire to the requested new name of **Bedwell** Bayfront Park.

We were neighbors of the Bedwell's for many years living across the street from each other on Hobart Street and became very close friends. We have a great deal of respect and love for Mike as a neighbor and friend, and for his involvement and the many accomplishments that he achieved while with the city of Menlo Park

I have served on the Parks and Recreation Commission for the City of Menlo Park from 1989 to 1995, I understand your responsibility as guardians of our communities parks, and I have a great deal of respect for your time and effort. I understand that renaming a public facility involves many considerations as there may be future requests to do so. Several have been requested in the past. As I am sure you will admit, Mike Bedwell was an exceptional member of our community and leader that that served for many years. With so many achievements, especially the development of the original park after the waste facility was determined to be at capacity, Mike and his family certainly deserves your consideration.

Patty and I have enjoyed living in Menlo Park for over fifty years. We raised our family here. I served the community on the commission and with a long career with the Menlo Park Fire District. I am presently on the fire district board of directors. I can also remember the joy my daughter and I had when we went to the "dumps" together. (she actually dressed up in her best dress to attend the event). Our entire family, including grandchildren, now enjoy our walks at Bayfront Park regularly.

I cannot think of a better tribute to a man that was so well admired and respected as Mike was to name such an important city facility in his honor. We strongly recommend that you request to the council to do so.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat & Ollie Brown
825 Hobart Street
Menlo Park, CA 94025
orbrown@sbcglobal.net

-----Original Message-----

From: Doug Dupen [mailto:dupen@stanford.edu]
Sent: Wednesday, June 11, 2008 5:22 PM
To: George, Barbara S
Subject: Bedwell Bayfront Park

To: Mayor and Councilmembers, City of Menlo Park
Via: Barbara George
From: Doug Dupen, Former Councilman and Mayor
Date: June 11, 2008

I have been informed that the Council will be considering renaming Bayfront Park as Bedwell Bayfront Park. Let me express my whole-hearted support for that grand idea. No one was more responsible than Mike for the conversion of a local dump to what it is today. As a matter of fact because of Mike's importance to the project, over the many years of its development the name of the mound became in the popular vernacular, "Mt. Bedwell." Your extending the name of the Park as proposed would be official recognition of Mike's valuable efforts leading to the realization of the Park and to the City's record of sustaining the local environment.

From: loriesinnott@aol.com [mailto:loriesinnott@aol.com]
Sent: Thursday, June 12, 2008 10:09 AM
To: George, Barbara S
Cc: cbedwell@adeusa.com; nickn@speakeasy.net
Subject: Renaming of Bayfront Park

Dear Chairperson Neclerio,

I am writing in support of the renaming of Bayfront Park to Bedwell Bayfront Park in honor of Menlo Park's longtime city manager Mike Bedwell who passed away earlier this year. Mike was a wonderful and constant presence in Menlo Park, smoothing over and working through the inevitable schisms in town towards workable solutions, always with good humor. Mike was a tireless champion of turning the useless space of the old garbage dump into an open space that can be enjoyed by all. It would be a wonderful tribute to Mike to rename the park in his honor. Both Sam and I support it.

Lorie and Sam Sinnott