

**APPROVED**  
JUN 05 2019

**BOARD OF RECREATION  
AND PARK COMMISSIONERS**

**BOARD REPORT**

**NO.** 19-109

**DATE** June 05, 2019

**C.D.** 12

**BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS**

**SUBJECT:** BEE CANYON PARK – NAMING OF PLAYGROUND IN HONOR OF MARY ELLEN CROSBY; CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION FROM THE PROVISIONS OF THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA) PURSUANT TO ARTICLE III, SECTION 1, CLASS 11(1) [ON PREMISE SIGNS] OF CITY CEQA GUIDELINES AND ARTICLE 19, SECTION 15311(a) OF CALIFORNIA CEQA GUIDELINES

AP Diaz _____	S. Piña-Cortez _____
H. Fujita _____	<i>for</i> C. Santo Domingo <u>DF</u> _____
V. Israel _____	N. Williams _____

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
General Manager

Approved   X   Disapproved \_\_\_\_\_ Withdrawn \_\_\_\_\_

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Approve naming Bee Canyon Park playground as "Mary Ellen Crosby Playground";
2. Determine that the Project, consisting of the installation of signage recognizing the playground name change, is categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to Article III, Section 1, Class 11(1), of City CEQA Guidelines as well as to Article 19, Section 15311(a) of California CEQA Guidelines, and direct staff to file a Notice of Exemption (NOE);
3. Authorize Department of Recreation and Parks' (RAP) Chief Accounting Employee to prepare a check to the Los Angeles County Clerk in the amount of \$75.00 for the purpose of filing an NOE; and,
4. Authorize the installation of appropriate signage.

SUMMARY:

Bee Canyon Park is located at 17301 Sesnon Boulevard in the Granada Hills community. This is an unstaffed park that contains a children's play area, picnic tables, and hiking trails. Bee Canyon Park is adjacent to O'Melveny Park.

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On March 22, 2019, the Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) received a request from Patriot Oil Community Benefit Trust of 2002 (Patriot Oil), represented by Meg Volk, to consider naming the playground at Bee Canyon Park in honor of Mary Ellen Crosby in order to recognize Ms. Crosby's contributions to RAP and the Granada Hills community.

On June 5, 2013, RAP adopted a Naming Policy, Procedures and Guidelines for Parks and Recreational Facilities (Policy) for the naming of parks, recreation facilities, park amenities, landmarks and other park assets (Report No. 13-161). This Policy enumerates the criteria and guidelines for use when evaluating proposed park names (Exhibit A). Several of the adopted guidelines applicable to this application are as follows:

- The Naming of parks after individuals shall be limited to those who are deceased and have made exceptional contributions to the park or community within which the park is located.
- The Naming engenders a positive public image which does not unduly commercialize the park or recreational facility.
- The proposed name for the park or recreational facility, and/or contributor, must be compatible with the Mission of RAP.
- RAP reserves the right to limit the duration of time a Name will be in place and/or in effect.
- RAP shall seek to inform the public with regard to the Naming of a park in their community.

Ms. Crosby was active throughout the Granada Hills community including involvement with the North Valley Coalition, Friends of the Park, the Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council (GHNNC), and the Granada Hills Women's Club. Through her involvement with these organizations Ms. Crosby encouraged Patriot Oil to provide funding to improve the parks in Granada Hills, including the playground at Bee Canyon Park. The letter detailing Ms. Crosby's contributions to the community has been attached hereto (Exhibit B).

Ms. Crosby was instrumental in getting the playground at Bee Canyon Park built and subsequently improved, first by the GHNNC and more recently by Patriot Oil. Improvements to the playground included installation of a new rubberized surface, sandbox, swings, play and shade structures as well as security camera and lighting (Exhibit C). Ms. Crosby's contributions to RAP also include conducting the annual children's Spring Egg Hunt at O'Melveny Park, which is adjacent to Bee Canyon Park.

Over the years Patriot Oil, the sponsor of this request, has made a number of improvements to O'Melveny and Bee Canyon parks with a total value of approximately \$650,000, many at the behest of Mary Ellen Crosby. A list of improvements made by Patriot Oil to O'Melveny and Bee Canyon Parks, including repairs to the O'Melveny Ranch Bunkhouse, the care of trees in O'Melveny Park grapefruit orchard, and repairs to the O'Melveny House, is included in the letters from Patriot Oil in support of this naming request attached.

On May 7, 2019 the GHNNC voted to support the naming of the playground at Bee Canyon in honor of Mary Ellen Crosby and her years of exceptional contributions to the parks and the greater community as a whole.

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Council Office 12 is in support of this proposed naming proposal.

RAP management and staff are in support with the recommendations as set forth in this Report, finding that there is compelling and impressive substantiation demonstrating how the interests of City and its residents were served.

### ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

The proposed Project consists of the installation of new signs in an existing park. As such, RAP staff recommends that the Board of Recreation and Parks (Board) determines that it is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Article III, Section 1, Class 11(1), of City CEQA Guidelines as well as to Article 19, Section 15311(a) of California CEQA Guidelines. A Notice of Exemption will be filed with the Los Angeles County Clerk upon Board's approval.

### FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

No significant fiscal impacts will be incurred as all costs for the manufacture and installation of appropriate signage will be paid for by Patriot Oil

This Report was prepared by Melinda Gejer, City Planning Associate, Planning, Maintenance and Construction Branch.

### Attachments

Exhibit A – Naming Policy, Procedures and Guidelines for Parks and Recreational Facilities  
Exhibit B – Letters of Support  
Exhibit C – Bee Canyon Playground

**City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks**  
**Naming Policy, Procedures and Guidelines for**  
**Parks and Recreational Facilities**

The mission of the Department of Recreation and Parks (“RAP”) is to enrich the lives of the residents of Los Angeles by providing safe, welcoming parks and recreational facilities and affordable, diverse recreation and human services activities for people of all ages to play, learn, contemplate, build community and be good stewards of our environment.

One of RAP’s objectives under the Mission is to enhance and expand recreational programs, services, and significant financial support and contributions through public and private collaborations.

**Policy:**

RAP recognizes that parks and recreational facilities are an essential and integral part of the communities they serve, and that the names of parks and recreational facilities, and park amenities within them, play a significant role in fostering identities in the surrounding communities. This Naming Policy (“Policy”) establishes the criteria and requirements, and sets forth the guidelines and procedures, for the naming and renaming (collectively, “Naming”) of parks, recreational facilities, landmarks and any other assets determined appropriate by RAP (collectively referred to herein as “Park Assets”), which are owned, managed or controlled by RAP.

Pursuant to this Policy, the initial name of a new park or recreational facility, which may be temporary for purposes of administration and accounting, shall be administratively assigned by RAP staff in the traditional manner utilized prior to the establishment of this Policy, based on geographic features such as street and community names or prominent features. In addition, the Naming of existing Park Assets, pursuant to a RAP recommendation relevant to a Naming proposal received from a private or public entity, shall be subject to the approval of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners (“Board”), as described herein. In accordance with this Policy and pursuant to RAP recommendations, the Board shall consider the following two types of Naming proposals. The first type encompasses situations in which RAP receives or is offered a donation, gift, sponsorship, and/or other contribution from an outside entity that presents a decisive benefit and shows a direct connection to a Park Asset and serves the interests of the City and its residents. This type of Naming proposal would require a Naming Agreement to summarize the terms and conditions necessary to effectuate the financial or other benefits connected to the Naming proposal with a term (time period) recommended by the GM and approved by the Board, depending on the scope or nature of the agreement, and value, visibility, and lifespan of the donation, gift, sponsorship and or other contribution. The second type comprises Naming proposals to use a major historic event and/or unique significance of a specific place or person, as the basis for the proposed Name; again with the requirement that there be compelling and impressive substantiation demonstrating how the interests of City and its residents were served or impacted. The key in both types of Naming proposals is the importance of demonstrating direct connections to the Park Asset and clear community benefits as a foundation for considering any Naming proposal.

For purposes of this Policy, and with the exception of the temporary Naming of new Park Assets, the authority to approve the Naming of existing Park Assets shall be solely with the Board. Any exceptions to this Policy shall be subject to the prior approval of the Board.

### **Criteria and Guidelines for Evaluating Park Asset Naming Proposals:**

For purposes of this Policy, the following shall be considered when evaluating the appropriateness, feasibility, and implementation of Naming proposals:

- The Naming of parks after individuals shall be limited to those who are deceased and have made exceptional contributions to the park or community within which the park is located.
- Parks shall only be named after living persons under circumstances requiring such naming as a condition precedent of a grant deed or covenant.
- The Naming of a park after a major historic event must be based on a direct connection between the park and such event.
- The Naming engenders a positive public image which does not unduly commercialize the park or recreational facility.
- The proposed name for the park or recreational facility, and/or contributor, must be compatible with the Mission of RAP.
- Park Assets that are held by RAP through a lease or use agreement may be considered for Naming under this Policy, subject to any requirements or restrictions contained in such document.
- RAP reserves the right to limit the duration of time a Name will be in place and/or in effect.
- No specialized signage or advertisement containing a commercial message to purchase a good or service shall be authorized for use on park property.
- All forms of signage placed on or within a Park Asset shall meet RAP's graphic and sign standards.
- There shall be no religious symbols included on Naming signage.
- Park Assets not under the operation of RAP (shared or exclusive), although under the ownership or jurisdiction of RAP, shall not be subject to this Policy; such as for example, the Los Angeles Zoo in Griffith Park.
- Parks should not be subdivided for purposes of Naming, unless there are readily-identifiable physical divisions in the park (major roads, waterways, hillsides, etc.) which facilitate or warrant a subdivision; or there exist other compelling reasons for having more than one name connected to a park. This should not prevent independently Naming a recreational facility or amenity located within a park, as long as the selected name will not cause confusion for park patrons.
- RAP shall seek to inform the public with regard to the Naming of a park in their community.
- Any exception to the above shall be subject to the Naming criteria contained herein, and the Board's prior approval.

**Procedures:**

The Board retains the authority to name or rename Park Assets situated on park property. The following shall be the protocol for evaluating, considering and denying or approving Naming proposals:

1. A written proposal for the Naming of a Park Asset must be initially submitted to the RAP Board Office, to the attention of the Board Secretary. In accordance with this Policy, the Board Office shall forward the proposal to the RAP General Manager (“GM”) for consideration.
2. Prior to any form of Naming Policy being implemented, sponsorship proposals shall be evaluated by RAP staff, with recommendations to the GM for possible consideration.

Michael A. Shull, General Manager,  
City of Los Angeles  
Department of Recreation and Parks  
Recreation and Parks Board Office  
221 N. Figueroa Street 3rd Floor Suite 300  
Los Angeles, Ca 90012

Dear Mr. Shull,

I am writing to request naming the children's playground at Bee Canyon Park, Granada Hills in honor of Mary Ellen Crosby who passed away February 26, 2019. Mary Ellen was well known to Councilmember Greig Smith and over the years she was very involved in the North Valley Coalition, Friends of the Park, the Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council, the Granada Hills Women's Club and many other events in our community including conducting many annual children's Easter Egg Hunts on Recreation and Parks behalf at O'Melveny Park adjacent to Bee Canyon and organizing a Street Fair for the community on Titian Street (forms the western boundary of Bee Canyon Park) by Van Gogh Charter School.

As a member of the following organizations, she was very instrumental in getting the playground built and subsequently improved, first, by the GHNNC, and most recently by the NVC/Patriot Oil Community Benefit Trust Fund installing a new rubberized surface, sandbox, swings, play structures and shade canopy over the existing equipment.

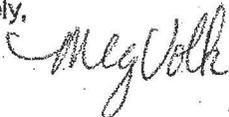
As a member of the Patriot Oil Community Benefit Trust Fund Board I am authorized to purchase a Bronze plaque and cover the cost of having it embedded in cement as required by the Parks and Recreation Department. The location is to be determined by a Parks and Recreation official, and we would utilize one of their approved City contractors. The proposed plaque is to read:

In Loving Memory of  
Mary Ellen Crosby  
1929-2019  
Champion of the Community,  
Friends of the Park  
and this Playground

Her family is planning a service on April 13, 2019 at St Euphrasia Church and we would love to have this ready to unveil for the family coming into town for the services.

I hope that this request qualifies for your approval as Mary Ellen Crosby contributed so much to the Park and Playground, and that you can make this happen for us and the community.

Very Sincerely,



Meg Volk  
Patriot Oil Community Benefit Trust Fund  
Board Member

[megahouse@earthlink.net](mailto:megahouse@earthlink.net)  
818-470-8820

Attention: Iris L Davis, Board Secretary

**Patriot Oil Community Benefit Trust Fund of 2002**  
**16911 San Fernando Mission Blvd.,**  
**Box 172**  
**Granada Hills, CA 91344**

Trustees: Bill Cotter, Wayde Hunter-President, Ralph Kroy-Interim Treasurer, Meg Volk, Donna Zero

April 7, 2019

Department of Parks & Recreation  
221 N. Figueroa Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Suite 300  
Los Angeles CA 90012  
Attention: Board of Parks & Recreation

Dear Commissioners:

I wish to submit this letter on behalf of the Patriot Oil Community Benefit Trust Fund, in support of posthumously naming the Children's Playground area located in Bee Canyon Park, Granada Hills in honor of Ms. Mary Ellen Crosby.

Mary Ellen Crosby was active in many local organizations, among them the North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens Inc., the Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council, and the Friends of the Park organization which she founded and ran.

Over the years she has been the voice of the community that has championed the development and improvement of adjacent O'Melveny and Bee Canyon parks by working with the last four 12<sup>th</sup> Council District's Councilmen and the Recreation & Parks Department, and the North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens Inc (NVC) who also administers the Patriot Oil Community Benefit Trust Fund.

Many of Patriot Oil's past projects that we have funded as an organization working in concert with the Recreation & Parks Department amount to approximately \$650,000 and have been inspired to a large degree by Mary Ellen's participation in the NVC to include the following:

**O'Melveny Park**

- restoration of the ranch house and bunkhouse.
- installation of an evaporative cooler system at ranch house.
- restoration of the grapefruit orchard.
- replacement of 2330-feet of damaged wood fencing with fire resistant woodcrete fencing.
- installation of security cameras at the entrance and in the parking area.
- installation of wrought iron fencing, and access gate at park entrance to facilitate clearance of Bee Canyon Creek.
- restoration of the fire/hiking road to the top of Oat Mountain.
- restored all major hiking and horse trails.
- restored all bridges.
- installed wood trail markers on all trails, and later replaced them with more durable and vandal resistant river rock and granite markers.

- prepared maps for public for all trails.
- jointly funded kiosk.
- installation of self-locking/unlocking doors on restrooms to prevent after hours use.
- replaced all existing water fountains with combination fountains with pet watering stations.
- Provided night vision scope to R&P in-park resident at ranch house.
- purchased chainsaw and training for R&P maintenance personnel for removal of hazardous dead trees.
- purchased utility maintenance cart to replace the one reassigned to another park.

### **Bee Canyon Park**

- installation of security camera and lighting in the Children's Playground area.
- complete restoration of the Children's Playground area to include shade canopy.
- removal of tree and sediment that had blocked Bee Canyon Creek drainage and threatened to flood the Children's Playground area.
- Prune, and/or remove/replace dead lemon and orange trees.
- replaced all existing water fountains with combination fountains with pet watering stations.
- jointly funded kiosk.

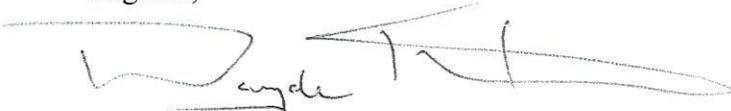
As a part of her activities for the Friends of the Park, she assisted R&P for many years in funding and staffing the annual Easter Egg Hunt for the children in O'Melveny Park.

So many people in our community remember her fondly, including many Recreation & Parks personnel past and present, that we feel that naming the children's play area would truly be a great way to honor and remember her.

The Patriot Oil Community Benefit Trust Fund also wishes to inform you that it has already approved the \$6,000.00 required for funding of appropriate R&P approved signage if our request is granted.

Thank you in advance for taking the time to consider our community's request. If I can be of further help, please do not hesitate to contact me at home at (818) 363-3597 or via email at: [WHunter01@aol.com](mailto:WHunter01@aol.com)

Regards,



Wayde Hunter  
President, Patriot Oil Community Benefit Fund

c.c. Melinda M. Gejer, City Planning Associate



GREIG SMITH  
COUNCILMEMBER, 12<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT

April 13, 2019

Mr. Bob Crosby, Jr.  
17246 Van Gogh Street  
Granada Hills, CA 91344

Ms. Maureen Reiley  
6110 W Spur Drive  
Phoenix, AZ 85083

Dear Mr. Crosby, Ms. Reiley, and Mary Ellen's extended family:

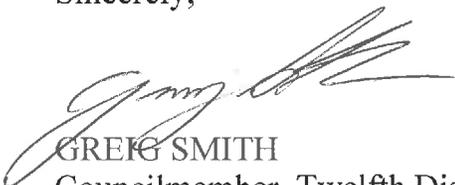
Mary Ellen's passing is a great loss for the Granada Hills and CD12 communities. From her work with the North Valley Coalition, Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council, Granada Hills Women's Club, and Friends of the Park; there is not a place you can turn where her influence cannot be felt. Her boundless energy and dedication will be sorely missed by her neighbors, community members, and myself.

In her memory, the Board of Patriot Oil is pursuing a way to commemorate Mary Ellen's dedication to open space. My office is fully supportive of this pursuit, and is working with the Department of Recreation and Parks and their Board of Commissioners to figure out the best way to honor her influence and memory.

I would like to keep you apprised of this of this process. Please feel free to contact my Deputy Chief of Staff, Jessie Strobel at 818-882-1212 or [jessica.strobel@lacity.org](mailto:jessica.strobel@lacity.org), with any questions or for updates as a project is decided on and moves forward.

I offer you my deepest condolences during this trying time.

Sincerely,



GREIG SMITH  
Councilmember, Twelfth District

## BOARD MEMBERS

PRESIDENT  
Michael Greenwald

VICE PRESIDENT  
Ray Pollok

Brian Allen	Oscar Jimenez
Alfredo Castillo	Rahim Kazi
Chris Coyle	Ralph Kroy
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CITY OF LOS ANGELES, CA



Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council

## GRANADA HILLS NORTH NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

11139 Woodley Avenue  
Granada Hills, CA

Tel: (818) 923-5592

[www.GHNNC.org](http://www.GHNNC.org)

May 8, 2019

Department of Parks & Recreation  
221 N. Figueroa Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Suite 300  
Los Angeles CA 90012  
Attention: Board of Parks & Recreation

### **Re: GHNNC Motion to support the naming of Bee Canyon children's playground in honor of Ms. Mary Ellen Crosby**

Dear Commissioners:

The Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council (GHNNC) was certified by the City of Los Angeles on September 10, 2002 and has had a duly elected and installed Board of Directors since March 31, 2003. The area it represents, and services is bounded by the Los Angeles City/County line and I-5 (Golden State Freeway) to the north, the 405 (San Diego Freeway) to the east, the 118 (Ronald Reagan Freeway) to the south, and to Aliso Canyon in the west. It is composed of 3 districts: District 1 - Sunshine Canyon Landfill; District 2 - DWP/MWD; and District 3 - All Residential Areas to the south encompassing approximately **28,600** stakeholders, for whom we now speak.

Mary Ellen Crosby was among the founding members of our Neighborhood Council and served for many years with distinction as the Chair of our Parks & Beautification Committee which acted as our liaison with the Recreation & Parks Department by supporting them in their activities in both O'Melveny Park and Bee Canyon Park. She was instrumental in getting the first of several refurbishments to the playground, along with the addition of custom-built kiosks to keep the community apprised of our activities and those of other organizations.

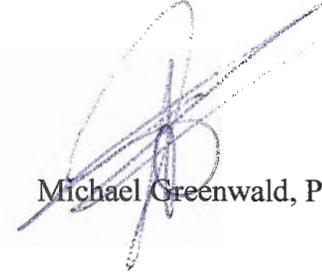
We all remember her zest for life, her commitment to community, and her ever smiling face, and we could not think of a better way to honor her than to name the children's playground area after her.

At a properly agendized and posted meeting, the GHNNC Board met on May 7, 2019, and unanimously approved the following motion under Item F. Executive Committee #2:

**MOTION:**

To support the naming of the Playground area in Bee Canyon recreation area in honor of Mary Ellen Crosby.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Michael Greenwald', is written over a light blue rectangular background.

Michael Greenwald, President GHNNC

c.c. Grieg Smith, Councilman, City of Los Angeles 12<sup>th</sup> Council District  
Melinda M. Gejer, City Planning Associate

Exhibit C



