



ATTACHMENT C
County of Los Alamos

Los Alamos, NM 87544
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Council Meeting Staff Report
April 24, 2012

Agenda No.: A.
Indexes (Council Goals): FY12 Council Goal - N/A
Presenters:
Legislative File: P0037-12

Title

Citizen Petition Requesting the Renaming of the Quemazon Nature Trail to the "Satch Cowan Nature Trail" in Memory of Helen (Satch) Dunham Cowan, or the Naming of one of the Newly Created/Expanded Trails in the Nature Trail Complex as the "Satch Cowan Canyon Rim Trail."

Suggested Motion

I move that Council acknowledge the Petition, thank the petitioners for their request and take no further action; or

I move that Council acknowledge the Petition and take the action requested in accordance with County Code Sections 2-421 and 2-422; and

I move that Council direct the County Administrator to establish an impartial administrative committee, consisting of one staff member (Julie Habiger, Public Information Officer), two members of the public who have no connection with the facility, other than being citizens of the county, one representative of the Planning and Zoning Commission appointed in consultation with the Chair of the Commission, one member of the Parks & Recreation Board, and one business person to review the request to rename the Quemazon Nature Trail to the "Satch Cowan Nature Trail" in Memory of Helen (Satch) Dunham Cowan, or alternatively, the Naming of one of the Newly Created/Expanded Trails in the Nature Trail Complex as the "Satch Cowan Canyon Rim Trail";

Administrator's Recommendation

The County Administrator recommends that Council approve the Motions as presented.

Board, Commission or Committee Recommendation

The Parks & Recreation Board considered this matter at a recent Board meeting and recommended that the request be approved.

Body

On April 9, 2012 Ms Barbara Lemmick submitted a petition to the County Clerk on behalf of 77 people, at least 25 of whom are registered voters of Los Alamos County, a petition requesting the renaming of the Quemazon Nature Trail to the "Satch Cowan Nature Trail" in memory of Helen 'Satch' Dunham Cowan, or the naming of one of the newly created/expanded trails in the Nature Trail Complex as the "Satch Cowan Canyon Rim Trail."

History: The last time that the County Council considered a request for naming a facility (or, in this case, a County trail) after a deceased individual was in 2010, with the re-naming of North Mesa Soccer Field to be Flint Field, in memory of former County Administrator, Los Alamos resident and soccer coach Jim Flint.

Process: When this type of request is brought forward, the County's Code (Article V, "Special Recognition of Persons and Historical Events and Naming of Public Facilities", Sections 2-421 and 2-422) outlines the process to be used. The Code gives the Council the option to direct the County Administrator to establish an administrative Committee to seek feedback and hold a public hearing on the request, which was the approach used in 2010 for Flint Field. This process offers the highest level of public input and participation. The composition of the Committee and requirements to be set forth by the petitioner regarding the reasons that they believe the honor should be given to the individual are outlined in Section 2-422.

Timing: It is anticipated that the process could take two or three months for citizens and business member to be selected, as well as allow the P&Z Commission and the Parks & Recreation Board to appoint members to the Committee at their next regularly scheduled meetings in May. The public hearing would likely be advertised and held in June, with

recommendations to the County Administrator and then suggested actions moving to the Council in July. If approved, a dedication ceremony naming the trail would likely occur in August.

The point of contact and Chair of the Committee will be the County's Public Information Officer Julie Habiger. The Parks Division Manager and Open Space/Trails Specialist will also be invited to be involved in the process and would be involved in designing, ordering and installing any dedication plaque requested for the trail.

Fiscal and Staff Impact/New Item

Funds to advertise the Public Hearing would need to be paid by the PIO's budget. A dedication plaque would need to be paid for by the Parks Division.

Attachments

Citizens' Petition