

9/27/2021

RESOLUTION NO. M-

A RESOLUTION naming the neighborhood park informally known as “North Image Park” at 52nd Street and 137th Avenue, on the parcel located at 5009 NE 135th Avenue, Vancouver, Washington 98682, as “Nikkei Park.”

WHEREAS, a pilot park naming process was initiated in Fall 2020 to increase civic engagement, highlight the diversity of our community and honor Vancouver’s history because parks are a public resource valued by residents of all racial, ethnic, cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds and greater intentionality in park naming can serve to educate and inspire community members and build common ground across disparate groups; and

WHEREAS, the Park Naming Committee (PNC) convened to name the new park in the North Image neighborhood researched the history of the surrounding area and found a significant geographic connection to “truck farming” and the Japanese American community living in Vancouver prior to their incarceration in prison camps during World War II; and

WHEREAS, between February and August 2021, the PNC met eight times and, after careful consideration and outreach to the regional Japanese American community, arrived at a short list of three potential names for public consideration selected to honor the Japanese

American families who were a vital part of the Vancouver community prior to World War II incarceration; and

WHEREAS, PNC conducted significant public outreach inviting residents to participate in the naming process and “Nikkei Park” (pronounced, NEE-kay) received the largest number of votes submitted, with a number of survey respondents who identified themselves as Japanese American indicating that “Nikkei” is the name choice that holds the most significant cultural meaning; and

WHEREAS, the “Nikkei Park” name (Nikkei is the Japanese term for Japanese emigrants and their descendants who have created communities throughout the world) aligns with the City’s Strategic Plan objectives and goals of strengthening community identity and sense of belonging for people of all ages, cultures, family configurations, educational backgrounds, trades and professions, and continuing to build high quality historical and cultural experiences for residents and visitors.

NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY OF VANCOUVER:

Section 1. The parcel located at 5009 NE 135th Ave, Vancouver, WA 98682 be named “Nikkei Park” in honor of the Japanese Americans who farmed in the geographic location within the North Image neighborhood in east Vancouver area prior to incarceration during World War II.

INTRODUCED, PASSED, AND ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the Vancouver City Council this 27th day of September 2021.

Anne McEnerny-Ogle, Mayor

Attest:

Natasha Ramras, City Clerk

Approved as to form:

Jonathan Young, City Attorney