

**TEMECULA COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION
AGENDA REPORT**

TO: Community Services Commission

FROM: Aaron Adams, City Manager

DATE: August 10, 2020

SUBJECT: Approve a Recommendation to the City Council to Rename Pala Community Park as Friendship Park (at the request of Council Member Mike Naggar)

PREPARED BY: Betsy Lowrey, Assistant to the City Manager

RECOMMENDATION: That the Community Services Commission approve a recommendation to the City Council to rename Pala Community Park as Friendship Park (at the request of Council Member Mike Naggar)

BACKGROUND: At the request of Council Member Mike Naggar, it is proposed that Pala Community Park be renamed Friendship Park. During the City Council Meeting of July 28, 2020, which resulted in meaningful discussions on race, equity, and inclusion, Council Member Naggar also publicly introduced the proposed name change for the park. Inspired by the City's commitment to diversity and inclusion, it was shared that challenges and inclusion often associated with racial, ethnicity, cultural, and ability differences are usually a result of learned behavior, not genetics. Ralph Waldo Emerson once quipped that, "the only way to have a friend is to be one." According to Council Member Naggar, "If you teach children how they should live, they will remember it all their lives." So foundationally, Friendship Park begins and ends with the concepts of Emerson and Naggar, *where play knows no race, no culture, and no difference in ability — it is open to all*. These lifelong lessons will serve Temecula's current and future generations by providing extraordinary experiences for all.

Historically, Temecula has demonstrated success in community recreation and specifically human and inclusive services, which makes the timing perfect for this important statement. Friendship Park, in the spirit of Disneyland's *It's A Small World*, is meant to provide children of all ethnicities, races, and abilities with an opportunity (for kids) to see themselves and others in a fun, memorable and safe play space that reflects the loving diversity of Temecula (see attached examples).

That diversity will be captured with proposed additional park elements (graphics, entry point, etc.) in a playground setting that continues to demonstrate that new friends can be made daily as part of the Temecula Way.

As a continuation of the City's efforts to integrate diversity and inclusion seamlessly into every aspect of Temecula's quality of life, Friendship Park will consist of not just a name change but a cultural shift that will add to the programming and educational opportunities spearheaded by TCSD and other stakeholders.

Pursuant to the City's Parks and Recreation Facilities Naming Policy, a park may be renamed after a public hearing is held by the Temecula Community Services Commission. Once the Commission reviews (and receives any public comment), Staff will forward the Commission's recommendation to the City Council for final action.

FISCAL IMPACT: Adequate funds ranging from \$12,000 - \$15,000 for the production and installation of new park sign are available in the Annual Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 20-2021.

ATTACHMENTS: Staff Presentation