

**TEMECULA COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION  
AGENDA REPORT**

**TO:** Community Services Commission

**FROM:** Aaron Adams, City Manager

**DATE:** October 12, 2020

**SUBJECT:** Approve a Recommendation to the City Council to Rename Existing Margarita Community Park as “Michael ‘Mike’ Naggar Community Park,” and Name the Future Public Pool within the Park as “Liam’s Place” (at the Request of Council Member Matt Rahn)

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**PREPARED BY:** Kevin Hawkins, Director of Community Services  
Betsy Lowrey, Assistant to the City Manager

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the Community Services Commission approve a recommendation to the City Council to rename Margarita Community Park as “Michael ‘Mike’ Naggar Community Park,” and name the future public pool within the park as “Liam’s Place” (at the request of Council Member Matt Rahn)

**BACKGROUND:** At the request of Council Member Matt Rahn, it is proposed that Margarita Community Park be renamed as “Michael ‘Mike’ Naggar Community Park.” It is also proposed that the public pool planned at the future Margarita Recreation Center within the park be named “Liam’s Place,” after Council Member Mike Naggar’s son, Liam Naggar, who has been the inspiration to Council Member Naggar’s strong advocacy in support of the special needs community.

After learning of Liam Naggar’s Autism diagnosis in 2008, Council Member Naggar championed many inclusionary accomplishments in the areas of recreation, education, workforce, facilities, parks, and community engagement listed below and detailed in the Executive Summary of the “State of an Inclusive City” dated January 2020 (attached); all of which stem from Council Member Naggar’s advocacy:

- Youth Master Plan Addendum for Special Needs
- Southwest Riverside County Autism Task Force
- Special Needs Resource Guide
- Autism Community Playbook
- ABCs to IEP workshops
- Parents Educational Workshop series
- Supporting Kids, Involving Parents (SKIP)
- Eagle Soar Social Skills Park program
- Youth Advisory Council (Inclusive)
- Inclusive Intergenerational Community Garden Program
- Visual Arts program
- Adaptive Swim classes

Global Citizens program  
Viticulture & Horticulture program  
Easter Egg Hunts  
Special Games  
Breakfast with Santa  
Halloween Carnival  
Sensory Friendly Public Safety Event  
Temecula Valley Museum Super Parents  
Light it Up for Blue Autism  
Light it Up Yellow & Blue for Down syndrome  
High Hopes  
Inclusive Internship Program  
Temecula & Riverside County Sheriff Autism Risk & Safety Management Training  
Health & Community Resource Fair  
Disability Expo

In 2015, Eagle Soar Playground and Splash Pad was constructed within the Margarita Community Park, and has since become a safe haven, respite, and a breath of fresh air for Temecula families with children who have special needs. Council Member Mike Naggar led the vision, purpose, and the architecture of “Eagle Soar” that serves as an inclusive and accessible special needs playground and splash pad for children of all abilities. At the ribbon cutting of Eagle Soar, Council Member Naggar said, *“It is more than a playground. This represents a community coming together telling all of our children that, under adversity, we expect great things.”* Naggar addressed special needs children and individuals, and said, *“We expect you to have great ideas. We expect you to soar just like the eagle soars, and have your strength renewed by the help of our community.”* In reference to the design elements of the eagle at the park, Council Member Naggar said, *“Eagle wings tell our children to soar.”* Council Member Naggar provided symbolism of Eagle Soar from the Book of Isaiah, *“But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength. They shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.”*

Since Eagle Soar was constructed, the adjacent Margarita Community Recreation Center and its pool have been in the queue to be rebuilt, and will serve as a multi-use, multi-generational community center for people of all ages and abilities offering an array of Health and Human Services programs that are important to the quality of life for seniors, youth, families and individuals with special needs. The pool will be heated with warm water and include a handicap ramp making it easy, quick and inclusive to enter and exit. The warm water will make aquatic classes accessible and comfortable for individuals affected by cold water. The pool area will include family restrooms with showers so that caregivers can easily assist.

Margarita Community Park encompasses a journey of inclusion guided by Council Member Mike Naggar, inspired by his son Liam, and supported by the entire City Council. It exemplifies full access and meaningful participation of individuals and families with special needs, which represents an important legacy of Council Member Mike Naggar who will retire from the City Council after 23 years of service to the City of Temecula

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), the item is subsequently referred to the Temecula City Council for a final decision. 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:**

1. State of an Inclusive City, Executive Summary, January 2020
2. “TEMECULA: Councilman helps  
Raise Autism Awareness,”  
Union Tribune, April 27, 2009

