

APPROVED

JUL 08 2009

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

NO. 09-191

DATE July 8, 2009

**BOARD OF RECREATION
and PARK COMMISSIONERS**

C.D. 8

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: MOUNT CARMEL RECREATION CENTER - FINAL APPROVAL FOR ATHLETIC FIELD NAMING IN HONOR OF MARLIN AND MIKE MCKEEVER AND KERMIT ALEXANDER

R. Adams	_____	J. Kolb	_____
H. Fujita	_____	F. Mok	_____
S. Huntley	_____	K. Regan	_____
V. Israel	_____	*M. Shull	<i>for</i>

[Signature]
General Manager

Approved _____

Disapproved _____

Withdrawn _____

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board grant final approval to install a small sign and plaque adjacent to an athletic field at Mount Carmel Recreation Center, the Alexander/McKeever Athletic Field, in honor of Mike and Marlin McKeever and Kermit Alexander.

SUMMARY:

Mount Carmel Recreation Center is located at 830 West 70th Street in the South Los Angeles area. This is a three (3) acre facility, which includes baseball diamonds, basketball courts, athletic fields, a children's play area and a senior citizen center.

Mr. John Young, founder of the organization, Reviving Baseball in Inner Cities (RBI), proposed naming the athletic field at Mount Carmel in honor of Mike and Marlin McKeever and Kermit Alexander. Mount Carmel Recreation Center stands on the site which once housed Mount Carmel High School. These men attended Mount Carmel High school as student-athletes who refined their skills there, and learned personal growth, commitment and the discipline necessary to succeed in college, in professional sports, and in life.

The Board recently granted conceptual approval for this naming on June 3, 2009 (Board Report No. 09-155).

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This proposed naming would provide a positive example to young people in this area that hard work does pay off, as well as dedication to hope and personal discipline. In honoring these student-athletes, who came directly from this community, we honor great expectations for our young people. In addition, this naming would call attention to all of the great Department of Recreation and Parks' programs offered at Mount Carmel and at other sites, of which some community members may not be aware.

This naming is supported by the Mount Carmel High School Alumni Foundation and other local neighborhood members. Community outreach through a formal meeting with approximately ten (10) local residents and park patrons took place on June 25, 2009, and expressed their positive support.

The plaque would be made of bronze, approximately 12 inches x 18 inches in size, and would contain the dedication date and organization sponsoring this naming, as well as some brief biographical information and inspirational phrases (see Exhibit A). The sign adjacent to the field would be smaller in size than a park facility sign, but in the similar style, lettering and wood material as a facility sign, and would simply read: "The Alexander/McKeever Athletic Field".

Council District 8 and Pacific Region Superintendent are in support with the recommendations as set forth by the Department.

Staff has determined that the subject project is exempt from provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to Article III, Section 1, Class 11 (1), of the City CEQA guidelines, which provides for placement of signs on park property as accessory structures to recreational facilities.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

No significant fiscal impacts will be incurred as sign, plaque and installation costs will be paid for by Mount Carmel Alumni Association.

This report was prepared by Camille Walls, City Planner, and Melinda Gejer, Planning Associate, Planning and Construction.

EXHIBIT A

ALEXANDER/MCKEEVER FIELD

Dedicated to:

Kermit Alexander
Marlin McKeever
Mike McKeever

Three of the Best Men from our Neighborhood...Crusaders Sons are We.
Your lives and legacies will live on in our hearts!

These athletes are models of what men can be and do with determination, hard work and education.
They grew up in this neighborhood, and attended local schools.
They studied hard and worked hard, on and off the field.
At Mount Carmel High School, and later at USC and UCLA, their dedication, personal discipline and commitment led them to success.

May the lives of these men serve as positive examples and inspiration to young people here in this neighborhood and in the City of what is possible.
The City needs you, your special skills and abilities.
Go forward with faith, hope, determination and personal discipline to accomplish your dreams.

Dedicated July, 2009
Mount Carmel High School Alumni Association and RBI (Reviving Baseball in Inner Cities)