

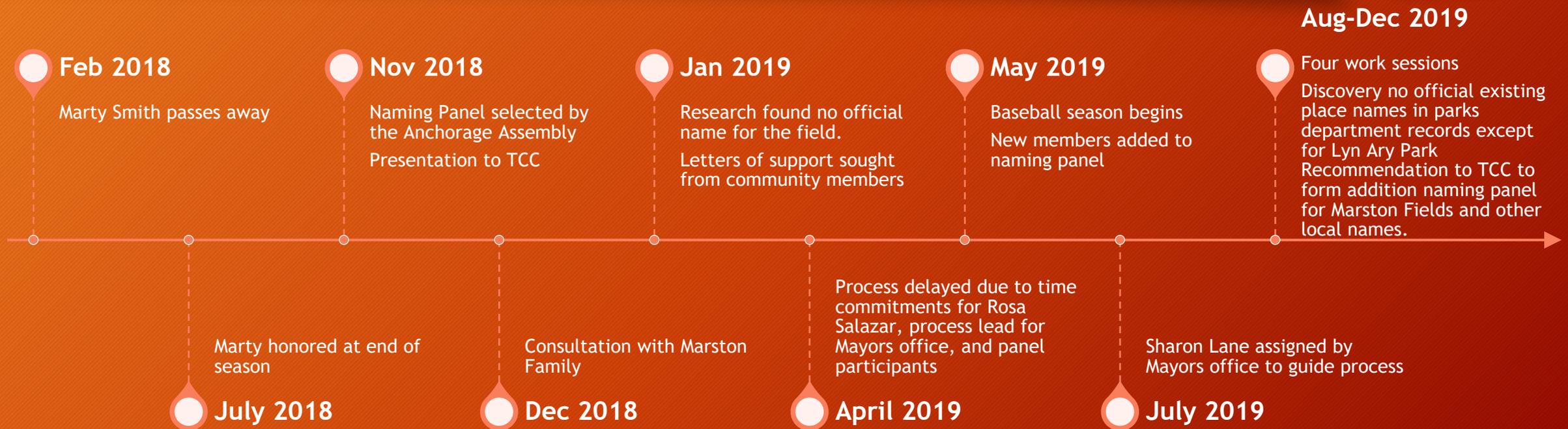
# Martin “Marty” Smith Citizen Naming Panel

## Turnagain Community Council Presentation

December 6, 2019

- Sharon Lane - Mayor’s office representative
- Citizen Naming Panel Members:
  - ❖ Rachel Christy
  - ❖ Davin Holen
  - ❖ Patricia Kozler
  - ❖ Patricia Redmond

# Citizen Naming Panel Process to honor Marty Smith at The Marston Fields in Lyn Ary Park



# Marty Smith Diamond Citizen Naming Panel Process continued...



**Dec 2019**

Public Meeting



**January 9, 2020**

Parks & Rec Commission Meeting



**January 14, 2020**

Present to Anchorage Assembly

# Marty Smith

- Lifelong resident of West Anchorage.
- Played baseball in the Spenard League.
- Coach for numerous teams who played at Lyn Ary Park.
- Umpire.
- Anchorage West Little League President.
- Planner for field improvements that add overall esthetics to Lyn Ary Park for a variety of users.
- Avid volunteer at Aquarian Charter School and The Covenant House.
- Represents the best of us who volunteer our time for our youth.

# Providence Alaska Medical Center

[Preview YouTube video Providence Generations II](#)

[Providence Generations II](#)

The video highlights Marty's history in connection with his hometown Anchorage.

*Spenard, Alaska*

*All-Stars*

*Spenard*



Denisha

IANU

Alextia

Coach Pitch

# Minors





# Juniors Team

# Seniors





# Family Time



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[anchagemuseum.org](http://anchagemuseum.org)

February 16, 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

I grew up in Anchorage, playing softball in gravel lots in the low-slung light of the midnight sun, with my dad as a volunteer coach—and with windbreakers over uniforms to protect from the rain and mosquitos. I've watched how we've grown as a community, and how our recreation culture has grown with us, though the DIY, rugged, resilient flavor remains. My dad taught me to love baseball, for its patience and emotion, for its belief in the underdog; it ain't over til it's over. Baseball reminds me of Alaska that way.

More than 25 years ago, I met Marty Smith; he married my childhood friend. Marty loved baseball, too. Our family and his would sometimes meet up at Seattle Mariners' games—he was a fellow optimist, like so many baseball fans, always thinking this could be the year. Marty put his love of baseball into a love of community, coaching as a volunteer and serving as a board member as he worked to build Anchorage West Little League and the Spenard Little League, for all those kids in Alaska who love baseball, despite the distance from the giant stadiums and the major leagues. For Marty, baseball was about joy. He was loyal to joy in so many ways. I never saw Marty without a smile.

Marty Smith was an Alaskan, loving that volunteer spirit, bush planes and the outdoors. It was the place where he gave back. He raised a family here and he inspired hundreds of kids by caring about them and giving them things to love here.

Naming public spaces is complex. There are many deserving people. But, to me, Marty's dedication exemplifies what is intended in naming Alaskan places—it's a legacy not just to one person, but also to a generous spirit, to a long-term commitment and dedication to the people of this place. I can think of no better way to honor Marty's legacy and to honor that Alaskan spirit than to name the northwest ballfield at Lyn Ary Park Marty Smith Memorial Field. It honors all of us who believe in growing up here.

I think of the kids who will read Marty's name on the sign and know that someone cared—about kids, about baseball, about kindness, about community, and about giving oneself to make something better for others. His legacy is in their joy of the game, in each step up to or call at the plate, in the wait for the pitcher's throw, in the anticipation, in the long, graceful arc of the home run, and in the pat on the backs of teammates and opponents, with the mumbled salute of "good game."

Knowing Marty's legacy is honored through the naming of the ballfield would remind me and so many others of the things we love and the things we value.

I strongly encourage and support the efforts of Marty's family, friends, co-workers, teammates and others to create Marty Smith Memorial Field.

Sincerely,

Julie Decker

ANCHORAGE MUSEUM

# 25 Letters of Support

Citizen Naming Panel Request your vote to honor  
Marty Smith

# Marty Smith Diamond at The Marston Fields in Lyn Ary Park

# Location

## Lyn Ary Park Master Plan

Figure 4: Master Plan Graphic - Proposed Future Conditions



December 3rd, 2009 - TCC Approved Edition

VOTE



Tonight, is going to be great. Our community learned together about the Citizen Naming Panel Process. Tonight we will vote to honor Marty Smith at a place he loved dedicating his time.

Thank you for the time TCC and Citizen Naming Panel committed to this project.

I want to start by introducing who is here tonight:

We have Marty's kind, loving and beautiful Family: Shannon, Emily, Ian and Sean and Marty's Mother Heather Smith.

Sharon Lane – May be related to Lois Lane, reporter/detective. She took on the Panel's Project in August. She is a great leader and keeping us on track.

The Marty Smith Citizen Naming Panel Members consist of a group of four full time Anchorage residents, of a combined 152 years in Alaska, with most of those years in Turnagain.

Myself – I work in the biopharmaceutical industry for the past 22 years. I spend most of my volunteer hours as secretary for AWLL and at my son's school and activities.

Rachel Christy - long-time friend of the Smith Family and Owner of Alaska Blooms. She spends her volunteer hours at Bible Study Fellowship International, ASD, Big Brothers and Big sisters.

Patricia Redmond – May need no introduction at TCC. Pat is not only an active member at TCC she serves on many commissions in our community. She is a true historian, a wonderful grandmother and friend.

Davin – Recently retired AWLL treasurer and head dirt hauler and lawn mower who worked hard to keep the lawn at Lyn Ary green and the fields maintained for all users. Davin is an anthropologist and university professor and proud father of a 4<sup>th</sup> generation Anchorage resident. Davin volunteers' countless hours to our Turnagain community through the Russian Immersion Program.

As we go into the brief slide presentation, please know that we will send the powerpoint to the TCC board, and they are welcome to post them with the minutes.

Here is a slide on the process for the Marty Smith Citizen Naming panel. It began a year ago. We are happy to be here today. What kept this process going...Let me share what motivated me:

Marty coached my nephew for three years. In February, my nephew William and I spoke in detail about Marty and his coaching style. Recently, I had my son in the Duclos orthodontist chair, we started talking baseball. Jack jumped on the opportunity to support honoring Marty at the ball fields. Jack played baseball with Marty. Excerpt from Jack Duclos letter in September 2019: Marty in the 1980s...

He always had a calm demeanor and offered words of encouragement no matter what situation our team found ourselves in.

William's quote about Marty:

Marty calmed me down in the big moments. He was relaxing. He kept me focused.

I am going to turn the presentation over to Davin to address the process, the next steps, and a tribute to Marty Smith.