

## Turnagain Community Council Resolution

### REQUESTING ESTABLISHMENT OF A CITIZEN NAMING PANEL TO FORMALLY NAME UNOFFICIALLY NAMED FACILITIES AT LYN ARY PARK

**Resolution #2019-06      Resolution #2022-**

WHEREAS, the Turnagain Community Council (TCC) is an all-volunteer, self-governing neighborhood organization recognized in the Municipality of Anchorage Charter; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of community councils is to provide a direct and continuing means of citizen participation in government and local affairs; and

WHEREAS, Lyn Ary Park, located within the TCC boundaries along the Tony Knowles Coastal Trail, is a highly-valued historical park originally established as a private park in 1947, was formally dedicated as a public park in 1971, and is used by both neighbors and the greater Anchorage community; and

WHEREAS, after extensive public outreach and collaboration by TCC and the Municipality of Anchorage Parks and Recreation Department, a Lyn Ary Park Master Plan was approved by the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission on January 14, 2010; and

WHEREAS, based upon the work of the Marty Smith Citizen Naming Panel (*in 2019*) it was determined that a number of amenities in Lyn Ary Park that are recognized within the Master Plan did not go through the formal naming process as outlined in current Municipal Code (Chapter 3.97), including recognition of Bob Durst within the Marston Fields at Lyn Ary Park, the “Michelle Byrum Memorial Garden” located in the northwest area of the Park, and the “Hendrickson Tennis Courts at Lyn Ary Park” on the upper level of the Park; and

WHEREAS,

- “Michelle Byrum Memorial Garden” was created in 1998 in memory of a young Turnagain woman who was killed by a drunk driver, to create a quiet place to reflect and enjoy within the Park; and
- A feature of the ballfields at Marston Fields was informally named in memory of Turnagain resident Bob Durst, who, before he passed away in 2007, tirelessly volunteered his time and energy in reviving and maintaining soccer and baseball fields at the Park; and
- The “Hendrickson Tennis Courts at Lyn Ary Park” were so named due to a significant contribution made by the Hendrickson Family in Turnagain to a 2010 Anchorage Park Foundation Challenge Grant that enabled a major rehabilitation of the courts; and

WHEREAS, subsequent to the approval of TCC Resolution 2019-06, TCC is now also requesting formal recognition within the Lyn Ary Park of John Paul Opinsky, a third-generation Alaskan and Anchorage resident who grew up playing baseball at Lyn Ary Park, then coached youth baseball for many years, and who passed away January 6, 2021; and

WHEREAS, a park bench was installed in Lyn Ary Park Lower Level near the Marston Fields in honor of John Opinsky last year, and this amenity should now be added to the above items included in the formal naming process; and

WHEREAS, TCC has determined that the above informally-named amenities within the Park should be formally named, so that they are appropriately and officially recognized by the Municipality and the community, and are in compliance with current Code regarding naming of public facilities within the Municipality of Anchorage; and

WHEREAS, in addition to a Marston Field Diamond already formally named after Marty Smith, and another diamond informally named after Bob Durst, TCC is requesting a third diamond at the Marston Fields be named in honor of John Opinsky; and

WHEREAS, a Lyn Ary Park Baseball Memorial Committee, with TCC representation, has been working on design and installation of appropriate signage at Lyn Pry Park consistent with the Anchorage Park and Recreation guidelines and the Lyn Ary Park Master Plan to acknowledge the official naming of these amenities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that TCC requests that the Mayor and Assembly of Anchorage establish a Citizen Naming Panel per Municipal Code (Chapter 3.97) for the purpose of formally naming the above- referenced amenities at Lyn Ary Park; and

BE IT RESOLVED, FURTHER, that, after the Citizen Naming Panel has completed its mission, and the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission and the Assembly have approved this Citizen Naming Panel's recommendations regarding the naming of amenities in Lyn Ary Park after Michelle Byrum, Bob Durst, AND the Hendrickson Family, and John Opinsky, TCC will work with the appropriate entities to ensure that naming signage for the above referenced amenities will be appropriately placed at Lyn Ary Park.

RESOLUTION (**Resolution #2019-06**) PASSED by the Turnagain Community Council on this day, Thursday, December 5, 2019, by a vote of YES - 21, NO - 0.



Cathy L. Gleason  
Turnagain Community President

December 5, 2019

AMENDED (in italics and underlined) RESOLUTION **Resolution #2022-**  
PASSED by the Turnagain Community Council on this day, Thursday, May 5, 2022, by a vote of YES - \_\_\_\_\_, NO - \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Anna Brawley  
Turnagain Community President

May 5, 2022