



Municipality of Anchorage, Alaska  
**Parks & Recreation Department**

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## MEMORANDUM

**Date:** January 9, 2020

**To:** Parks & Recreation Commission

**From:** Parks and Recreation Department

**Project:** **PRC 20-01: Proposed Naming of a Public Facility: Naming of a Ball Diamond at Lyn Ary Park in Honor of Martin Charles Smith**

### Background and Proposal

The Parks and Recreation Commission is asked to consider and make a recommendation regarding a proposal to name a certain ball diamond at Lyn Ary Park as “Marty Smith Diamond” in honor and memory of Martin “Marty” Charles Smith. Mr. Smith died in 2018.

The Parks and Recreation Department understands that Mr. Smith, through years of participation in and promotion of baseball in the Anchorage area, provided significant support and inspiration for the sport of baseball to the community and individuals, in particular area youth through participation with the Anchorage West Little League.

A number of letters are attached to provide additional information as to the character and significant contributions of Mr. Smith in support of youth baseball.

The Anchorage Assembly appointed a naming panel (AR No. 2018-349, AIM No. 146-2019) to consider the proposed naming in accordance with AMC 3.97. The proposal was presented to the Turnagain Community Council, the area in which the park is located, at the Council’s meeting December 5, 2019. The naming panel held a public hearing December 17, 2019, on the proposal in accordance with Municipal Code.

The ball diamond is in the western-most of the Marston Fields at Lyn Ary Park, depicted in the approved master plan for the park (2010).

### Analysis and Findings

Naming of public facilities in general and park facilities in particular is provided for in AMC Chapter 3.97 (copy attached).

The stated municipal policy is that *“the preferred practice shall be to give public property historical, cultural or geographical significance considering location, function and natural features. The existing name of any public place, including a traditional Dena’ina or other Alaska Native name, is presumed to be the best name of that public place. Continuity of name and common usage are presumed to increase sense of neighborhood.”*

Consistent with criteria provided under AMC 3.97.025, the proposed naming applies to an element within Lyn Ary Park, whose name would not change.

The proposed naming considers the significance of Mr. Smith's contribution to the community, as explained in the attached letters.

Parks and Recreation staff is not aware of any other use of the individual's name in honorary naming.

Although the proposed name does not include a geographic, natural, or geological feature as part of the name, Parks and Recreation Department staff does not believe that, in this case, the proposed name would cause unreasonable loss of an identifier that is desirable to assist the public in recognizing the location.

In sum, the Parks and Recreation Department believes that the proposed renaming meets the policy objectives and relevant criteria under AMC 3.97.020-.025.

#### Recommendation

The Parks and Recreation Department recommends that, based on information provided, the Parks and Recreation Commission adopt the attached resolution in support of the proposed naming of the westerly ball diamond at Lyn Ary Park as the "Marty Smith Diamond."

#### Attachments:

- Lyn Ary Park Site Plan
- AMC 3.97
- Letters of Support
- Presentation Material from Turnagain CC Meeting
- Resolution dated 12/5/19 from Turnagain Community Council
- AR No. 2018-349
- AIM No. 146-219