



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

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## MEMORANDUM

**Date:** April 2, 2015

**To:** Parks & Recreation Commission

**Cc:** Holly Spoth-Torres, Parks Superintendent

**From:** Tom Korosei, Park Planner

**Project:** PRC 2015-12: Proposed Naming of a Public Facility: Robert O. Robertson Spenard Community Recreation Center

### Background and Proposal

The Parks and Recreation Commission is asked to consider and make a recommendation regarding a proposal to rename the Spenard Community Recreation Center as provided by Anchorage Municipal Code Chapter 3.97, Naming of Municipal Buildings, other Fixed Facilities and Public Places. The proposed name is "Robert O. Robertson Spenard Community Recreation Center," in honor of the former Anchorage Parks and Recreation Department Director. Mr. Robertson died in 2013.

The Spenard Community Recreation Center is a well-used multipurpose facility built in the early 1980s. Among its functions the Center provides a variety of recreation opportunities including gymnasium and exercise areas, accommodates multiple recreation programs offered by the Department, and provides public meeting space for many community organizations.

Robert O. Robertson was the Director of what became the Parks and Recreation Department from 1971 to 1989, serving in multiple administrations. During Mr. Robertson's tenure the Anchorage park system grew significantly with the addition of substantial park land, including much of the principal greenbelt corridors and associated trails, as well as the coastal trail. The park system added and/or expanded recreation centers, including the Spenard Community Recreation Center, and other indoor as well as outdoor recreation facilities.

In January 2014 the Mayor and Assembly appointed a naming panel to assist in considering the proposal to name an appropriate area, fixture, or feature to honor Mr. Robertson, based on the policy and criteria set forth in Municipal code. The naming panel gathered written testimony and held a public hearing on the proposal on March 25, 2015.

### Analysis and Findings

In accordance with the policy and criteria set forth in the Code, the Parks and Recreation Department generally concurs with the panel's findings as follows:

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 is presumed to be the best name of that public place. Continuity of name and common usage are presumed to increase sense of neighborhood.*"

The proposed naming considers the importance of a particular individual in the history of the Municipal park system, and also considers the existing name for the sense of neighborhood that it provides.

With respect to criteria established by the code, the Parks and Recreation Department believes that, with one exception, the proposed renaming meets relevant criteria. Specifically:

- The policy objectives have been considered as stated above.
- Robert O. Robertson's connection to the municipality is significant for the outstanding involvement and leadership in the enhancement of the Municipality of Anchorage over a span of 18 years, as well as in state and national organizations dedicated to public recreation and parks.
- The proposed naming considers the history of the present name and integrates the existing name with the honorary naming.
- No historic Anchorage family or place name would be affected.
- The proposed naming would be the only use of the name for a public facility or place in Anchorage honoring Robert O. Robertson
- The current building name has not changed within the past 20 years; the name has been in place for more than 30 years.
- Mr. Robertson, through substantial and exemplary effort, made a significant contribution to the community and to the Parks and Recreation Department. A part of this contribution is noted above. The attached meeting minutes and statements of support for the proposed name change describe Mr. Roberts's contribution in greater detail, enumerating facilities, accomplishments, associations, volunteer services, personal attributes, and how they have benefitted the Anchorage community.

The naming criteria "support the preferred practice of honoring individual citizens through naming of internal areas, fixtures, and features integral to public spaces." The Parks and Recreation Department concurs with the naming panel, however, that because of Mr. Robertson's close ties and direct involvement with the establishment of the Spenard Community Recreation Center, among other facilities that remain valuable community assets, the renaming of this facility in honor of Robert O. Robertson is appropriate,

Municipal records are not readily available to document all the specific accomplishments listed in the attached testimony. However, the staff believes that most if not all are significantly connected with the directorship of Robert O. Robertson. Many projects came to fruition under the directorship of Mr. Robertson, and as a result the public has enjoyed a diverse system of park and recreation facilities which continue as a major asset benefitting the health and wellbeing of the community. The Department believes these facts are substantial evidence of dedication and shared vision creditable to Mr. Robertson.

#### Recommendation

The Parks and Recreation Department recommends that the Parks and Recreation Commission adopt the attached resolution in support of the proposed naming of Spenard Community Recreation Center as the Robert O. Robertson Spenard Community Recreation Center.

#### Attachments:

- AMC 3.97
- AR No. 2014-3
- Letter from naming committee to the Mayor
- Minutes from citizen naming panel public hearing
- Correspondence in support of the proposed name
- Correspondence reflecting support for keeping current name

# Anchorage Municipal Code

## Chapter 3.97 - NAMING OF MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS, OTHER FIXED FACILITIES AND PUBLIC PLACES

### FOOTNOTE(S):

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**Cross reference**— Historic preservation board, § 4.60.030

#### 3.97.010 - Purpose.

- A. The municipality hereby establishes a policy and set of procedures to govern the naming of a public place and the honorary renaming of streets and roads. A sound naming policy adds meaning, significance and uniformity to public facilities, minimizes conflict and provides a forum for meaningful discussion regarding naming. Further, a consistent municipal naming policy lends continuity and a sense of community, and establishes a means of appropriately recognizing prominent individuals and those who have substantially contributed to the municipality, the state or the nation.
- B. The selection of a name that is purposeful, suitable, and symbolic should be approached in a systematic and creative way. This process can generate opportunities to induce dynamic community impact, create sensitivity and lasting public relations, express appreciation, and educate.
- C. For purposes of this chapter, a public place means any building, facility, municipal or park lands, owned by or under the control of the municipality, including interior and component spaces integral to the whole, and excluding Anchorage School District buildings and facilities.

(AO No. 87-73; AO No. 2006-51(S), § 1, 6-20-06; AO No. 2007-95(S), § 1, 9-25-07)

#### 3.97.020 - Policy.

When considering the naming or renaming of municipal buildings, other fixed facilities, and public places, 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 is presumed to be the best name of that public place. Continuity of name and common usage are presumed to increase sense of neighborhood.

(AO No. 87-73; AO No. 2006-51(S), § 2, 6-20-06; AO No. 2007-95(S), § 2, 9-25-07)

#### 3.97.025 - Criteria.

- A. Honorary naming. Naming of a public place will:
  1. Demonstrate that the policy objectives under Section 3.97.020 have been considered and will specify findings for an exception;
  2. Identify the individual's connection to the municipality if considering an outstanding local, state, national or international civic leader;
  3. Consider the historical significance of the person and the duration of residence in the municipality, or connection with the municipality if a nonresident;
  4. Consider the history of the location in relation to the history of the present name, when proposing to rename an existing public place;
  5. Not change the name of a public place bearing an historic Anchorage family name;

6. Not change historic names of designated landmarks listed on a state or National Register of Historic Places;
  7. Limit honorary naming to a one time present use of an individual's name;
  8. Support the preferred practice of honoring individual citizens through naming of internal areas, fixtures, and features integral to public spaces. Naming a public building, facility, or park for a living person is not favored.
  9. Renaming of a public place, road or street should not be considered within 20 years of the previous naming.
- B. Public places under the jurisdiction of a parks and recreation board or commission. In naming a public place, including a trail, within the control and supervision of the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Department, the Girdwood Board of Supervisors, or the Chugiak-Eagle River Parks and Recreation Board of Supervisors, these additional factors shall be considered:
1. Names of persons who, through exemplary and substantial effort, have made a significant contribution to the community or the parks and recreation department or who have made a substantial donation to acquisition or development of the property.
  2. Organizations that have made a substantial donation to the acquisition or development of the property;
  3. Incorporating the geographic, natural or geological feature as part of the name to assist the public in recognizing the location.
- C. Honorary renaming of streets and roads. Subject to the requirements of AMC 21.15.133, AMC 21.80.260, and public safety considerations, the following criteria shall apply in the honorary renaming of streets and roads:
1. The individual whose name is proposed for honorary renaming shall be worthy of long-term recognition by virtue of special efforts, accomplishments, or contributions which have benefited the municipality or the state.
  2. No street name bearing an Anchorage historic family name will be eligible for renaming.

(AO No. 2006-51(S), § 3, 6-20-06; AO No. 2007-95(S), § 3, 9-25-07; AO No. 2008-92, § 1, 9-16-08)

### 3.97.030 - Procedures.

- A. Citizen naming panel. Preliminary action in naming a public place may be initiated by memorandum of the mayor or resolution of the assembly, identifying the proposed public place or individual, for referral to a citizen naming panel. If any request covers a public place in a municipal park, the request shall be referred to the parks and recreation commission or service area board with jurisdiction over the public place either before appointing the panel or by the panel after appointment. The four-member panel shall be appointed to proceed as follows:
1. The mayor shall appoint two members for the panel; and
  2. The assembly chair shall appoint two members for the panel.
  3. The naming panel may be composed of members of recognized boards and commissions.
  4. An informational memorandum shall be submitted identifying the four members of the panel.
  5. Municipal staff support to the panel shall be identified in the memorandum or resolution.
  6. The panel shall review proposed names and public places, hold public hearing, and identify additional potential names or public places as appropriate to the request.

7. The panel shall review all requests for compliance with policy and honorary naming criteria under this chapter.
- B. Upon agreement of at least three of the four panel members, a letter advising the mayor and the assembly chair shall be dispatched on behalf of the panel. The letter shall include reference to each criteria identified in 3.97.025 and how the panel considered those factors in its recommendation. The panel's letter shall be attached to a resolution for consideration by the assembly. Memoranda as appropriate may be appended to the resolution to explain or amplify relevant information for the assembly. If at least three of the four panel members are unable to agree, a divided recommendation of the panel may be submitted for assembly consideration.
- C. Final action by the assembly shall be no earlier than one year posthumously for naming of a building, facility, or park. In all naming or renaming, the assembly shall set the proposed resolution addressing the panel's recommendation for public hearing at least one month after introduction to ensure appropriate information dissemination to the public prior to final action by the assembly.

(AO No. 87-73; AO No. 2006-51(S), § 4, 6-20-06; AO No. 2007-95(S), § 4, 9-25-07; AO No. 2008-92, § 2, 9-16-08)

3.97.040 - Changing of names. (Repealed)

(AO No. 87-73; AO No. 2006-51(S), § 5, 6-20-06)

3.97.050 - Naming facility for other than an individual. (Repealed)

(AO No. 87-73; AO No. 2006-51(S), § 6, 6-20-06)

3.97.060 - Applicability of chapter.

This chapter shall not apply to the naming or renaming of facilities which were donated to the municipality contingent upon assignment of a specific name or to any facility constructed or purchased from money or property donated to the municipality for the specific purpose of securing a name for the facility. Further, this chapter does not apply to the naming of streets or roads, except in the application criteria for honorary renaming in Section 3.97.025, or to naming rights for municipal buildings, facilities or public places sold pursuant to Title 7, which shall be subject to assembly approval.

(AO No. 87-73; AO No. 91-173(S); AO No. 2005-114, § 1, 9-13-05; AO No. 2006-51(S), § 7, 6-20-06; AO No. 2007-95(S), § 5, 9-25-07)

CLERK'S OFFICE  
**AMENDED AND APPROVED**

Date: 1-14-14

**Submitted by:** ASSEMBLY MEMBERS FLYNN AND GRAY-JACKSON

**Prepared by:** Assembly Counsel's Office

**For reading:** January 14, 2014

**ANCHORAGE, ALASKA  
AR NO. 2014-3**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY REQUESTING A CITIZEN NAMING PANEL IN HONOR OF ROBERT O. "BOB" ROBERTSON, FORMER ANCHORAGE PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR.**

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WHEREAS, on February 7, 2013, Anchorage lost one of its finest residents with the passing of Robert O. "Bob" Robertson, formerly Parks and Recreation Director for the City of Anchorage for over 18 years, and longtime resident, whose life and distinguished career have benefited our community;

WHEREAS, born in Albany, Oregon, Bob Robertson held two Parks and Recreation directorships in Oregon prior to moving to Alaska in 1971 to become director of the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Department, a post he held for eighteen years until his retirement in 1989;

WHEREAS, during his tenure as Director of the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Department, Bob Robertson was able to acquire on behalf of Anchorage much of the park and trail land we all enjoy today;

WHEREAS, Bob Robertson's dedication in public service to promote recreation and parks held many highlights for Bob and our city, including public service after retirement:

- Bob Robertson's tenure spanned the administration of three mayors, and municipal unification;
- Bob Robertson was a founding member of the Alaska Recreation and Park Association (ARPA); its first President in 1975; and served on the ARPA Board of Directors until his retirement from the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Department in 1989.
- In 1986, Anchorage Parks and Recreation hosted the President's Commission on Outdoor Recreation visit to Alaska.
- One of Bob's proudest moments was hosting the Pacific Rim Parks and Recreation Institute in 1989.
- Shortly after Bob Robertson retired, he was elected to the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) Citizen Board Branch and served as the President and Vice President between 2000 and 2003.
- Bob Robertson served as a member of the NRPA Board of Trustees;

WHEREAS, Bob Robertson received distinguished service awards from both the Alaska Recreation and Park Association and the Oregon Recreation and Park Association;

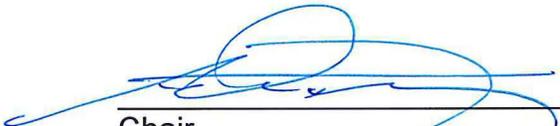
WHEREAS, during the 36 years Bob Robertson lived in Anchorage, he contributed thousands of hours of volunteer service to the Boy Scouts, the Anchorage Senior Center, Anchorage Kid's Day, and a wide variety of non-profit and service organizations -- Bob loved baseball and was an outstanding youth and adult coach for many of the Anchorage leagues;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY RESOLVES:

The Anchorage Assembly requests that a citizen naming panel be convened to assist the Assembly and the community in naming an appropriate area, fixture or feature to honor and recognize Robert O. "Bob" Robertson's long and distinguished career as follows:

1. In accordance with AMC Chapter 3.97 providing for a four-member naming panel, the Assembly's nominated panel appointees are: 1) Dwayne Adams, landscape architect and former president of Land Design North; and 2) Nancy Beardsley, a former long serving staff member of the Parks and Recreation Department.
2. In accordance with AMC Chapter 3.97, the Mayor's nominated panel appointees are **Jack Mosby** and **Dave Garner**.
3. If the recommended naming involves a park, or other asset of the Parks and Recreation Department (park, building, trail, etc.), the recommended naming shall be referred to the Parks and Recreation Commission for an advisory opinion. The naming panel shall coordinate its efforts in accordance with AMC Chapter 3.97.
4. Larry Baker is the Mayor's Office designee to assist in coordinating the work of this citizen naming panel, assisting the panel in holding a public meeting, facilitating deliberation, and presenting any park asset to the appropriate authority for an advisory opinion, and preparing the panel's recommendation for Assembly action.
5. The naming panel's recommendation will come back to the Assembly for public hearing and final action in accordance with AMC Chapter 3.97.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Assembly this 14th day of January, 2014.

  
Chair

ATTEST:

  
Municipal Clerk

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Robert O. Robertson Naming Committee  
c/o Wm. Dwayne Adams, Jr.  
1309 West 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Anchorage, AK 99501

March 27, 2015

The Honorable Dan Sullivan  
Mayor of Anchorage  
632 West 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 840  
Anchorage, AK 99501

Subject: Naming of a Public Facility for Robert O. Robertson, former Director of Parks and Recreation

Dear Mayor Sullivan,

I'm pleased to submit the attached minutes which document the letters, testimony, and committee findings and recommendations for the naming of a suitable public facility for Robert O. Robertson. As outlined in the minutes which include the committee's recommendation, we recommend that the name "Robert O. Robertson" be added to the existing name of "Spenard Community Recreation Center." This retains a name that is in common use and important to the community of Spenard while recognizing the significant local, state, and national contributions of a figure important to the history of Anchorage. Mr. Robertson was pivotal in the development of the parks system that the citizens of Anchorage enjoy and this naming recognizes his contribution.

We are forwarding this letter to the Parks and Recreation Commission for their review at their April 9 meeting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wm. Dwayne Adams, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

Wm. Dwayne Adams, Jr.  
On behalf of the Robert O. Robertson  
Naming Committee

**Robert "Bob" O. Robertson Citizen Naming Panel Public Hearing Minutes  
March 25, 2015, 5:00PM – 5:45PM**

The Public Hearing for the naming of a public facility for Robert O. Robertson convened at 5:00pm. The committee reviewed the action before them. It was explained that the naming panel was jointly established January 14, 2014 by the Anchorage Assembly and Mayor's office pursuant to Anchorage Municipal Code Section 3.97, Naming of Municipal Buildings, Other Fixed Facilities and Public Places.

**Citizen Naming Panel Members Present:**

- Dwayne Adams
- Nancy Beardsley
- Jack Mosby
- Dave Gardner (excused due to medical issue)

**Municipality of Anchorage Support Staff Present:**

- Larry Baker
- 

The panel reviewed MOA Section 3.97.030 Procedures to ensure the panel followed the correct process for the naming of a public facility. It was noted that three of the four panel members must agree to any proposed action and forward a signed letter stating such to the Mayor. After a motion is approved by the committee, then staff will prepare a resolution to that affect. The Assembly will hold another public hearing before any final action is taken. Since the action involves Municipal parkland, the Parks and Recreation Commission is also to pass a resolution regarding the committee's recommendation. The committee also reviewed the criteria for naming a public facility as required within AMC 3.97.030.

The committee reviewed 17 pieces of correspondence regarding recommendations for naming:

- Ron Crenshaw (former MOA Manager – Park Design and Development)
- Mark Begich (Senator and former Mayor)
- Dr. Art Geuss (longtime Chair of MOA and Anchorage Borough Parks & Recreation Commissions)
- Tony Knowles (former Mayor and Governor)
- David Patterson (retired Regional Public Use Specialist – Fish and Wildlife Service Alaska)
- Shelia Selkregg (former MOA Planning Director and Assembly Member)
- Kimberly Kiefer (Juneau City Manager)
- Michael Bork (ARPA President)
- James Barnett (former Anchorage Assembly Member)
- Jeff Dick (former President ARPA)
- Spenard Community Council
- Helen Cough (former ARPA Board Member and Alaska Fish and Wildlife Service Planning Chief)
- Alan Meiners (retired Chugach ST Park Superintendent)
- Karl Kassel (former Fairbanks North Star Borough Parks and Recreation Director and currently Presiding Officer of the FNSB Assembly)
- Nancy Peterson (former Valdez Parks and Recreation Director) – Jeff Hawley (former Cordova and Unalaska Parks and Recreation Director, and
- Carolyn Bloom (former 25-year MOA Parks and Recreation Employee)

1 Sixteen of the 17 pieces of correspondence supported the naming of a public facility for Bob  
 2 Robertson with the majority specifically recommending that Spenard Community Recreation  
 3 Center be the designated facility. The Spenard Community Council noted that none of their  
 4 members were familiar with the role that Bob Robertson played in the funding and design of  
 5 Spenard Community Recreation Center and thus the community council could not support  
 6 placing his name on the facility.

7  
 8 **Public Members Present to Testify:**

- 9 • Carolyn Bloom

10  
 11 Ms. Bloom stated a fact sheet that explains Bob Robertson's contributions to the  
 12 community only covers part of what Bob Robertson did. She worked for him during the  
 13 1980's when the parks and recreation system was rapidly expanding. Bob always jumped  
 14 at the chance for additional park and/or recreation facilities / services. Even after Bob's  
 15 retirement, he kept working for parks and recreation in Anchorage, statewide through the  
 16 Alaska Recreation and Park Association (ARPA) that he helped to found, and nationally as a  
 17 board member of the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA).

18  
 19 Ms. Bloom felt that the Spenard Community Recreation Center (SCRC) is a fitting place  
 20 to add Bob's name to recognize his long-standing contributions to parks and recreation  
 21 within the municipality. Bob was instrumental in helping secure and oversee funding,  
 22 design, construction, and management of the Spenard Community Recreation Center along  
 23 with many other facilities that we enjoy today. He worked tirelessly to coordinate the  
 24 interests of the local community council, user groups, parks and recreation commission,  
 25 assembly members, and legislators to bring about the completion of the center. Once  
 26 completed, Bob usually saw to it that parks and recreation meetings and training often took  
 27 place at the SCRC as well as ARPA and NRPA meetings. Further, Bob also promoted the  
 28 SCRC for numbers of other youth and community activities, to ensure that the SCRC was  
 29 used to the maximum extent possible. Bob didn't call attention to himself, but allowed  
 30 others to take the credit for the accomplishments that he quietly but effectively  
 31 orchestrated behind the scenes. After his usual long work day, it was not uncommon to see  
 32 him checking out park facilities for any work that needed to be done while he was attending  
 33 or participating in community events – announcer for the Jesse Owens Track Meets, Judge  
 34 for Summer Playground and Summer Camp Family Night Skits, Coach for Little League,  
 35 Organizer for Kids' Day and Boy Scouts to name a few.

36  
 37 Bob made sure that as many of community members had a place at the center as he  
 38 could. In addition to the basketball courts, he added in a senior center component, dance  
 39 studio, kitchen, pre-school room, weight room, racquetball courts, sauna, public meeting  
 40 space, and pottery room. Bob made sure the SCRC was well staffed and a working  
 41 recreation center for all to enjoy as it still is today.

42 The SCRC is a fitting place to recognize Bob's contributions to our community. I whole  
 43 heartedly recommend you add Bob's name to the SCRC as the:

44  
 45 Robert O. Robertson  
 46 Spenard Community  
 47 Recreation Center  
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49 Ms. Bloom thanked the committee for providing the opportunity to recognize Bob's  
 50 community contributions. *Carolyn Bloom*

51  
 52 After the completion of Ms. Bloom's testimony, Mr. Adams asked Ms. Bloom whether she  
 53 had personal knowledge that Bob Robertson was involved in the creation of the Spenard

1 Community Recreation Center (SCRC). Ms. Bloom said that she was in a position to know  
2 most of Bob's activities and she knows that Bob was involved in facilitating funding and in  
3 helping develop the plans for the facility with the architects. She believes that Bob was  
4 intimately involved in the development of SCRC.

5  
6 No other members of the public were present thus the public hearing was closed.

7  
8 The committee discussed the email sent to Dwayne Adams in December 2014 from the  
9 Spenard Community Council about not supporting adding Bob's name to the facility. The  
10 community council's view was that no one on the council knew of Bob's role in getting the  
11 center established and thus they could not support naming SCRC for Bob.

12  
13 The committee reviewed letters from Tony Knowles, Mark Begich, Dr. Art Geuss, and  
14 Carolyn Bloom, all of whom were present and knowledgeable about the establishment of  
15 SCRC. In particular, the testimony of Carolyn Bloom who worked for Bob Robertson, and  
16 Dr. Art Geuss, who was chair of the Parks and Recreation Commission at the time of funding  
17 and design, clearly indicates that Bob was intimately involved in the creation of SCRC.  
18 There was a general sentiment within the committee that the report that the Spenard  
19 Community Council did not recognize Bob's involvement is more of a testament to Bob's  
20 leadership style than whether or not he was involved in the creation of SCRC.

21  
22 Nancy Beardsley proposed the following resolution:

23  
24 Motion: *Move to add the name "Robert O. Robertson" to the existing name of "Spenard*  
25 *Community Recreation Center." The full name would read, "Robert O. Robertson Spenard*  
26 *Community Recreation Center."*

27  
28 Jack Mosby seconded this motion.

29  
30 Nancy Beardsley spoke to her motion by mentioning that this recognizes the will of the  
31 Spenard Community Council by not removing the existing name. She felt that this gives  
32 Bob recognition for his progressive park and recreation development within the MOA. Bob  
33 felt the need to give our whole community a recreation center that was up to date at the  
34 time and it still serves the purpose of giving everyone a place to meet and to take part in  
35 recreation opportunities. Bob left Anchorage with a full service recreation center that serves  
36 preschoolers to seniors.

37  
38 Dwayne Adams stated that he supported the motion as it demonstrates Bob's contributions  
39 to the city for the great park and recreation facilities we have now as well as his  
40 contributions across the state and nationally. Bob served 36 years in government and  
41 nonprofit arenas promoting access to recreation and park facilities. He agreed with Ms.  
42 Beardsley that we were not really changing the name of the SCRC, but adding his name to  
43 recognize Bob's long-term MOA contributions and his attachment for the SCRC from creation  
44 to present. Dwayne further mentioned that the criteria for naming does not focus only on  
45 the specific involvement of a person with the development of a facility, but also asks that  
46 the naming committee address the contribution of a person in the community, the state,  
47 and the nation. Bob's contributions are clearly important and relevant to the criteria.  
48 Regardless, the committee has clear and relevant testimony that indicates that Bob had  
49 personal and critical involvement in the creation of SCRC. Dwayne reviewed other relevant  
50 criteria and found the following:

- 51  
52
- All relevant criteria of AMC 3.97.020 have been considered.

- Bob Robertson is clearly a figure of significant contribution to local, state, and national contributions.
- His contributions span several mayors and multiple decades, an extraordinary feat for a politically appointed position.
- His contributions are relevant to the establishment of SCRC.
- This motion does not remove an existing name but simply extends it in recognition of Mr. Robertson’s accomplishments and contributions.
- The SCRC is not a historic family name.
- The SCRC is not a designated landmark on a state of National Register of Historic Places.
- The naming is intended for perpetuity, not a one-time present use.

Jack Mosby stated he supported the motion as well and reaffirmed the rationale of Ms. Beardsley and Mr. Adams. He felt that the support provided by 16 letters of support from leaders throughout the community clearly indicated that Bob meets the criteria required by AMC 3.97.030.

*The members of the naming committee who were present at the public hearing voted unanimously to support the motion as presented.*

The committee reviewed the next steps necessary to move the action forward:

- Prepare a resolution for the Parks and Recreation Commission for their next meeting. Dwayne Adams agreed to work on this as their next meeting is April 9.
- Prepare a letter to Mayor Sullivan summarizing the committee’s action. Include signed minutes of the public meeting. Send the documents to Larry Baker and if the naming recommendation is approved at the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting, he will prepare a resolution for the MOA Assembly. Mr. Baker will handle scheduling with the Municipal Clerk’s office.
- Testify at an upcoming Assembly meeting at the time that a recommendation moves forward and is scheduled for Assembly hearing.

Meeting adjourned at 5:45PM.

Respectively Submitted,

Wm. Dwayne Adams, Jr.

Nancy Beardsley

Jack Mosby

Dave Gardner

*by Wm. D. Adams  
on behalf of  
Dave Gardner*

## Dwayne Adams

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**From:** Dave Gardner <dave.h.gardner@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 27, 2015 2:42 PM  
**To:** Dwayne Adams  
**Subject:** Robert O. Robertson Spenard Community Recreation Center

Dwayne,

Thank you for reviewing the public input regarding a naming opportunity for Robert O. Robertson and for explaining the committee's action with a motion to place Robert O. Robertson's name before the existing name of "Spenard Community Recreation Center". I support this motion.

Dave Gardner

From: **steve beardsley** <[beardsley@alaskalife.net](mailto:beardsley@alaskalife.net)>  
Subject: Fwd: Ron Crenshaw support letter  
Date: October 22, 2014 at 11:01 AM  
To: Beardsley Nancy & Steve <[beardsleys@alask.net](mailto:beardsleys@alask.net)>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Jack & Rosemary Mosby** <[jmosby@alaskalife.net](mailto:jmosby@alaskalife.net)>  
Date: Mon, Sep 29, 2014 at 8:42 PM  
Subject: Ron Crenshaw support letter  
To: Beardsley Steve Nancy <[beardsleys@alask.net](mailto:beardsleys@alask.net)>

Who is collecting these? I'm gone Oct 4-6 & 8, but should be around until late Oct or early Nov, then gone for 2-3 weeks..

**From:** Ron Crenshaw <[rcrenshaw@gci.net](mailto:rcrenshaw@gci.net)>  
**Date:** Monday, September 29, 2014 5:18 PM  
**To:** Jack & Rosemary Mosby <[jmosby@alaskalife.net](mailto:jmosby@alaskalife.net)>  
**Subject:** Re: Bob Robertson support letter template

How timely, Jack. I just finished writing my letter of support before I received your email so here it is. Ron

Letter of support for renaming the Spenard Recreation Center for Robert O. Robertson.

Anchorage has a long history of naming parks and facilities for deserving individuals. It is appropriate to recognize Bob's many years in Anchorage as head of Parks and Recreation. Bob directed the development of Anchorage's many parks, trails, sports fields and recreation facilities from before Anchorage became a unified government in the 1970's, and for the next 30 years. It is proposed to rename the Spenard Recreation Center in Bob's honor. While his long and dedicated service to Anchorage would make it easy to argue that his name should be connected with any number of parks and facilities, the recreation center in Spenard is certainly worthy of consideration and a appropriate place to honor and recognize Bob's service.

Recreation and parks were, some would say, Bob's greatest, if not his only passion in life, except maybe for his cat and horse. He worked hard to secure funding for the Spenard Recreation Center's construction in the 1980's, and lent his considerable talents to making sure the new recreation center would contain the proper facilities for the activities that were most needed and wanted by those who would use the facility into the future.

Ron Crenshaw  
former Manager, park design and development, Municipality of Anchorage

**From:** [Jack & Rosemary Mosby](mailto:jmosby@alaskalife.net)  
**Sent:** Monday, September 29, 2014 9:46 AM  
**To:** [Ron Crenshaw](mailto:rcrenshaw@gci.net) ; [Dave Patterson](mailto:dave.patterson@alaska.gov) ; [Helen Nienhueser](mailto:helen.nienhueser@alaska.gov) ; [Jerry Walton](mailto:jerry.walton@alaska.gov)  
**Subject:** Bob Robertson support letter template

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS  
COMMITTEE ON  
HOMELAND SECURITY AND  
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS  
CHAIRMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE ON EMERGENCY  
MANAGEMENT, INTERGOVERNMENTAL  
RELATIONS, AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

MARK BEGICH  
ALASKA

COMMITTEE ON  
COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION  
CHAIRMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE ON OCEANS,  
ATMOSPHERE, FISHERIES AND COAST GUARD  
COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS  
COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 8, 2014

Citizens Naming Panel  
C/O Nancy Beardsley  
13201 Reef Place  
Anchorage, AK 99515

Dear Citizens Naming Panel Members:

Thank you for letting me know about your work to rename the Spenard Recreation Center, the Robert O. Robertson-Spenard Recreation Center. I support your efforts.

Bob was exceptional at generating partnerships to keep our city moving forward. His longstanding dedication to providing leadership to our community over the years through Parks and Recreation is remarkable.

Bob has been a driving force behind the operational successes Sullivan Arena and the Dempsey Anderson Ice Arena which are key recreational facilities in Anchorage. He has accomplished so much through his dedication to the Spenard Recreation Center, the Kincaid Outdoor Center to the Anchorage Golf Course.

We all thank Bob for his commitment to serving passionately and creating a better Alaska. I support your effort to rename the Spenard Recreation Center after him.

Thank you again for your work to recognize Bob. I wish you the best.

Sincerely,



Mark Begich  
United States Senator

SUITE 750  
510 L STREET  
ANCHORAGE, AK 99501  
(907) 271-5815

SUITE 328  
101 12TH AVENUE  
FAIRBANKS, AK 99701  
(907) 458-0261

SUITE 308  
ONE SEALASKA PLAZA  
JUNEAU, AK 99801  
(907) 586-7700

SUITE 101  
805 FRONTAGE ROAD  
KENAI, AK 99611  
(907) 783-4000

SUITE 230  
1900 FIRST AVENUE  
KETCHIKAN, AK 99901  
(907) 225-3000

SUITE 309  
851 EAST WESTPOINT DRIVE  
WASILLA, AK 99564  
(907) 357-9956

SUITE SR 111  
RUSSELL BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510  
(202) 224-3004

From: **Tony Knowles** <[tonycknowles@gmail.com](mailto:tonycknowles@gmail.com)>  
Date: Wed, Sep 3, 2014 at 10:46 AM  
Subject: Naming facility for Bob Robertson  
To: Patrick Flynn <[flynnpp@muni.org](mailto:flynnpp@muni.org)>

Hello Chairman Flynn,

I am writing you in support of efforts by many who have requested that a facility be named after Bob Robertson as a recognition of his extraordinary role in creating and managing the Park system Anchorage has today.

As you know Bob passed away last year. I have attached a letter I sent to his family that was read at his memorial service. This reflects my personal knowledge of working with Bob as an Assemblyman for five years as well as Mayor for six years as I continued his remaining in the Park Director's position.

I would appreciate your office passing on this correspondence and attachment to other Assembly members.

All the best,  
Tony Knowles

Tony Knowles  
1146 S Street  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501  
907-929-7200  
[tonyknowles@alaska.com](mailto:tonyknowles@alaska.com)

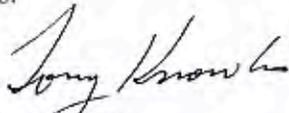
March 19, 2013

Dear Family and Friends of Bob Robertson,

I was saddened to hear that Bob had passed away. While it has been several years since I have seen Bob, I think of him quite often as I enjoy any one of the many parks, trails, and facilities in which he was an essential participant. I think of him too when I read about a Parks and Recreation Commission hearing going late into the night with passionate testimony on all sides of whatever issue had aroused the community. Bob was kind, gentle, and a great public servant.

Now we all know that it is the destiny of all Parks and Recreation Departments to have a dedicated staff that is small and a budget that is even smaller for a mission that is unlimited. The management structure is quite simple. There is the Director. And then there is the 250,000 (or whatever the population is) experts who give their opinions and orders, a Parks and Recreation Commission to give orders, an Assembly who, with the small budget, gives orders, a Chief of Staff who gives orders, and then the Mayor who....you get the gist of it. How could anyone survive as a Parks and Recreation Director? And yet Bob Robertson did – for 19 years. And these were not normal times. First there was the merging of the City and Borough Parks Department. Then in the 1980s there was the largest expansion of parks, community centers, trails, cross country skiing facility and recreation fields in Anchorage's history. We can thank Bob the Director of these vital functions and places in our Municipality as the indispensable generator of community success and support.

For every kid who has kicked a goal, shot a puck, made a basket or hit a ball, for every runner or skier who crossed the finish line, for every family that headed out for a hike or went biking together, for all the people who have held hands on the trail or said hi to a moose, watched the northern lights or the endless sunsets of summer – thanks Bob. Thanks Bob for helping make that possible and making Anchorage the special place that it is.



Tony Knowles  
Anchorage Assembly 1975-79  
Anchorage Mayor 1881-87  
Governor 1994-2002

From: **Art Geuss** <artgeussjr@hotmail.com>  
Subject: Fwd: Spenard Recreation Center naming for Bob Robertson  
Date: December 8, 2014 at 1:46 PM  
To: beab@skrysonak.net

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Arthur Geuss <[artgeussjr@hotmail.com](mailto:artgeussjr@hotmail.com)>  
**Date:** December 8, 2014 at 12:44:21 PM AKST  
**To:** Arthur Geuss <[artgeussjr@hotmail.com](mailto:artgeussjr@hotmail.com)>  
**Subject:** Spenard Recreation Center naming for Bob Robertson

Having served first on the Anchorage Borough Parks Commission for several years as a member, then Vice-Chairman, and finally Chairman, and then another approximately 14 years on the MOA Parks Commission as Vice Chairman and finally many years as Chairman, I can testify to the huge contributions that Bob Robertson gave to Park and Recreation causes during his long service to the city and then to the MOA.

Bob Robertson was one of the hardest working, knowledgeable, able and effective civil servants I have ever had the pleasure of meeting. Bob was the one guy who could always "Get it done". When the first plans were discussed to finally build a municipal recreation center in the Spenard area, Bob was the one who had all the answers and led our long process that finally resulted in the construction and operation of the current Spenard Recreation Center that is serving our community so well. Bob, was the one unifying force that could bring the many diverse interests and groups together. He clearly is why we have that center in the location it is and was invaluable in the planning, construction and later operation. His always patient, pleasant, helpful presence brought everyone together and finally resulted in our present center.

In the many years as Parks Commission Chairman, I was involved in many park and structure namings, and I assure everyone that naming the center the Robert Robertson Spenard Recreation Center would be exactly what our naming processes were designed to achieve. That is to name parks, trails, and structures for both physical location and for individuals, without whose contributions that there would not be such a priceless addition to our city parks, trails and park facilities.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Art Geuss,  
Long time Chairman of the MOA and earlier Anchorage Borough Parks and Recreation Commissions.

I was saddened to hear of Bob Robertson's passing and distressed to find out that I would not be in Anchorage the weekend of March 30th when his memorial celebration will be held. I would be honored to send you a few words from me to be read in memory of Bob and the many years I worked with him and his department when I served for about 17 years on the old Borough and then the MOA parks commissions.

Upon unification, as then the vice chairman, and later the long time chairman of the Parks Commission I had much contact with Bob and quickly learned what a gentleman and the ultimate, knowledgeable professional Bob was. He was the one person we all learned to rely on and Bob soon became a good friend also. That time was one of great opportunity for us here in the Anchorage area and happily, we had both a dynamic group of activists on the Parks Commissions and Bob and his top notch department that he had under him before all of the present cut backs. Ron Crenshaw was Bob's tireless, right hand guy who always went out and met with anyone and everyone we needed to work with. During my years on the Commissions, the meetings were always so well prepared by Bob, who it seemed, always anticipated everything. During our busiest years, we met on Thursdays for the entire long evenings twice a month. It was a time of such great accomplishment! During about a 15 year period, we fleshed out our city green belts, acquired countless neighborhood and larger parks, saw the vast Bicentennial Park implemented, built most of the tennis courts and many of the playgrounds in the city, and created the largest system of pedestrian and bike trails in the US. And, there were so many other accomplishments during Bob Robertsons tenure. This city is an infinitely more lovely and livable community because of Bob Robertson and that dynamic group of activist citizens on the commissions and off and the wonderful, always

able and supportive department Bob ran. He was the quiet presence in meetings and always seemed to be able to provide us with anything we needed and always make things happen. Bob was a dynamic presence earlier in Corvallis , Oregon, and also very active in various national parks organizations. He will be sorely missed there as well as here in Anchorage, his long time home. I just so hope that Anchorage will remember what Bob Robertson has contributed to this community. So much of our wonderful parks, trail system, greenbelts, and parks and recreation facilities are here because of the hard work, dedication, and professional skills of Bob Robertson. The Anchorage we now live in is so much better a place to live in because of Bob.

His long time friend and admirer, from many years as Parks Commission member and long time chairman

Dr Art Geuss

October 1, 2014

Chair, Parks and Recreation Commission  
c/o Department of Parks and Recreation  
632 West 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 840  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Patrick Flynn  
Chair, Anchorage Assembly  
632 West 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 250  
Anchorage Alaska 99501

Subject: Naming of a Public Facility for Robert O. "Bob" Robertson

Dear Sir,

It goes without saying that Bob Robertson's accomplishments as Director of Anchorage Parks and Recreation have enhanced the lives of all of us who live here and enjoy the wonderful parklands, trails and facilities he worked so hard to make a part of our community. Perhaps less visible was the work Bob also did while Director, to bring agencies and organizations together on a local, statewide, and national level for the benefit of recreation and youth. Basic to the mission of many organizations is a solid working relationship with their Citizen Board or Commission. Bob's Boards and Commissions training, over the years, gave hundreds of citizens the training and insight they needed to serve effectively.

As a member of the Western Alaska Council of the Boy Scouts of America, Bob, for many years, led the annual commissioning certification of Camps Gorsuch and Carlquist required by the American Camping Association. His counsel and insight helped to make Camp Gorsuch a premier camping location within the Boy Scout system both locally and nationwide.

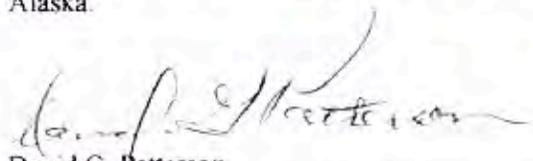
As a member of the original Anchorage Environmental Education, "EE" Committee, chaired for many years by Dr. Emma Walton of the Anchorage School District and the National Science Foundation in Washington DC, Bob shared the vision to create a learning facility in a camp setting on the BLM Campbell Tract. With many others, Bob lent his considerable influence with the Congressional Delegation and today a jewel in the recreation and learning infrastructure of Anchorage, the Campbell Creek Science Center, provides unparalleled experiences for both youth and adults.

Bob also constantly reached out to other State and Federal organizations through his efforts as a Founder of the Alaska Recreation and Park Association, (ARPA), and a Trustee on the National Recreation and Park Association. His encouragement brought together recreation professionals from all of the land managing organizations, civilian and military, creating a unique blend of talent working for better recreation opportunities in Alaska. Bob's efforts working with the various agencies developing the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan and the Plan Revisions, provided valuable insight and perhaps even more important, advocacy with the Congressional Delegation, during his annual visits to Washington DC, for the National Recreation and Park Association meetings.

As was Bob's nature, few people will ever know why things just happened as if someone pushed the OK button, clearing the way for a meeting or a conference, or the funding for a seemingly obscure

project. Most people will never know most of the things we enjoy today that have "Bob's Magic", hidden deep within their structure. Few will ever guess that the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Director could possibly have had anything to do with a project on a National Wildlife Refuge or on a Military Base. I was one of the privileged colleagues of Bob Robertson who can look back and count the many ways Bob affected projects I worked on. Sometimes, years later, someone would say, "Yeah, we wondered about that project you were pushing until one of "Uncle Ted's" staffers mentioned that Bob Robertson covered it in his briefing to the Senator about the annual ARPA supported projects." Bob saw the big picture and although his nucleus was Anchorage, his dream was as big as all of Alaska.

Bob's spirit resides in the Spenard Rec Center. Perhaps only those of us who attended countless meetings, conferences, and events with Bob at the Center, can feel it, but it is there. It is long overdue that his name should be over the door! If you can believe in the Karma of a place, there is no doubt whose Karma resides in the Spenard Rec Center. I don't have many reasons to visit the center these days, but on my infrequent visits I still expect to see Bob coming in from the parking lot or standing in the doorway waving us in while he holds the door. The Robert O. Robertson Spenard Rec Center has a good ring to it and is a fitting tribute to a man who lived his life for the betterment of Anchorage and Alaska.



David G. Patterson  
Regional Public Use Specialist (retired)  
National Wildlife Refuges  
US Fish and Wildlife Service  
Alaska

3831 Furrow Creek Road  
Anchorage, Alaska 99516

September 3, 2014

To: Joey Caterinichio, Chair  
Parks and Recreation Commission  
632 West 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 840  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Patrick Flynn, Chair  
Anchorage Municipal Assembly  
632 West 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 250  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Subject: Naming of a Public Facility for Robert O. "Bob" Robertson

Dear Joey and Pat,

I am sure you and other members of the Assembly and Parks Commission know the great value Robert O. "Bob" Robertson brought to the Municipality of Anchorage. Bob was truly a superb public servant. In his 18 years of service as Parks and Recreation Director for the Municipality of Anchorage (1971 - 1989), he manifested the public's intent and vision with a sustained commitment to excellence. His work was central to the creation of the parks system that Anchorage enjoys today.

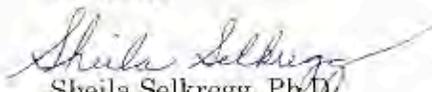
When Bob died at 84, less than two years ago, he was recognized throughout the community as a man of great integrity, and one of the last people in that generation of hardworking, creative professionals who chartered the foundation of our community. In his memory, and on behalf of the vast number of people who have and will enjoy our City's parks and recreational facilities, I urge the Anchorage Assembly to name a park or public facility in honor of the life and contributions of Robert O. "Bob" Robertson.

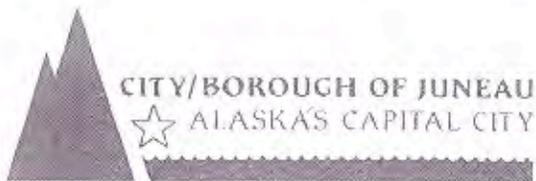
Like many other people in the community you may have heard from, I believe that the Spenard Recreation Center would be a great choice of a facility to honor Bob. The Center reflects his values and accomplishments. It is full of life and busy year round offering flexible space for community activities that are enjoyed by people of all ages, races and incomes.

If you find that there is reluctance to renaming or changing Spenard Recreation Center's name, it is my hope that the Assembly and Parks Commission will work together to initiate the process to select another appropriate park or community recreational facility to name in the memory of Robert O. "Bob" Robertson.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

  
Sheila Selkregg, Ph.D.  
307 W. 12 Ave.  
Anchorage Alaska 99501



**CITY & BOROUGH OF JUNEAU**

City Manager's Office  
155 S. Seward St., Juneau, AK 99801  
Phone: (907) 586-5240 Fax: (907) 586-5677  
Kim\_Kiefer@ci.juneau.ak.us

March 6, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

I encourage you to consider renaming the Spenard Recreation Center to the Robert O. Robertson Spenard Recreation Center. I am not a resident of the City of Anchorage but I had the pleasure of working with Bob for over 20 years as he served as the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Director and in a variety of roles for the Alaska Recreation and Park Association (ARPA).

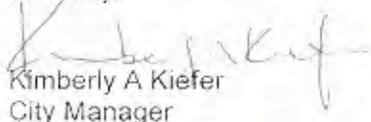
Bob's commitment to the Parks and Recreation profession are felt around the State of Alaska and beyond. Bob looked for any opportunity to share Anchorage with the world. As the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Director, Bob hosted the Pacific Rim Parks and Recreation Institute that brought Parks and Recreation professionals from Australia, Korea, Japan, Norway and many Western States to Anchorage. In addition to founding the Alaska Recreation and Parks Association and serving in a variety of roles, Bob also served on the National Recreation and Parks Association's Board of Trustees and the Citizen Board Branch. He continued in those roles after he retired from the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Department.

Bob served as a mentor for Parks and Recreation Directors and professionals throughout the State. As the Director of the largest department we would call him for advice and to discuss how to address the problem before us. He never missed an Alaska Recreation and Park Association State Conference and he always looked for ways to be involved with Regional and National Parks and Recreation Associations. His passion was Parks and Recreation and his touch is still felt throughout the State.

Bob had a special place in his heart for the Spenard Recreation Center. He was responsible for the design, construction, and operation of the Center. When Anchorage would host ARPA board meetings or special statewide trainings they were held in the Spenard Recreation Center. Alaskans from around the State know Spenard Recreation Center because of Bob Robertson.

I encourage you to rename the Spenard Recreation Center to Robert O. Robertson Spenard Recreation Center in recognition of his service to the citizens of Anchorage and the State of Alaska.

Sincerely,

  
Kimberly A Kiefer  
City Manager



# ALASKA RECREATION & PARK ASSOCIATION

PO Box 100161, Anchorage, AK 99510-0161

December 9, 2014

Ladies and Gentlemen;

It is with great enthusiasm and support that I write this letter regarding the re-naming of the Spenard Recreation Center in Anchorage to honor former Parks and Recreation Director Robert "Bob" Robertson.

I only had the opportunity to know Bob briefly, but as anyone who has ever met him knows, he leaves an impression no matter how long you knew him. Many of the support letters will talk about Bob's contributions to the Municipality of Anchorage, and those contributions are great. Much of the parks, paths and open spaces that your residents now enjoy are a direct result of the efforts of Bob Robertson.

I would like, however, to speak briefly on Bob's impact to parks and recreation throughout the state. I met Bob as a new P&R Director in Valdez in the early 2000's. Not only did his reputation precede him, but so did his accomplishments. With no more than a dozen contacts with him total, I considered him a mentor. It is not for honor's sake alone that we annually recognize one member of the Alaska Recreation and Park Association with the Bob Robertson Service Award. This highly prestigious award is in recognition of the tireless, selfless and oftentimes thankless efforts of Bob in everything he did. He is still, even after his passing, a big presence in our state organization. Whenever I think of the true role of a public servant, I think of Bob.

On behalf of the Alaska Recreation and Park Association Board of Directors, I can without hesitation say that I cannot think of any individual who is more deserving of this honor than Robert "Bob" Robertson. I urge each of you to act favorably on this action to honor Bob in such a significant way. I thank you for your time considering this.

Recreationally,

Michael A. Bork, President  
Alaska Recreation and Park Association  
FNSB Parks and Recreation Director

## James K. Barnett

---

10050 Prospect Drive  
Anchorage, AK 99507-5932  
Phone (907) 346-2755  
JBarnett@alaska.com

September 1, 2014

Ms. Nancy Beardsley  
13201 Reef Place  
Anchorage, Alaska 99515

Subject: Letter of Endorsement  
Bob Robertson Recognition

Dear Nancy:

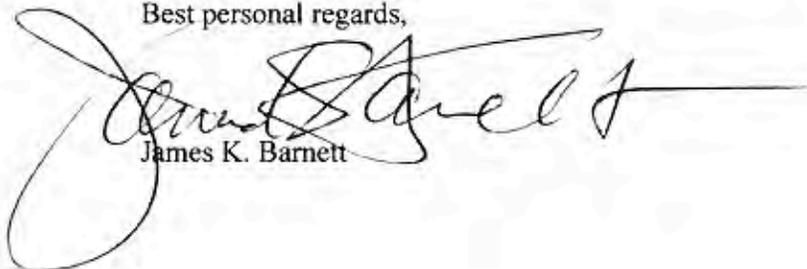
This letter is in response to your telephone call earlier this week about the idea of recognizing long time Anchorage Parks Director, Bob Robertson. As a member of the Anchorage Assembly during the time he served the Municipality, I wholly endorse your idea and hope that you and the Parks and Recreation Commission are successful in naming the Spenard Recreation Center or other appropriate facility after Bob.

As you know Bob was parks director for two decades in Anchorage and under his able leadership a number of new facilities were identified and added to the parks system in our community. This included many miles of running, cross country ski and bicycle trails, many parkland additions and, most importantly, the many recreational facilities that serve all members of the public throughout our community--including Spenard Recreation Center, Russian Jack Ski Chalet, Kincaid Outdoor Center, Service Swimming Pool, Fairview Recreation Center & renovation of former center, Anchorage Football Stadium and Fire Lake Recreation Center.

Bob was a leader in forming public private partnerships to keep our city moving forward and, in his spare time, found time to volunteer for the Boy Scouts, The Anchorage Senior Center, Anchorage Kids Day, and the Alaska Park & Recreation Association.

In this year of our community's centennial celebration, and in consideration of the Assembly's adoption of Resolution AR 2014-3, I can think of no more important, longtime resident of our community to honor with this important recognition.

Best personal regards,



James K. Barnett

December 1, 2014

To whom it may concern:

I would like to voice my support for renaming the Spenard Recreation Center after Mr. Robert Robertson, former Park and Recreation Director for the City of Anchorage.

I first met Bob as a Park and Recreation Professional at the Alaska Recreation and Parks Association annual conference in Fairbanks. I was immediately struck by the way he carried himself and the way he was regarded by other professionals. I quickly realized that this is someone I wanted to get to know and that this was someone who had a great deal to teach. Over the next several years I had occasions to speak with Bob, but usually found myself listening to what he had to say. He tempered everything he said with experience, common sense, and passion. Often I didn't realize how poignant his message was until much later. I don't believe I've ever met anybody who had all of these characteristics yet was as balanced as Bob was.

Having had the opportunity to know Bob for only a few years I consider myself lucky. I find myself wondering that if he were able to make such a lasting impression upon me in such a short period of time, how remarkable of an individual he must have been throughout his entire career. As a constituent of Anchorage I'm grateful for his vision and foresight. I often hear stories from people who worked in Anchorage and across the state with him to bring about many of the parks, playgrounds, and facilities that we are able to enjoy on a regular basis. I firmly believe that part of his soul rests with us here in these public places.

I do not recall anywhere else in the US that have I lived where so much was orchestrated by a cast of many, but with one conductor tying it all together. To honor his legacy, I strongly encourage you to vote to name the Spenard Recreation Center after Robert Robertson. Thank you for your time, consideration and service to our community.

Highest regards,



Jeff Dick, C.T.R.S.  
Past President, 2010 - 2012  
Alaska Recreation and Park Association

## Dwayne Adams

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**From:** Bob Auth <spenardcc@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 17, 2014 11:08 PM  
**To:** Dwayne Adams  
**Subject:** Re: January Meeting Agenda

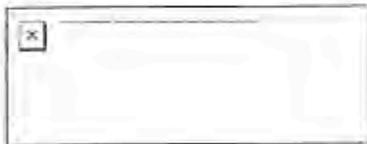
I will send you the relevant minutes, as I did not prepare a resolution. Bob

On Wednesday, December 17, 2014, Dwayne Adams <[wdadams@earthscapealaska.com](mailto:wdadams@earthscapealaska.com)> wrote:

Could you send copies of the resolution Bob, or some other indication of the council's action?

*Dwayne Adams*

*Landscape Architect*



---

**From:** Bob Auth <[spenardcc@gmail.com](mailto:spenardcc@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 16, 2014 11:12 PM  
**To:** Dwayne Adams  
**Subject:** Re: January Meeting Agenda

Dwayne, when you came to our June meeting, our Council took no action because you had contacted me too late to put the renaming issue on the agenda. We decided that the matter would be put on the agenda for the next meeting, in September, and that you would appear and discuss the renaming proposal. It was put on the agenda, and discussed, in September, although you did not appear. The Council voted unanimously to keep the Rec Center's current name. The minutes of that meeting reflect that our vice chair, Jason Bergerson, commented that he knew several people who were involved in the creation of the Spenard Rec Center, and he did not feel that Mr. Robertson had any special claim to the building.

Also, Tom McGrath added that the Council paid for the sign on the Rec Center when it was built in 1983, and that he and many others who were involved wanted very much for it to be named the Spenard Recreation Center.

In short, there is no support in the Council to renaming the Spenard Recreation Center. Unless you can give me some new information that you would be able to present, I do not think it would be worthwhile to bring it up again.

On Tue, Dec 16, 2014 at 10:06 AM, Dwayne Adams <[wdadams@earthscapealaska.com](mailto:wdadams@earthscapealaska.com)> wrote:

Bob,

Could you confirm that we will be on the January Spenard CC agenda?

Thanks

Dwayne

---

**From:** Dwayne Adams  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 10, 2014 2:00 PM  
**To:** [Spenardcc@gmail.com](mailto:Spenardcc@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** January Meeting Agenda

Bob,

I presented information regarding Bob Robertson and possible naming opportunities back in June of last year. Could our committee get on the agenda for January to make a presentation and ask for a formal motion from the community council regarding the naming of the Spenard Recreation Center as the "Bob Robertson Spenard Recreation Center", as has been requested by numbers of community members, or some other alternative?

Thanks

Dwayne Adams

—  
Bob Auth, Chair  
Spenard Community Council  
1057 West Fireweed Lane  
Suite 100  
Anchorage, Alaska 99503  
[spenardcc@gmail.com](mailto:spenardcc@gmail.com)  
248-0258 Home  
222-3878 Fax

Bob Auth, Chair  
Spennard Community Council  
1057 West Fireweed Lane  
Suite 100  
Anchorage, Alaska 99503  
[spennardcc@gmail.com](mailto:spennardcc@gmail.com)  
248-0258 Home  
222-3878 Fax

*Helen Clough  
1765 Mendenhall Peninsula Road  
Juneau, AK 99801*

*February 15, 2015*

*Dear Anchorage Assembly Members:*

*It is with great pleasure I write to recommend that you  
rename the Spenard Recreation Center the Robert O.  
Robertson Spenard Recreation Center in honor of former  
Anchorage Parks and Recreation Director Bob*

Robertson. I first met Bob I joined the Alaska Recreation and Park Association in the early 1990s. Many others have spelled out all Bob accomplished for parks and recreation in Anchorage. I would like to offer a state-wide perspective. While never formally a resident of Anchorage, I have spent a lot of time in your fair city.

My favorite part of Anchorage is the wonderful parks and other recreation facilities available to residents and visitors alike. I knew Bob for many years before I discovered how many of these places are there for all to enjoy because of Bob. He was a humble man and a

wonderful friend and mentor to many in parks and recreation throughout Alaska and the U.S.

For years after he retired, Bob continued to work tirelessly in the parks and recreation field serving as the founder and unpaid, unofficial executive director, of the Alaska Recreation and Park Association. He also held many positions in the National Recreation and Park Association – always advocating for Anchorage, Alaska, and parks and recreation – for all the good they provide our citizens and visitors, especially the youth of Anchorage.

*Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and I  
hope you will honor Bob's memory with the Robert O.  
Robertson Spenard Recreation Center.*

*Sincerely,*

*Helen Clough*

## Alan H. Meiners

4723 N Willamette Blvd  
Portland, OR 97203  
907 276-5187  
endlesssummer02@gmail.com

February 23, 2015

Nancy and Steve Beardsley  
13201 Reef Place  
Anchorage, AK 99515

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Dear Nancy and Steve,

I support the proposal to rename the Spenard Recreation Center the Robert O. Robertson - Spenard Recreation Center. This new name will honor the many years of service that Bob Robertson gave to the people of Anchorage.

I moved to Anchorage in 1976 and worked for the Alaska Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation for 26 years. I had many opportunities to observe Bob Robertson's efforts to improve park and recreation services for the people of Anchorage. He also served a much larger recreating public through his work with the Alaska Recreation and Park Association and the National Recreation and Park Association.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alan H. Meiners". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Alan "Al" H. Meiners

From: **Karl Kassel** [kanoe907@icloud.com](mailto:kanoe907@icloud.com)  
Subject: Bob Robertson  
Date: February 16, 2015 at 4:10 PM  
To: [beardsleysn@al.net](mailto:beardsleysn@al.net)  
Cc: **Jack & Rosemary Mosby** [jrmosby@alaskalife.net](mailto:jrmosby@alaskalife.net)

Hello Nancy and Steve,

I had the distinct honor and privilege of working with Bob Robertson later in his career. I was employed by the Fairbanks North Star Borough's Parks and Recreation Department from 1988 through 2008, and worked with Bob mostly through his involvement with the Alaska Recreation and Parks Association (ARPA).

As you know, Bob was a founding member and the first president of ARPA, but he was really so much more than that. Everyone in the profession statewide looked to Bob as the "Father of Parks and Recreation" for the entire state of Alaska. He had great vision for what needed to be done, and he was tireless in finding ways to accomplish his visions. He was always eager to lend a hand to a newcomer, and provide knowledge, wisdom and support. He did so with me, and many others across the state and nationally. Bob was a true asset for his profession far beyond the boundaries of Anchorage. He had a passion for parks and recreation that was obvious, and he used his enthusiasm to motivate others.

I am a better person for having worked with Bob. While I am no longer the Parks and Recreation Director for the FNSB, I currently serve as the Presiding Officer of the FNSB Assembly. Lessons learned from Bob have helped me perform my current duties, and have made me a better public servant. As the positive effects of Bob's life continue to ripple across Alaska, I can think of no better way to recognize his contributions than to add his name to the Spenard Recreation Center. It is appropriate and fitting to try and remember long term those who have given so much for the benefit of others. Robert "Bob" Robertson absolutely was such a man.

Thank you,

Karl W Kassel  
Presiding Officer, FNSB Assembly

TO: Patrick Flynn, Chairman of the Anchorage Assembly  
RE: Naming of Spenard Recreation Center for Robert O. Robertson  
DATE: December 5, 2014

It is with much enthusiasm that we write this letter of support to re-name the Spenard Recreation Center in honor of Mr. Robert O. Robertson.

Robert O. "Bob" Robertson, served as the Parks and Recreation Director for the City of Anchorage/Municipality of Anchorage from 1972-1998. Mr. Robertson passed away in 2013, but his legacy to Anchorage will live on forever.

The Anchorage park system, including its neighborhood recreation centers, is the foundation for the high quality of life that the citizens of Anchorage currently enjoy. No person is more responsible for this system than Mr. Robert O. Robertson. His leadership and foresight during Anchorage's fast-growing years of the 70s-80s, are the reasons the citizens living in Anchorage today have access to outstanding parks, trails, open space and recreation facilities. His thoughtful planning for the future, ability to develop and foster cooperative partnerships, and his years of diligent work to secure public and private funds for Anchorage's park and recreation system, ensured that Alaska's largest city would have the key elements needed to support its citizens for decades to come.

Thanks to the efforts of Mr. Robertson, Anchorage is blessed with world-class parks and recreation facilities. It is easy to see the importance these facilities play in the life and economy of Anchorage!

In addition to his contributions to the City's parks and recreation system, Mr. Robertson volunteered his time and many skills to numerous Anchorage organizations during both his professional and retirement years. These included the Boy Scouts of America, the Anchorage Senior Citizens Center, the Anchorage Kids Day program and the ARCO Jesse Owens program.

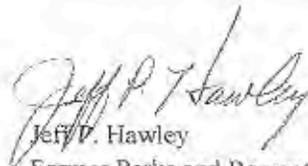
It was our honor to know Mr. Robertson as a fellow Parks and Recreation professional, mentor and friend for more than 25 years. He taught us, and many others, the value that open space, parks, trails, arts and recreation facilities bring to the livability, health and economy of a community. Above all, he taught us the importance of public service and commitment to our communities.

We urge the Anchorage Assembly to whole-heartedly support the re-naming of the Spenard Recreation Center in honor of the father of Anchorage's park system, Mr. Robert O. Robertson!

Sincerely,



Nancy M. Peterson  
Former Parks and Recreation Director  
City of Valdez



Jeff P. Hawley  
Former Parks and Recreation Director  
City of Cordova and City of Unalaska

P. O. Box 233271  
Anchorage, AK 99523

March 25, 2015

Assembly Chair and Members  
Municipality of Anchorage  
P O Box 196650  
Anchorage, AK 99519

Dear Assembly Chair and Members:

Thank you for considering the naming of the community recreation center in Spenard the "Robert O. Robertson Spenard Recreation Center." Robert "Bob" O. Robertson spent his career and his retirement supporting parks and recreation programs for this community and I believe that it is fitting that this prominent building within the Parks and Recreation system bear his name.

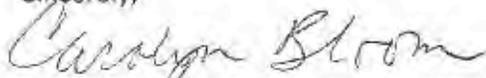
If Bob's name is unfamiliar to you, perhaps it is because he didn't call attention to himself as he went about his work, allowing others to take the credit for the accomplishments that he quietly but effectively orchestrated. In the 70's and 80's, as the Parks and Recreation Director, Bob brilliantly guided the community of Anchorage through the fastest expansion of the parks and recreation facilities in this city's history. Working with community councils, parks and recreation boards and commissions, numerous ad hoc committees, local assembly members, state legislators, the general public, and sports and recreation organizations, Anchorage was rapidly transformed with the acquisition of properties for parks and greenbelts, the development of recreation and sports programs and the construction of the facilities to support them.

It was my privilege to work under Bob's direction in the Municipal Parks and Recreation Department. His department was well organized and expertly run. Bob was completely dedicated to the success of the department. After his normal work day, he could be found attending and participating in numerous community recreation events—Announcer for Jesse Owens Track Meets, Judge for Summer Playground and Summer Camp Family Night Skits, Coach for Little League, Organizer for Kids' Day and Boy Scouts to name a few.

After retiring from his paying job with the Municipality, Bob continued to work to promote parks and recreation in Anchorage, in Alaska, and at the national level. He was well known and respected throughout the country for his support and furtherance of parks and recreation programs. His life after retirement was a perfect example of a citizen "giving back" to the community.

Anchorage citizens should be proud of their park system, proud to have had Bob at the helm, and be proud to call him one of our own. It is appropriate that the recreation center be named after Bob so that his name is remembered and honored by this community.

Sincerely,

  
Carolyn Bloom