

Submitted by: Chair of the Assembly at the  
Request of the Mayor  
Prepared by: Mayor's Office  
For reading: May 1, 2007

*See AR 2007-159*

Anchorage, Alaska  
AR 2007- 116

**A RESOLUTION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE RENAMING TOWN SQUARE  
PARK AS "RUTH MOULTON TOWN SQUARE PARK".**

WHEREAS, the Public Facilities Advisory Commission (PFAC) receives and reviews requests for naming a municipal public place, excluding Anchorage School District buildings and facilities (AMC 3.97.010); and

WHEREAS, the PFAC received a request from the Anchorage Municipal Assembly, AR 2006-330, to "designate Anchorage's Town Square or a significant integral feature thereof" in memory of Ruth Moulton; and

WHEREAS, the untimely passing of Ruth Moulton on November 17, 2006 led the Assembly and community members to seek a method of commemorating her life and many contributions to the community of Anchorage; and

WHEREAS, Ruth Moulton was born in 1931 in Portland, Maine and grew up on the family apple orchard in Sebago Lake Village along with her two sisters and brother; and

WHEREAS, Ruth visited Alaska in 1959 and returned to stay in 1960, teaching high school English, history, and social studies, as well as working for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and numerous other jobs such as taxi driver, secretary, and researcher; and

WHEREAS, Ruth was a faithful member of the Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship and a longtime resident of the Fairview community, where she lived the "town meeting philosophy" and served as a tireless neighborhood advocate, as engrained in her New England upbringing; and

WHEREAS, all of Anchorage has benefited from Ruth Moulton's tireless advocacy for parks, trails, gardens, and her Fairview neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, Ruth's singular and long term efforts championing the creation and protection of Town Square Park through use of the initiative process, community advocacy and organization, and legal means have left a legacy for future generations; and

WHEREAS, Ruth was the linchpin in the creation of Town Square Park, and the Park has become the symbolic heart of the city of Anchorage due to its functional public space for recreation, ceremony, and civic functions; and

WHEREAS, the PFAC is required to solicit potential names from the community, including community councils and cultural organizations for each public place under consideration (AMC 3.97.030); and

1 WHEREAS, the PFAC completed a solicitation of recommendations for naming part or all of Town  
2 Square Park by formal advertisement in the Municipal page of the Anchorage Daily News and requests to  
3 affected community councils; and  
4

5 WHEREAS, the PFAC received 28 responses to support naming all of Town Square Park in honor of  
6 Ruth Moulton and only one opposed; and  
7

8 WHEREAS, 16 Community Councils, including both Downtown and South Addition, passed resolutions  
9 supporting naming all of Town Square Park in honor of Ruth Moulton; and  
10

11 WHEREAS, the PFAC is required to also solicit a recommendation from the Parks and Recreation  
12 Commission if the public place is a park, trail or recreation facility (AMC 3.97.030); and  
13

14 WHEREAS, the Parks and Recreation Commission voted unanimously at its March 8, 2007 meeting in  
15 support of the proposal to name all of Town Square Park to commemorate Ruth Moulton; and  
16

17 WHEREAS, the PFAC heard public testimony in support of naming all of Town Square Park for Ruth  
18 Moulton and received no testimony in support of naming a part or feature of the park for Ms. Moulton;  
19 and  
20

21 WHEREAS, the PFAC finds the name, "Ruth Moulton Town Square Park" to be consistent with the  
22 municipal naming policy as described in AMC 3.97, and in particular finds the request to satisfy 3.97.020  
23 B 1&2 and 3.97.025 B 2-4; and  
24

25 WHEREAS, consistent with its internal practice on naming requests, the PFAC notes that those in favor  
26 of this naming request have the capability and made a commitment to working with the Municipality to  
27 ensure proper signs reflect the new name of and historical information relating to the Park; and  
28

29 WHEREAS, the PFAC voted unanimously at its March 28, 2007 meeting to support the proposal to name  
30 all of Town Square Park in honor of Ruth Moulton;  
31

32 **THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY RESOLVES:**  
33

34 **Section 1:** That Town Square Park shall be renamed "Ruth Moulton Town Square Park."  
35

36 **Section 2:** That this Resolution shall become effective immediately upon passage and approval by the  
37 Anchorage Assembly.  
38

39 PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Assembly this day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2007.  
40  
41

42 \_\_\_\_\_  
43 Chair

44 ATTEST:  
45  
46  
47 \_\_\_\_\_  
48 Municipal Clerk

**Public Facilities Advisory Commission**

**Resolution 2007-03**

**A Resolution of the Public Facilities Advisory Commission Recommending Assembly  
Action to Name Town Square Park in Honor of Ruth Moulton**

WHEREAS, the Public Facilities Advisory Commission (PFAC) receives and reviews requests for naming a municipal public place, excluding Anchorage School District buildings and facilities (AMC 3 97.010); and

WHEREAS, the PFAC received a request from the Anchorage Municipal Assembly, AR 2006-330, to “designate Anchorage’s Town Square or a significant integral feature thereof” in memory of Ruth Moulton; and

WHEREAS, the untimely passing of Ruth Moulton on November 17, 2006 led the Assembly and community members to seek a method of commemorating her life and many contributions to the community of Anchorage; and

WHEREAS, Ruth Moulton was born in 1931 in Portland, Maine and grew up on the family apple orchard in Sebago Lake Village along with her two sisters and brother; and

WHEREAS, Ruth visited Alaska in 1959 and returned to stay in 1960, teaching high school English, history, and social studies, as well as working for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and numerous other jobs such as taxi driver, secretary, and researcher; and

WHEREAS, Ruth was a faithful member of the Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship and a longtime resident of the Fairview community, where she lived the “town meeting philosophy” and served as a tireless neighborhood advocate, as engrained in her New England upbringing; and

WHEREAS, all of Anchorage has benefited from Ruth Moulton’s tireless advocacy for parks, trails, gardens, and her Fairview neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, Ruth’s singular and long term efforts championing the creation and protection of Town Square Park through use of the initiative process, community advocacy and organization, and legal means have left a legacy for future generations; and

WHEREAS, Ruth was the linchpin in the creation of Town Square Park, and the Park has become the symbolic heart of the city of Anchorage due to its functional public space for recreation, ceremony, and civic functions; and

WHEREAS, the PFAC is required to solicit potential names from the community, including community councils and cultural organizations for each public place under consideration (AMC 3 97.030); and

WHEREAS, the PFAC completed a solicitation of recommendations for naming part or all of Town Square Park by formal advertisement in the Municipal page of the Anchorage Daily News and requests to affected community councils; and

WHEREAS, the PFAC received 28 responses to support naming all of Town Square Park in honor of Ruth Moulton and only one opposed; and

WHEREAS, 16 Community Councils, including both Downtown and South Addition, passed resolutions supporting naming all of Town Square Park in honor of Ruth Moulton; and

WHEREAS, the PFAC is required to also solicit a recommendation from the Parks and Recreation Commission if the public place is a park, trail or recreation facility (AMC 3.97.030); and

WHEREAS, the Parks and Recreation Commission voted unanimously at its March 8, 2007 meeting in support of the proposal to name all of Town Square Park to commemorate Ruth Moulton; and

WHEREAS, the PFAC heard public testimony in support of naming all of Town Square Park for Ruth Moulton and received no testimony in support of naming a part or feature of the park for Ms Moulton; and

WHEREAS, the PFAC finds the name, "Ruth Moulton Town Square Park" to be consistent with the municipal naming policy as described in AMC 3.97, and in particular finds the request to satisfy 3 97 020 B 1&2 and 3 97 025 B 2-4; and

WHEREAS, consistent with its internal practice on naming requests, the PFAC notes that those in favor of this naming request have the capability and made a commitment to working with the Municipality to ensure proper signs reflect the new name of and historical information relating to the Park; and

WHEREAS, the PFAC voted unanimously at its March 28, 2007 meeting to support the proposal to name all of Town Square Park in honor of Ruth Moulton;

**Now Therefore the Public Facilities Advisory Commission Resolves to Recommend that the Anchorage Municipal Assembly Approve Renaming Town Square Park as "Ruth Moulton Town Square Park."**

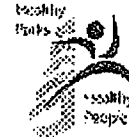


Chair

Public Facilities Advisory Commission



**MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE**  
**PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION**  
**RESOLUTION**



**Resolution No. 2007-12**  
**Naming Town Square Park to Commemorate Ruth Moulton**

WHEREAS the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission serves in an advisory capacity to both the Mayor and the Assembly, and

WHEREAS, the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission has the responsibility and duty to provide for the long term vision of our park system by ensuring that a balance of parks, natural resources, and recreation facilities provides for the health, welfare, and safety of all residents of the Anchorage Bowl, and

WHEREAS, the Public Facilities Advisory Commission referred to the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission a proposal to rename Town Square Park or portion thereof after Ruth Moulton and

WHEREAS, the Anchorage Assembly at its December 19, 2006, meeting passed AR 2006-330 in part recommending designation of Anchorage's Town Square or a significant integral feature thereof in memory of Ruth Moulton; and

WHEREAS, the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission recognizes Ruth Moulton as a person who, through exemplary and substantial effort in the establishment and permanent protection of Anchorage's Town Square Park, has made a significant and enduring contribution to the community; and

WHEREAS, the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission recognizes the historical significance of existing names of the Municipality's public facilities and the meaning imparted by a name's geographical relationship to the community, and further recognizes that Town Square Park carries distinctions by being both the civic heart and the geographic center of Downtown Anchorage; and


WHEREAS, the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission believes that the re-naming of Town Square Park to the Ruth Moulton Town Square Park would acknowledge her stature and at the same time honor tradition; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission recommends that Town Square Park be renamed and hereafter known as Ruth Moulton Town Square Park with the appropriate plaque describing the history of her many contributions to the Town Square Park and Anchorage and the model she set for good citizenship,

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission this 8<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2007.

  
Victor Molozzi Chair  
Parks and Recreation Commission

ATTEST:

  
Jeff Dillon, Executive Secretary  
Parks & Recreation Commission



# Municipality of Anchorage

P.O. Box 196650 • Anchorage, Alaska 99519-6650 • Telephone: (907) 343-4431 • Fax: (907) 343-4499 <http://www.muni.org>

*Mayor Mark Begich*

Office of the Mayor

TO: Mr. Bernard Washington  
Chair, Public Facilities Advisory Commission

FROM: Leslie Ridle  
Mayor's Office

DATE: March 22, 2007

RE: Town Square Park

Attached are items for your March 28, 2007, meeting regarding the re-naming Town Square Park. We received numerous requests to rename Town Square Park after Ruth Moulton. We did not receive any requests for other options.

In addition, the Parks and Recreation Commission voted unanimously to support the naming.

I summarized the list of community councils that sent in supportive resolutions and included the emails and letters we received.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 343-7115.

Thank you.

*Community, Security, Prosperity*

Town Square Naming  
Supporters of Ruth Moulton Town Square Park

Community Councils		
Airport Heights		
Campbell Park		
Chugiak		
Downtown		
Eagle River		
Government Hill		
Mountain View		
Rabbit Creek		
Rogers Park		
Russian Jack		
Scenic Foothills		
South Addition		
South Fork		
Spenard		
Turnagain		
University Area		
First	Last	Form
Ron	Anderson	Letter
Keith	Appel	Email
Dorothy	Ashton-Zappa	Email
John	Blaine	Letter
Louise	Colbert	Email
Ralph and Susanne	Comellas	Email
Jeanne	Devon	Email
Joan	Diamond	Letter
Shirley	Dickens	Email
Stan and Jeanne	Fischer	Email
Barbara	Garner	Email
Richard and Averill	Gay	Email
Bob	Gill	Email
Elaine	Hammes	Email
Walter	Hickel	Letter
Dianne	Holmes	Email
Bill	Jamison	Email
Francine	Lastufka-Taylor	Email
Robyn	Lauster	Email
Star	Lee	Email
Yvonne	Lindbloom	Letter
Wayne	Mergler	Email
Helen	Nienhauser	Email
Joe	Ryan	Email
Mary	Spalding	Email
John	Vezina	Email
Pat	Vezina	Email
Tom	Webster	Email
Anchorage Unitarian Fellowship		Letter
Against		
Katie	Nolan	Email

Walter J. Hickel

Box 101700  
Anchorage, Alaska 99510-1700  
Telephone 907-343-2400  
Fax 907-343-2211  
Email wjhickel@gci.net

February 5, 2007

The Honorable Mark Begich  
Mayor of Anchorage  
P.O. Box 196650  
Anchorage, AK 99519

Dear Mayor Begich:

Ruth Moulton was a formidable advocate who utilized the public process at every turn for the good of our city. Of her many contributions, Town Square Park, the beautiful heart of our vibrant city center, stands as her greatest legacy. It would not exist today if this one determined, brave woman hadn't persisted in the face of great opposition.

Today Town Square Park with its gorgeous flowers in the summer and ice rink and carvings in the winter defines Anchorage's unique downtown character. We, as a community, owe Ruth a debt of gratitude.

Nothing short of a name change to Ruth Moulton Town Square would do justice to the magnitude of her contribution. Please join in support of this effort.

Sincerely,



Walter J. Hickel

Copies to:

Assembly Members (Allan Tesche, Bill Starr, Debbie Ossiander, Pamela Jennings, Dan Sullivan, Dan Coffey, Dick Traini, Ken Stout, Paul Bauer, Chris Birch, Janice Shamberg)  
Mr. Bernard Washington, Public Facilities Advisory Commission

RECEIVED  
FEB 06 2007

RECEIVED  
FEB 06 2007

Mayor's Office



December 5, 2006

The Hon. Mark Begich --  
Mayor  
Municipality of Anchorage  
PO Box 196650  
Anchorage, AK 99519

Dear Mayor Begich:

The recent letter to the editor by Charles Wohlforth in the Anchorage Daily News speaks for a large and growing number of people who would honor the contribution of Ruth Moulton to the Anchorage Community by renaming Town Square.

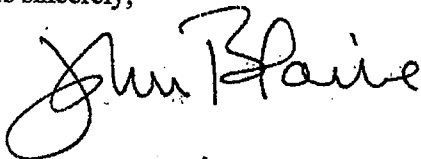
We ask that we be invited to participate in whatever process you suggest which might lead to that end.

We appreciate the fact that you invited Ruth to several meetings regarding preparation for other changes soon coming to Town Square. We hope you will continue to involve those whom Ruth invited to join her at your meetings, including John Blaine, Ron and Jeannie Devon and Ron Andersen.

Please contact John Blaine, her executor, at 2200 Susitna Drive, Anchorage, AK 99517; cell 229-8050 or home 248-3219. He will keep us informed of the process and will bring two or three of us to whatever meetings you propose.

Thank you again for your kind words about Ruth at her death, and for your respect for her and for what she stood for in her life.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Blaine". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the "Yours sincerely," line.

12/5/2006



Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

3201 Turnagain St., Anchorage, AK 99517

Phone: (907) 248-3737

FAX: (907) 743-6987

Email: [anchorageuuf@alaska.com](mailto:anchorageuuf@alaska.com)

Web site: [www.anchorageuuf.org](http://www.anchorageuuf.org)

The Rev. Frances Dearman, Minister

Rosene Beachy, Director of Lifespan Religious Exploration

Micaela Dover, Administrator

January 15, 2007

The Hon. Mark Begich, Mayor  
Municipality of Anchorage  
P.O. Box 196650  
Anchorage, AK 99519

Dear Mayor Begich,

We, the members of the AUUF Board of Directors, in appreciation for her leadership, initiative, and years of passionate dedication to the creation of Town Square Park, request that the park be renamed Ruth Moulton Town Square. We believe that the renaming of the park in her honor will serve as an enduring reminder to the city of what one individual can accomplish when fully utilizing her energy and passion as a concerned citizen.

We are proud to claim Ruth Moulton as a long-term and active member of our own community. She demonstrated in every aspect of her life the power of persistence, public process, and civic activism. Please count us among the many people of Anchorage who support the renaming effort.

Sincerely,

Ken Winterberger, Chair  
AUUF Board of Directors

RECEIVED  
JAN 22 2007

*Mayor's Office*

# Anchorage Assembly



Dan Sullivan, Chair  
Debbie Ossiander, Vice Chair  
Paul Bauer  
Chris Birch  
Dan Coffey

Pamela Jennings  
Janice Shamberg  
Ken Stout  
Allan Tesche  
Dick Traini

Anna Fairclough

---

## Municipality of Anchorage

December 28, 2006,

To the Honorable Mayor Mark Begich:

On December 19, 2006, the Anchorage Assembly unanimously passed AR 2006-330, resolving to honor and remember Anchorage citizen Ruth Moulton by submitting her name to the Public Facilities Advisory Commission and the Parks and Recreation Commission with a recommendation to designate Anchorage's Town Square or a significant integral feature within the Town Square in her memory under the provisions of AMC Chapter 3.97 for naming public places.

The Anchorage Assembly respectfully requests that you submit the resolution to the Public Facilities Advisory Commission for their consideration under the policy, criteria and procedural guidelines of this chapter. This request is the first submission since the passage of AO 2006-151(S) on June 20, 2006. Sponsored by Assemblymember Paul Bauer and approved by a majority vote of 7-2, the Anchorage Assembly is mindful that the attached ordinance sets out newly applicable procedures and criteria. The rationale for the legislation is more specifically outlined in the accompanying Assembly Memorandums AM 184-2006 and AM 445-2006 in support of the ordinance. A glimpse of Ruth's life and contributions is included in the packet. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

Dick Traini  
Janice Shamberg  
Allan Tesche  
Paul Bauer  
Chris Birch  
Dan Coffey  
Anna Fairclough  
Pamela Jennings  
Debbie Ossiander  
Dan Sullivan  
Ken Stout

Enclosures

cc: Assemblymembers  
Barbara Gruenstein, Municipal Clerk

RECEIVED  
DEC 29 2006

*Mayor's Office*

Submitted by: Assemblymembers TRAINI, SHAMBERG,  
TESCHE, Bauer, Birch, Coffey, Fairclough, Jennings,  
Ossiander, Sullivan, and Stout,  
Prepared by: Assembly Counsel  
For reading: December 19, 2006

CLERK'S OFFICE

APPROVED

Date: 12-19-06

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

AR NO. 2006-330

1 A RESOLUTION OF THE ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY REMEMBERING THE  
2 LIFE AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF RUTH MOULTON TO THE CITY OF ANCHORAGE AND  
3 REQUESTING THAT HER NAME BE SUBMITTED TO THE PUBLIC FACILITIES  
4 ADVISORY COMMISSION WITH A RECOMMENDATION TO DESIGNATE  
5 ANCHORAGE'S TOWN SQUARE OR A SIGNIFICANT INTEGRAL FEATURE THEREOF  
6 IN HER MEMORY.

7  
8 WHEREAS, Anchorage has lost one of its finest citizens with the unexpected passing of Ruth  
9 on November 17, 2006, leaving her brother Willard, sister Leah, and nieces and nephews of  
10 several generations; and

11  
12 WHEREAS, Ruth Moulton was born in 1931 in Portland, Maine, and grew up in the family  
13 apple orchard in Sebago Lake Village along with her two sisters and brother; and

14  
15 WHEREAS, as a young girl, Ruth Moulton read Jack London's CALL OF THE WILD and took off  
16 on her own adventure with her dog, only to be retrieved by her grandfather; and

17  
18 WHEREAS, Ruth visited Alaska in 1959 and returned to stay in 1960, teaching high school  
19 English, history and social studies, as well as working for the Alaska Department of Fish and  
20 Game and numerous other jobs such as taxi driver, secretary, and researcher; and

21  
22 WHEREAS, Ruth was a faithful member of the Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship;  
23 and a longtime resident of the Fairview community, where she "lived the town meeting  
24 philosophy" engrained in her New England upbringing as a tireless neighborhood advocate;

25  
26 WHEREAS, Ruth's real love was being in the natural world out-of-doors, and she was an  
27 environmentalist long before the word became a label; and

28  
29 WHEREAS, throughout her life, Ruth was an avid and accomplished athlete, hiking, climbing,  
30 biking, skiing and walking -- from Mount Kilimanjaro to the Tony Knowles Coastal Trail, she  
31 crossed the Chilkoot Pass three times and was planning another trek even as her health  
32 waned; and

33  
34 WHEREAS, Ruth left her mark on everything she was determined to accomplish with her  
35 vocal and steady civic presence, an unwavering, principled community activist who worked  
36 twenty-five years through elections and lawsuits to help bring the Town Square project to  
37 fruition; and

38  
39 WHEREAS, Ruth was a founding member of Friends of Neighborhoods in the 1990s and  
40 mastered the use of the initiative petition; and

1  
2 WHEREAS, legend has it that it took Ruth only one hour and a clipboard on a public street to  
3 convince a former mayor to abandon plans for a road through Town Square shortly after the  
4 Performing Arts Center was built; and

5  
6 WHEREAS, in the regular election of October 2, 1984, Ruth Moulton's Initiative Proposition 1  
7 successfully amended the Anchorage Charter to incorporate ARTICLE XX. BLOCK 51, TOWN  
8 SQUARE DEDICATION, to dedicate Block 51 of the Original Townsite of Anchorage as a town  
9 square park providing open space in the downtown city center; and

10  
11 WHEREAS, under the policy and criteria guidelines of AMC 3.97, by virtue of Ruth Moulton's  
12 special efforts, accomplishments and contributions, especially her many years working to  
13 make Town Square a reality, she has achieved public status worthy of long-term recognition;  
14 and

15  
16 WHEREAS, to honor Ruth Moulton and the municipality by naming the town square plaza or  
17 other integral town square area appropriately serves to recognize this exceptional citizen and  
18 meet the policy and criteria;

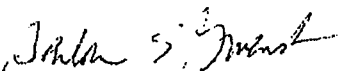
19  
20 NOW, THEREFORE, the Anchorage Assembly resolves:

21  
22 To honor and remember Ruth Moulton by submitting her name to the Public  
23 Facilities Advisory Commission and Parks and Recreation Commission with a  
24 recommendation to designate Anchorage's Town Square or a significant  
25 integral feature within the Town Square in her memory

26  
27 PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Assembly this 17th day of  
28 December, 2006

29  
30  
31  
32   
33 Chair

34  
35 ATTEST:

36  
37  
38   
39 Municipal Clerk

**ARTICLE XX. BLOCK 51, TOWN SQUARE DEDICATION**

**Section 20.01. [Dedication of land.]**

That portion of Block 51 of the Original Townsite of Anchorage which is at the effective date of this Charter amendment owned by the Municipality of Anchorage, or thereafter acquired by the Municipality of Anchorage, is hereby dedicated for use as a town square park providing open space in the downtown city center.

(Initiative, prop. 1, 10-2-84)

REGULAR ELECTION  
OCTOBER 2, 1984

B

MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE

B

# SAMPLE BALLOT

MUNICIPAL OFFICIAL BALLOT B  
REGULAR ELECTION  
OCTOBER 2, 1984

## MUNICIPAL OFFICIAL BALLOT B

### PROPOSITION 1 CHARTER AMENDMENT— TOWN SQUARE DEDICATION

The Home Rule Charter for the Municipality of Anchorage, Alaska, is hereby amended by the addition of Article XX which shall provide as follows:

#### ARTICLE XX.

##### Block 51. TOWN SQUARE DEDICATION

Section 20.01. That portion of Block 51 of the Original Townsite of Anchorage which is at the effective date of this Charter amendment owned by the Municipality of Anchorage, or thereafter acquired by the Municipality of Anchorage, is hereby dedicated for use as a town square park providing open space in the downtown City center.

Section 20.02. No buildings may be placed, erected, or retained on the lands hereby dedicated, except that any buildings existing thereon at the effective date of this Charter amendment which have been, or shall be, designated as historic sites by an authorized authority of the Municipality of Anchorage may be retained, maintained and restored for exclusive use in a manner consistent with the dedication.

Section 20.03. Underground uses of the lands hereby dedicated shall be permitted if, and only if, such uses are determined by the Anchorage Planning and Zoning Commission and the Municipal Assembly to be consistent with the dedication, and if such underground uses do not cause the grade of the town square to be above or below street level.

Section 20.04. If any part of this Charter amendment shall be declared to be invalid the remaining portions shall remain in full force and effect. If this Charter amendment shall be found to be invalid as to a portion of the lands covered, it shall remain in full force and effect as to other lands.

YES +  
NO +

TURN THIS  
CARD OVER

VOTE BOTH SIDES

I HAVE VOTED



HAVE YOU?

### PROPOSITION 2 ADVISORY ELECTION ON THE DISPOSAL OF PUBLIC LANDS

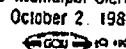
Shall the following described public lands be deposited by the Municipality of Anchorage in the Heritage Land Bank for retention or future disposal?

Lands generally situated within the vicinity of 8th and L Streets and more specifically described as Lots 7A, 8A and 9A of Block 84, Anchorage Original Townsite, according to the Plat No 76-30, Anchorage Recording District, Third Judicial District, State of Alaska.

A YES vote will recommend that the Municipality deposit the above parcels to be held for parking and/or possible expansion of municipal facilities or other public purposes in the Heritage Land Bank; a NO vote will advise the Municipality to dispose of the property at a competitive public sale (AR 84-220)

YES +  
NO +

*Ruby E. Smith*  
Municipal Clerk  
October 2, 1984



VOTE BOTH SIDES

**Municipality  
of  
Anchorage**



OFFICE OF THE CLERK

POUCH 6-650  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99502-0650  
(907) 264-4311

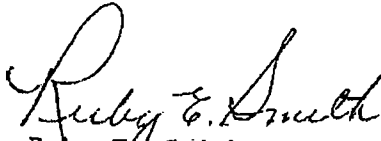
July 20, 1984

Ms. Ruth Moulton  
120 W. 11th Avenue  
Anchorage, AK 99501

Dear Ms. Moulton:

The petition that was submitted to this office on July 11, 1984 for a ballot proposition amending the charter by adding Article XX, Block 51, Town Square Dedication has been checked and found to have sufficient signatures to place the question on the October 2, 1984 Regular Election ballot.

Sincerely,

  
Ruby E. Smith  
Municipal Clerk

RES/jmf



# adn.com

Anchorage Daily News

Print Page

Close Window

## Ruth Moulton was a rock until the end

**COMMUNITY ACTIVIST: Cancer silences active Anchorage woman.**

By ROSEMARY SHINOHARA

Anchorage Daily News

(Published: November 18, 2006)

Ruth Moulton drove to a friend's house Thursday night and participated in a discussion about the universe.

Earlier in the day, she'd been working on a letter to the editor about a situation on Westchester Lagoon she wasn't happy with.

An activist to the end.

A friend found her dead Friday morning at home. She was 75 and had cancer.

Among other community projects, Moulton sued and petitioned the city for the creation of Town Square, fought for the survival of Fairview as a safe neighborhood, and argued against programs she believed helped street drunks roam the streets. A straight-talking, persistent New Englander, she made a mark on Anchorage in a way that few of its citizens have.

Her latest battle, never resolved in her mind, was to try to overturn a city agreement that allowed landscaping and a pond that had been added by adjacent homeowners to remain on public parkland next to the Tony Knowles Coastal Trail on Westchester Lagoon.

Moulton's public life has been chronicled in decades' worth of news articles and opinion pieces that she wrote herself.

Getting Town Square park established on a city block in the heart of downtown engaged her off and on for nearly 25 years of election initiatives and lawsuits.

"Without Ruth Moulton, I don't even think it would have existed," said Mayor Mark Begich, who called her activism a model for others.

Similarly, when Moulton heard that an inland route was winning favor for a proposed extension of the Tony Knowles Coastal Trail, she organized a petition drive to fight the idea. Within a short time, about 5,000 people had signed statements saying they wanted the trail route to be by the coast, said friend John Blaine, who was out collecting signatures right beside her.

Moulton lived on the boundary of Fairview and the tonier South Addition downtown neighborhood, and poured her heart into standing up for Fairview. She felt like a disproportionate amount of homeless services and drug and alcohol facilities were "dumped" in the neighborhood.

A friend, Francine Lastufka Taylor, said she always liked Moulton's attachment to the idea of town meetings, which she grew up with in Maine. "She lived that town meeting philosophy in this town," she said.

Moulton was born in Portland, Maine, on April 1, 1931, said one of her nephews, Andrew Moulton. She grew up in



Moulton (Photo by JIM LAVRAKAS / Anchorage Daily News)



Deborah Mercy and Paula Cullenberg signed a petition circulated by Ruth Moulton urging that the Coastal Trail extension be along the coastline. The longtime activist gained 5,000 signatures in a short period of time (Photo by BILL ROTH / Daily News archive 2002)

Sebago Lake Village, where her dad was an apple farmer. She got a college degree and taught high school in Maine for a while. Then she moved to Philadelphia, but found it hot. She visited Alaska, and finally moved here for good in 1961.

Moulton worked at the old downtown Book Cache for three years, and taught English at East High for seven.

Then she resigned.

"I had no other life," she told a reporter a few years ago. "I wanted a job where you could close the door at 4 or 5 o'clock."

Later, she worked as a clerk for the state Department of Fish and Game.

Friends said Moulton helped organize their lives, and pushed them to stand up for what they believed.

Blaine said he hadn't been cross country skiing for 15 years, but "crowed" about how much he liked it. So she called him up three or four years ago and said, "Let's go skiing." "She and I just had so much fun that winter going to Kincaid, Service, all these wonderful trails. I just love the way she would challenge people to live up to what they said were their principles."

One friend worked out at Pete's City Gym downtown with her, another went for walks. Many days she met at the Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, where she was a member.

Last winter, Moulton planned a summer trip over Resurrection Pass for a group of friends. When it came time to go in June, she had just learned that she had lung and liver cancer, said Blaine. She didn't want to go.

"We said, 'That's a piece of crap. Come on, let's go,' " said Blaine. She hiked in seven miles to a cabin carrying a 35-pound pack.

Louise Colbert shared passions for gardening and opera with Moulton.

Moulton had a part of her garden that she considered a nursery, that had tiny red-leaf rose bushes and baby spruce trees, said Colbert. Plants there were nurtured for a Fairview Community Council sale in the spring.

"She wanted the plants to understand that if she passed away before spring, they would be taken care of," said Colbert. "She went out and talked to them."

Keeping the Moulton nursery healthy will be Colbert's job.

There will be no memorial service, at Moulton's request, though friends are expected to gather.

"She found funerals boring," said her nephew, Andrew.

---

Daily News reporter Rosemary Shinohara can be reached at [rshinohara@adn.com](mailto:rshinohara@adn.com) or 257-4340.

Print Page

Close Window

**Obituaries**

*(Published: November 22, 2006)*

**ANCHORAGE****Ruth Moulton, 75**

Ruth E. Moulton, community activist, educator and outdoorswoman, died of cancer Nov. 17, 2006, at home.

A celebration of her life will be announced and held in the spring. As she requested, her ashes will be scattered in the Chugach Mountains.

She was born April 1, 1931, in Portland, Maine, the youngest of four children of Simon and Rachel Moulton. She grew up in the small town of Standish, Maine.

Her family wrote: "As a girl, she read Jack London's 'Call of the Wild' and was so inspired that she and her dog started right off for Alaska. She got only a short way down the road when Grampa Moulton caught up with her and brought her home.

"She graduated from Standish High School and the University of Maine. After college, Ruth taught at a high school in Maine. The school had a mascot and Ruth determined that it was not appropriate. She led a campaign to change the mascot. This upset a lot of people, but the mascot was eventually changed. Her sister-in-law said this was proof that Ruth was a rebel from the start.

"She took her Master of Arts degree at Columbia University in 1957 in government. Later, she lived for a while in Philadelphia but didn't like the hot summers.

"Ruth visited Alaska in 1959 and moved here permanently in 1960. She later said that she felt at home as soon as she stepped off the plane, and even more so when she experienced the friendly, welcoming nature of the Alaskan people.

"In the early 1970s, she spent a year in Cambridge, Mass., where she earned a master's degree from the Harvard University School of Education.

"Ruth was a school teacher for many years at East High School, teaching history and social studies. For 10 years, not all in a row, she worked at the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. In between, she had a number of other jobs, including stints as a secretary, researcher and taxi driver in Anchorage. For many years, she supported herself as an independent tax-preparer after working at H&R Block.

"Ruth loved the outdoors and was an active hiker and explorer all her life. In 1980, she traveled to Africa and climbed Mount Kilimanjaro. She did the Chilkoot Pass three times, and bicycled all over the state. At age 75, she did a portion of the Resurrection Trail and was planning another Chilkoot Pass trek.

"Ruth was a community activist. She fought for Town Square and won a place for people, not cars. She was a champion for Fairview. She loved to garden and raised pots and pots of plants for the annual Fairview plant sale. She made a positive difference wherever she directed her enormous energy and was chosen as a BP/YWCA Woman of Achievement in 1994. One of her favorite sayings was 'Use it up, wear it out, make it do, or do without.' "

# *My favorite Anchorage park and why*

## Town Square Park

Ruth Moulton



Ruth Moulton (center)  
during a Clean & Green  
work session with Parks &  
Recreation Summer 2005.



Ruth Moulton hard at work  
clearing brush during a  
Clean & Green work session.

Every town needs a central place, some sort of "town square." Such a place serves to create and solidify a community identity; it helps create a "there" there, if you will. And while adding valuable open space and softness in the midst of hard surfaces and structures, it serves many other purposes, some of which are important, even basic, to a good community.

Its openness makes it a place of refreshment in all seasons as it brings in light to the center of the city; there are gorgeous flowers in summer and ice skating in winter; there are autumn colors in our brief fall, and that optimistic, almost joyous, bright green in spring. It provides a bit of respite during a brief walk from corner to corner, and a calm retreat during a lunch-hour spent reading, half-doing in the sun.

As important, it serves as a place for people to gather--to watch fireworks in celebration or to light candles in mourning; to listen to a military band or to petition their government; to celebrate a holiday season or a cultural community; to meet in silent commemoration or listen to oratory.

For these and many other reasons, Town Square is my favorite park.

**Content Information****Content ID :** 005001**Type:** AR\_AllOther - All Other Resolutions**Title:** RESOLUTION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE  
RENAMING TOWN SQUARE PARK AS "RUTH MOULTON  
TOWN SQUARE PARK**Author:** buddnr**Initiating Dept:** Mayor**Date Prepared:** 4/12/07 3:25 PM**Assembly Meeting** 5/1/07**Date MM/DD/YY:****Public Hearing Date** 6/12/07**MM/DD/YY:**M.O.A.  
2007 APR 24 AM 10:10  
CLENAS OFFICE**Workflow History**

<b>Workflow Name</b>	<b>Action Date</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>User</b>	<b>Security Group</b>	<b>Content ID</b>
AllOtherARWorkflow	4/12/07 3:30 PM	Checkin	buddnr	Public	005001
AllOtherARWorkflow	4/12/07 4:28 PM	Reject	johnsonmf	Public	005001
AllOtherARWorkflow	4/12/07 4:33 PM	Checkin	buddnr	Public	005001
Mayor_SubWorkflow	4/12/07 4:37 PM	Approve	johnsonmf	Public	005001
MuniManager_SubWorkflow	4/22/07 10:11 AM	Approve	leblancdc	Public	005001
MuniMgrCoord_SubWorkflow	4/22/07 3:25 PM	Approve	abbottmk	Public	005001

**AMC 3.97 – NAMING OF MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS - AS AMENDED 6-20-06 (AO 2006-51(S))**

AMC 3.97.030 Procedures.

A. Preliminary action in naming a public place may be initiated by the mayor or a quorum of the assembly. If the assembly is the initiating organization, a proposal in letter format addressed to the mayor will be prepared. Upon receipt of an assembly request to name a public place or upon the mayor's decision to seek a name for a public place, the mayor will submit the request to the public facilities advisory commission to solicit potential names, to hold public meetings as prescribed in AMC 4.05.090, and to identify an appropriate name for the public place.

B. The public facilities advisory commission will solicit potential names from the community, including community councils and cultural organizations, for each public place under consideration. If the public place is a park, trail or recreation facility, the public facilities advisory commission will also solicit a recommendation from the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission or the Chugiak-Eagle River Parks and Recreation Board of Supervisors. That recommendation will specify findings based on the policy considerations of Section 3.97.020 and criteria of Section 3.97.025. The public facilities advisory commission may consider those names submitted by the mayor or the assembly, taking care not to overlook the contributions of women and minorities to the city, state and nation. Historic, cultural, geographic, natural, and functional attributes will be considered priority, and the purpose, policies, and criteria of this chapter shall be followed in selecting names for public places. Upon agreement by a quorum of the commission, a letter identifying and prioritizing the top three names with a recommendation shall be forwarded to the mayor. The mayor will make the commission's letter an attachment to a resolution for consideration by the assembly. Memoranda as appropriate may be appended to the resolution to explain or amplify relevant information for benefit of assembly review.

C. The assembly will set the naming resolution for public hearing at least one month after introduction to ensure appropriate information dissemination to the public during this period.  
(AO No. 87-73; AO No. 2006-51(S), § 4, 6-20-06)

**CONSENT AGENDA - INTRODUCTION**