



TO: Elizabeth A. Pauli, City Manager
FROM: Peter Huffman, Director, Planning and Development Services Department
Reuben McKnight, Historic Preservation Officer
COPY: City Council and City Clerk
SUBJECT: Resolution – Renaming Marine Park at 3427 Ruston Way to Judge Jack Tanner Park
January 15, 2019
DATE: December 19, 2018

SUMMARY:

A resolution renaming the portion of Marine Park located at 3427 Ruston Way to Judge Jack Tanner Park, as recommended by the Landmarks Preservation Commission.

STRATEGIC POLICY PRIORITY:

- Ensure all Tacoma residents are valued and have access to resources to meet their needs.

Renaming Marine Park to Judge Jack Tanner Park will reinforce the City’s commitment to social equity, inclusion and diversity.

BACKGROUND:

Metro Parks Tacoma is requesting to rename the 4.92-acre Marine Park, located at 3427 Ruston Way, to Judge Jack Tanner Park. This renaming would commemorate Judge Tanner’s contributions to civil rights and social justice in Tacoma. Judge Tanner was the first African-American in the Pacific Northwest to be appointed to the Federal bench as a district court judge. He presided over several landmark cases involving social and environmental justice in Washington and Tacoma.

On February 13, 2018, the Metro Parks Board (Board) decided to rename Marine Park in honor of Judge Jack Tanner as part of Metro Parks’ commitment to social equity, inclusion and diversity, key elements of the Strategic Master Plan formally adopted by the Board in January 2018.

On September 12, 2018, the Landmarks Preservation Commission (Commission) determined the proposal was complete and scheduled the public hearing. On October 24, 2018, the Commission held a public hearing to take testimony on this item. On December 12, 2018, the Commission voted unanimously to recommend the property be renamed Judge Jack Tanner Park.

ALTERNATIVES:

If the name is not changed, the parcels would continue to be referred to as Marine Park.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff concurs with the Commission’s recommendation to rename Marine Park to Judge Jack Tanner Park, based upon the guidelines set forth in the Council Naming Policy.