

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: REQUEST TO NAME THE PARK LOCATED ON THE SITE OF THE FORMER EDWARDS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

BACKGROUND:

In August 2019, the Ames Community School District transferred a five-acre parcel, the site of the former Edwards Elementary School, to the City. In accepting the property, City Council approved developing this site into a neighborhood park. This park land has been informally referred to as Edwards Park, however, no formal action has been taken regarding the naming of the park.

The City does have a Parks and Recreation Naming Policy and is shown in Attachment A. There are three categories in which a park can be named:

Historic Events, People, and Places

The history of a major event, place or person may play an important role in the naming or renaming of a park as communities often wish to preserve and honor the history of a city, its founders, other historical figures, its Native American heritage, local landmarks and prominent geographical locations, and natural and geological features through the naming of parks.

Outstanding Individuals

The City has benefited, through its evolution, from the contributions made by many outstanding individuals. This category is designed to acknowledge the sustained contribution that has been made by such individuals to the City and/or the development and management of the City's park and recreation system.

Major Donations

Over the years, the City of Ames Parks and Recreation Department has benefited from the generosity of some of its residents, businesses, and foundations. On occasion, the significance of such donations may warrant consideration being given to requests from either the donor or another party to acknowledge such donations by naming.

In order for a naming request to be considered, an application must be completed and submitted to the Parks and Recreation Director. The Director then reviews the application and makes a recommendation to the Parks and Recreation Commission, who in turn make a recommendation to City Council. A final decision regarding the naming request will be made by the Council.

NAMING APPLICATION:

A completed application form (Attachment B) has been received and reviewed by staff and determined all the required information has been submitted. The application requests to name the former Edwards Elementary School site located on the corner of Woodland Street and Westwood Drive the "TAHIRA AND LABH HIRA PARK" under the category of Outstanding Individuals and Major Donations.

To summarize the application information, Tahira and Labh Hira came to Ames in 1980 and lived here for nearly 25 years in the neighborhood of this park. Tahira and Labh worked for Iowa State University (ISU) in a variety of capacities and also served on numerous local boards and committees.

Tahira served on multiple boards and committees at the state and national level. As for involvement in the Ames Community, Tahira served on the Ames Chamber of Commerce Board (President in 2006), Youth and Shelter Services Board, Northcrest Community Foundation Board, and Story County Habitat for Humanity Board. The Hiras also financially contributed to Mary Greeley Medical Center, Northcrest Community, Youth and Shelter Services, Habitat for Humanity, Ames Rotary, and to Munn Woods.

Labh served as the fourth Dean for the College of Business at ISU, the inaugural holder of the Raisbeck Endowed Deanship for the College of Business, Interim President of the ISU Foundation, and honored as the Outstanding CPA in business and industry by the Iowa Society of Certified Public Accountants.

The Hira's now are offering to contribute \$50,000 to the City to assist in the development of this park.

What resonates most in the documentation provided is Tahira and Labh's desire to serve others through their time and financial contributions. The number of boards and committees they served on is exemplary, and demonstrates their commitment to others and a willingness to make Ames and the University a better place. Tahira's recognition at the state and national level by serving on committees, boards, and councils shows the respect that others have for her expertise. In Melissa Rowan's letter of support, she describes the Hira's as "generous, community minded individuals" and "their ongoing commitment to our community makes them excellent candidates to be recognized in this way."

A public input session regarding the development of this park was held on Tuesday, November 19, 2019 in which approximately 25 individuals from the neighborhood were present. Although many people spoke favorably of the Hira's, a couple of individuals took issue with the policy and the process for naming. Please note the first public input session for this park development was held in April, 2019 and the naming process as well as the

possibility of a naming request was first shared. The two neighborhood contacts (Kathy Schnable and Annie Barbour) that staff has been working with support the naming request as did others with at least three being against.

After the November 19 meeting, Mrs. Schnable emailed approximately 90 individuals in the neighborhood the following message:

There is a naming request pending before the Parks and Recreation Commission for the park at the site of the former Edwards School. The commission will vote at the meeting at 4 pm today whether to advance the proposal to the City Council. If that happens, the request will come before the City Council on December 10. If you have an opinion about this decision, please read the materials below and then contact the Director of Parks and Recreation, Keith Abraham at KAbraham@city.ames.ia.us Please be sure to read all the materials before coming to your decision.

Comments received at the time of this writing are shown in Attachment C.

The Parks and Recreation Commission discussed this request at its November 21, 2019 meeting and recommended that City Council approve this naming request. The Commission did express concern about naming the park “Edwards Park” and the potential confusion it may cause with Edwards School being in a different location. Four individuals spoke at the Commission meeting and all spoke highly of the Hira’s and were in favor of the naming request.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve the request to name the Park located on the site of the former Edwards Elementary School the “Tahira and Labh Hira Park”.
2. Do not approve the request to name the Park located on the site of the former Edwards Elementary School the “Tahira and Labh Hira Park”.
3. Refer back to staff to provide other names for this new park that the Parks and Recreation Commission could consider.

MANAGER’S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

This is the second request received since the Parks and Recreation Naming Policy was approved in 2016. Since the request refers to naming a park for an outstanding individual and a major donation, that criteria must be evaluated.

Regarding an outstanding individual, the policy states:

A park, recreational facility, or major feature may be named for an outstanding individual who has made a significant contribution to the Ames parks and recreation system, the City of Ames, the State of Iowa, or the nation. In addition to societal contributions, the moral character of the individual must be considered. When considering requests, it is preferred that the individual has a connection to the park, recreational facility, or major feature being requested to be named.

There are several components to the outstanding individual category that needs to be evaluated. First, has Tahira and Labh made a significant contribution to the Ames parks and recreation system, the City of Ames, the State of Iowa, or the nation? Both have been involved with ISU in a variety of capacities and since ISU is a major component of Ames, their involvement has impacted the Ames community as a whole. Their volunteering with boards and committees, as well as the contributions to multiple entities is indicative of their passion for serving others. In addition, Tahira's involvement at the state and national level is exemplary.

Secondly, what is the Hira's moral character? In my conversations with others, Tahira and Labh are well respected. Comments include "they are good people", "they have a genuine concern for others", and "they are very caring". These are indicators of individuals with good moral character.

Lastly, do they have a connection to this park? Yes. They lived in this neighborhood for almost 25 years and want this park to be a central component of the area for many years to come.

In regards to the major donation, the policy includes the following:

From time to time, a significant donation may be made to the City that will add considerable value to the City's park and recreation system. On such occasions, recognition of this donation by naming/renaming a park, recreation facility, and/or major feature in honor of or at the request of the donor will be considered.

The City Council may use its discretion as to what dollar amount is worthy of naming rights for individual projects, on a case by case basis.

Donors seeking naming rights for major donations with respect to an individual should follow the principles outlined in 4.b. Exceptions to this will be considered on their own merits.

Naming parks and/or recreational facilities with a company name is not permitted, however, company names will be considered for Major Features. Corporate logos, insignias, brands or direct advertising text shall not be permitted.

Currently, the City has allocated \$80,000 for this project and \$5,000 from the Opus Foundation has been committed. If the \$50,000 from the Hira's is accepted, the total funding available will be \$135,000. If no other funding is secured and the park development costs are \$135,000, the Hira's contribution will be 37% of the total.

Most of Ames parks, recreational facilities, and major features are named after individuals who either donated land or made a financial contribution to the park and/or facility development. However, several parks and amenities have been named for outstanding individuals and include Ada Hayden Heritage Park, Lloyd Kurtz Park, and Carroll Marty Disc Golf Course. Ada Hayden was the first woman to receive a doctorate from Iowa State College. She was instrumental in persuading the State of Iowa to preserve 26 native prairie areas and has been inducted into the Iowa Conservation Hall of Fame and the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame. Lloyd Kurtz served on the Parks and Recreation Commission and during his tenure, the park system saw extensive expansion. Carroll Marty donated many hours of his time, as well as securing other volunteers, to develop the disc golf course. These examples are shown for comparison only and were named without a policy in place.

Regarding major donations, Helen Daley received naming rights for Daley Park by donating \$100,000 or 38% of the total project cost. Don and Ruth Furman donated \$2,000,000 or 21% of the total project cost for naming rights of the Furman Aquatic Center.

Tahira and Labh Hira have a connection to the proposed park, have good moral character, and are well respected within Ames and beyond for their contributions to the City, State, and Nation. In addition to being outstanding individuals, they are willing to make a financial contribution for the park development. Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative 1 which is to approve the request to name the park located on the site of the former Edwards Elementary School the "Tahira and Labh Hira Park".



515 Clark Ave - Ames, IA 50010
Phone: 515-239-5350
Fax: 515-239-5355
www.amesparkrec.org

Naming Request Application

Requested by: _____

Address: _____

City, State Zip: _____

Phone: _____

PARK NAMING REQUEST

I request a park to be named or renamed .

Current Park Name: _____

Proposed Park Name: _____

Park Location: _____

(Please attach a description/map showing the location and boundaries of the park.)

RECREATION FACILITY NAMING REQUEST

I request a recreational facility to be named of renamed.

Current Facility Name: _____

Proposed Facility Name: _____

Facility Location: _____

(Please attach a description/map showing the location of the facility.)

MAJOR FEATURE NAMING REQUEST

I request a major feature be named or renamed.

Major Feature: _____

Proposed Feature Name: _____

Major Feature Location: _____

(Please attach a description/map showing the location of the major feature.)

Please attach the following documentation as a part of this application.

- A. The reason(s) for the proposed name.

- B. Written documentation indicating a certification of character and community support for the proposed name. (i.e. letters of support, petitions, etc.)

- C. If proposing to rename a park, recreational facility , or major feature, include justification for changing an established name.

- D. If proposing to name a park, recreational facility, or major feature for an outstanding individual, include documentation of that individual's significant contribution in regards to the Ames Park System, City of Ames, State of Iowa and or the Nation.

I certify that the statements made in this application and any attachments are true to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the Parks and Recreation Director will assess and authenticate any information provided in this application pursuant to the Parks and Recreation Naming Policy. I also understand once submitted, this application and any findings during the authentication process will become part of the public record and will continue to be part of the public record whether the application is approved or denied.

Signature of Applicant

Date

OFFICE USE ONLY

Date Received: _____

Signature: _____

Notes:

PARKS AND RECREATION NAMING POLICY

1. INTRODUCTION

The naming or renaming of parks and recreational facilities is a complex and sometimes emotionally evocative since assigning a name is a powerful and permanent identity for a public place and/or facility. The naming and renaming of parks and/or recreational facilities often requires significant resources in terms of changing names on signs, maps, and literature. In addition, excessive and constant name changing can be the source of confusion to the public. The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance to those that have an interest in the naming and or renaming of the City's parks and/or recreational facilities.

2. DEFINITIONS

a. **Naming:**

The permanent name assigned by City Council to a given park or recreational facility.

b. **Parks:**

All traditionally designed parks, gardens, natural open spaces, woodlands, and specialized parks under the stewardship of the City of Ames Parks and Recreation Department.

c. **Recreational Facilities:**

Major structures such as community centers, swimming pools, and enclosed pavilions located within lands under the stewardship of City of Ames Parks and Recreation Department.

d. **Major Features:**

Major permanent components of park and recreational facilities, e.g. sports fields, tennis courts, playgrounds, shelters, fountains, artwork, or physical features (lakes). Rooms within buildings are considered to be Major Features.

e. **Amenities:**

Smaller furnishings and facilities in the parks and recreation system (e.g. benches, drinking fountains, tables, etc.). Amenities are not formally named. Recognition for donated amenities is possible.

f. **Donations:**

A donation of property, goods or cash generally with no expectation of return. If the gift is contingent upon a special request, it is made subject to "condition."

3. POLICY STATEMENT

It is the policy of the City of Ames Parks and Recreation Department to reserve the name or renaming of parks, recreational facilities, and/or major features for

circumstances that will best serve the interests of the city and ensure a worthy and enduring legacy for the City's park and recreation system.

To this end, the City of Ames Parks and Recreation Department supports consideration of naming requests within the following broad categories.

a. Historic Events, People, and Places

The history of a major event, place or person may play an important role in the naming or renaming of a park as communities often wish to preserve and honor the history of a city, its founders, other historical figures, its Native American heritage, local landmarks and prominent geographical locations, and natural and geological features through the naming of parks.

b. Outstanding Individuals

The City has benefited, through its evolution, from the contributions made by many outstanding individuals. This category is designed to acknowledge the sustained contribution that has been made by such individuals to the City and/or the development and management of the City's park and recreation system.

c. Major Donations

Over the years, the City of Ames Parks and Recreation Department has benefited from the generosity of some of its residents, businesses, and foundations. On occasion, the significance of such donations may warrant consideration being given to requests from either the donor or another party to acknowledge such donations by naming.

4. GUIDING PRINCIPLES

a. Naming/renaming for Historic Events, People, and Places

When considering naming a park, recreational facility, or major feature after events, people and places of historic, cultural or social significance, requests must demonstrate this significance through research and documentation and show there is continued importance to the city, region, state, and/or nation.

b. Naming/renaming for Outstanding Individuals

A park, recreational facility, or major feature may be named for an outstanding individual who has made a significant contribution to the Ames parks and recreation system, the City of Ames, the State of Iowa, or the nation. In addition to societal contributions, the moral character of the individual must be considered. When considering requests, it is preferred that the individual has a connection to the park, recreational facility, or major feature being requested to be named.

c. Naming/Renaming for Major Donations

From time to time, a significant donation may be made to the City that will add considerable value to the City's park and recreation system. On such occasions, recognition of this donation by naming/renaming a park, recreation facility, and/or major feature in honor of or at the request of the donor will be considered.

The City Council may use its discretion as to what dollar amount is worthy of naming rights for individual projects, on a case by case basis. Likewise, City Council can use its discretion as to whether or not to allow for corporate naming/renaming rights. Corporate logos, insignias, brands or direct advertising text shall not be permitted.

Donors seeking naming rights for major donations with respect to an individual should follow the principles outlined in 4.b. Exceptions to this will be considered on their own merits.

d. Renaming a park, recreational facility, and/or major feature

Proposals to rename parks, recreational facilities, and/or major features whether for a major gift or community request are not encouraged. Likewise, names that have become widely accepted by the community will not be abandoned unless there are compelling reasons and strong public sentiment from the broader community for doing so. Historical or commonly used place names will be preserved wherever possible.

e. Other Considerations

When naming/renaming a park, recreational facility, and/or major feature, does the proposed name engender a strong positive image, have historical, cultural or social significance for future generations, and have broad public support?

To minimize confusion, parks will not be subdivided for the purpose of naming unless there are readily identifiable physical divisions such as roads or waterways. However, naming of specific major recreational facilities within parks will be permitted; under these circumstances such names should be different to the park name to avoid user confusion.

All signs that indicate the name of a park and/or recreational facility shall comply with City of Ames graphic and design standards. Specialized naming signage will not be permitted.

City of Ames Parks and Recreation Department reserves the right to rename any park, recreational facility, and/or major feature if the person for whom it is named turns out to be disreputable or subsequently acts in a disreputable way.

5. PROCEDURES

These procedures have been established to ensure that the naming or renaming of parks, recreational facilities, and/or major features is approached in a consistent manner.

a. Requests for naming/renaming of parks, recreational facilities and/or major features

All requests for the naming or renaming of a park, recreational facility, and/or major feature shall be made by submitting a Naming Application to the Director of Ames Parks and Recreation.

The Naming Application will contain the following minimum information:

1. The proposed name
2. Reasons for the proposed name
3. Written documentation indicating a certification of character and community support for the proposed name (e.g. letters of support, petitions, etc.)
4. If proposing to name a park, include a description/map showing location and boundaries of the park
5. If proposing to name a recreational facility or major feature within a park, include a description/map showing the location of the facility.
6. If proposing to rename a park, recreational facility, or major feature, include justification for changing an established name.
7. If proposing to name a park, recreational facility, or major feature for an outstanding individual, include documentation of that individual's significant contribution in regards to the Ames park system, the City, State and/or Nation

b. Assessing and approving naming/renaming requests

Upon receipt of a naming request by Ames Parks and Recreation, the Parks and Recreation Director shall:

1. Review the proposed request for its adherence to the Parks and Recreation Naming Policy.
2. Ensure that supporting information has been authenticated, particularly when an individual's name is proposed
3. Seek input from relevant neighborhood association(s), historical groups, and other organizations, if deemed appropriate

The Parks and Recreation Director will then present a recommendation regarding the naming request at a public meeting to the Parks and Recreation Commission. At this meeting, the Parks and Recreation Commission will develop their own recommendation regarding the request to be presented to City Council.

c. Final decision by City Council

The Parks and Recreation Commission's recommendation regarding the naming/renaming request, along with the Parks and Recreation Director's recommendation if different, will be presented to the City Council at a public meeting for a final decision.



515 Clark Ave - Ames, IA 50010
Phone: 515-239-5350
Fax: 515-239-5355
www.amesparkrec.org

Naming Request Application

Requested by: Melissa Rowan

Address: 2114 Country Club Blvd.

City, State Zip: Ames, IA 50014

Phone: 515.509.1174

PARK NAMING REQUEST

I request a park to be named or renamed .

Current Park Name: _____

Proposed Park Name: Labh and Tahira Hira Park

Park Location: Former location of Edwards Elementary School

(Please attach a description/map showing the location and boundaries of the park.)

RECREATION FACILITY NAMING REQUEST

I request a recreational facility to be named of renamed.

Current Facility Name: _____

Proposed Facility Name: _____

Facility Location: _____

(Please attach a description/map showing the location of the facility.)

MAJOR FEATURE NAMING REQUEST

I request a major feature be named or renamed.

Major Feature: _____

Proposed Feature Name: _____

Major Feature Location: _____

(Please attach a description/map showing the location of the major feature.)

Please attach the following documentation as a part of this application.

- A. The reason(s) for the proposed name.
- B. Written documentation indicating a certification of character and community support for the proposed name. (i.e. letters of support, petitions, etc.)
- C. If proposing to rename a park, recreational facility , or major feature, include justification for changing an established name.
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I certify that the statements made in this application and any attachments are true to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the Parks and Recreation Director will assess and authenticate any information provided in this application pursuant to the Parks and Recreation Naming Policy. I also understand once submitted, this application and any findings during the authentication process will become part of the public record and will continue to be part of the public record whether the application is approved or denied.



Signature of Applicant

November 8, 2019

Date

OFFICE USE ONLY	
Date Received: _____	Signature: _____
Notes:	

Woodland St

Westwood Dr.

Crane Ave

Story St



November 8, 2019

Parks and Recreation Commission
City of Ames

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing today to encourage you to name the park that will be built on the location of the former Edwards Elementary School after Labh and Tahira Hira. Not only have the Hiras provided a generous monetary donation to support the building of the park on this location, their ongoing commitment to our community makes them excellent candidates to be recognized in this way.

Much of the Hiras' contribution to Ames and the surrounding community centers on their decades as faculty and leaders at Iowa State University. I got to know Dr. Labh Hira as both the Raisbeck Dean of the College of Business and then when he served as the interim president of the Iowa State University Foundation, where I work. My opportunity to get to know Dr. Tahira Hira also centers on her work with the Foundation, through her generously sharing her expertise, especially in the area of financial literacy, to the ISU Foundation's Women & Philanthropy program. Both have served as ISU Foundation Governors for many years and give our organization so much of their energy and enthusiasm, in addition to their time and talent.

In addition to their time with the University, both the Hiras have given generously to the community. Tahira especially has been an active member of numerous boards of directors at local nonprofits. Together, they have been generous financial supporters of many of the organizations that make Ames a great place to live, including Mary Greeley Medical Center, Youth and Shelter Services and Habitat for Humanity to name just a few.

The attached document, outlining the Hiras' extensive involvement locally, across the State of Iowa and nationally, show their true commitment to service to others. All of these activities and experiences, in my opinion, make them excellent candidates to be recognized by the City of Ames by naming the park at the former Edwards Elementary School in their honor. I urge you to recommend this naming to the Ames City Council so that these generous, community minded individuals may be recognized.

Sincerely,



Melissa Rowan
Assistant Vice President, Strategic Initiatives
Iowa State University Foundation

Labh and Tahira Hira

From the moment they arrived in Ames in 1980, Labh and Tahira sought to contribute to Iowa State University, first as faculty members, and then as administrators. Similarly, they got deeply engaged in Ames community and have provided generous financial support to both Iowa State University and Ames community. Now in retirement, they remain connected to campus and Ames community. Labh and Tahira have truly left an indelible mark on Iowa State University and the city of Ames.

Professional Experiences:

- Labh served as the College of Business' fourth dean (2001-2012) and the inaugural holder of the Raisbeck Endowed Deanship. He led a period of tremendous growth in the college, marked by two of the most significant milestones in the young college's history: the completion of the Gerdin Business Building and the creation of a PhD program.
- Labh served as interim president of the Iowa State University Foundation (2012-2013).
- Labh was honored as Outstanding CPA in Business and Industry by Iowa Society of Certified Public Accountants (2012).
- Tahira is internationally known as a leader in the field of personal finance and consumer economics. At ISU she has served in administration as:
 - Senior Policy Advisor to President Leath
 - Assistant for External Relations to President Geoffroy
 - Associate Vice Provost for ISU Extension
- On the national stage Tahira's accomplishments include:
 - Member of the President (George W. Bush) Advisory Council on Financial Literacy
 - Chair of the NYSE Committee on Financial Literacy
 - Expert witness for the U.S. Senate Banking Committee 1987 (about disclosure of interest rates on savings and need for information & consumer education)
 - Expert witness for the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee 1998 (about revision of Consumer Bankruptcy Code)
 - University of Missouri Distinguished Faculty-Alumni Award (2004)
 - Founding President of Association for Financial Counseling and Planning Education
 - Distinguished Fellows Award, the Association for Financial Counseling and Planning Education (1996)
 - President of American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences
- At the state level Tahira was appointed to:
 - Council of Economic Advisers by Governor Tom Vilsack (2006)
 - Financial Literacy Skills Writing Committee (Model Curriculum for 21st Century) by Governor Chet Culver (2007)
 - Iowa Credit Union Board by Governor Chet Culver (2008-2010)
 - Iowa Student Loan Board by Governor Chet Culver to represent Iowa Board of Regents (2009-2011)

Community Involvement:

Tahira

- Member of the Ames Chamber of Commerce (President in 2006)
- Member of the Youth and Shelter Services (YSS) Foundation Board
- Member of the Northcrest Community Foundation Board
- Member of the Ames Rotary
- Member of the Story County Habitat for Humanity Board
- Hiras have financially supported many Ames organizations including:
 - Mary Greeley Hospital
 - Northcrest Community
 - Youth and Shelter Services (YSS)
 - Habitat for Humanity
 - Ames Rotary
 - Establishment of Munn Woods

Iowa State University Volunteer Positions, Honors and Awards:

Labh

- ISU Foundation Governor – Appointed in 1994
- ISU Foundation Board of Directors from 2001-2008
- ISU Foundation Finance Committee from 1994-2000 and 2001-2007
- Recipient, ISU Alumni Association Faculty-Staff Inspiration Award (2014)

Tahira

- ISU Foundation Governor – Appointed in 2002
- ISU Alumni Association Board of Directors 2003-2012
- Former member, College of Human Sciences Dean's Advisory Council
- Recipient, Faculty Citation Award (1996)
- Iowa Board of Regents Award for Faculty Excellence (1996)
-

The Hiras

- Members, Campaign Cabinet for Campaign Forever True
- Members, College of Business Campaign Committee for Campaign Forever True
- Recipients, College of Business Russ and Ann Gerdin Award (2014)
- Recipients, Order of the Knoll Faculty-Staff Award (2010)
- Recipients, Honorary Alumnus and Alumna Award (2019)
- Lifetime members, ISU Alumni Association
- Order of the Knoll, W.M. Beardshear Society and Campanile Society

ATTACHMENT C

Keith - I understand you'll be discussing the application from Labh & Tahira Hira for naming rights for the park at the meeting on Thursday. I wanted to express my support for that. They have done much to support Ames and our neighborhood.

Thanks

Brenda Smith

Forwarded from Kathy Schnable:

Kathy, I have concerns over the naming of the Park. I would ask the Park and Rec commission to delay making a decision until the neighborhood as a whole has input on any name put forth which could be done very easily through email. The current name and advantage i.e. \$40K, and any other name and reasons could be solicited followed by an email vote on choice. I believe it is very important for the neighborhood to be completely involve in such an important matter especially in view of all the effort that the neighborhood expended in acquiring this space.

My personal preference is "Edwards Park" since it has historical significance, honors an important Ames individual, and would appeal to the several thousands of people who matriculated through Edwards Elementary over the years bringing back many found memories.

I would also ask the Park and Rec people to follow the rankings of the neighborhood as they move forward with the development process.

Kathy thanks for all of the things that you have been doing for the neighborhood. I and others really appreciate it. If ever I can be of any help let me know.

Ken Platt

Forwarded from Annie Barbour:

I emailed Keith earlier today in my support of naming the park after the Hira's. I don't know if either of you plan to attend the meeting at 4pm but I'm not able to. Just in case one of you do and you have an opportunity to make additional comments I'd like to relate the experience we had when we purchased their home in 2013. I had worked with both Labh and Tahira on different projects so I knew them professionally. When we toured their home and considered buying it they kept other interested parties at bay because they felt that the house would be very good for my husband as his MS progressed. They felt they were meant to sell it to us. They worked with us on the price and were very accommodating on everything. They came back recently to show Labh's nephew the house they built and Tahira made the comment that she was so glad they

sold the home to us and how perfect it was for us. It warmed her heart. (Neil had gone from walking with a cane to now in a power chair.) Both of these people are more interested in helping others than they are for their own gain. I can't speak highly enough of them.

Feel free to forward this to anyone and or raise it in today's meeting.

I hope we get it approved.

Thanks to both of you for all you do for our neighborhood.

Brenda Smith

Keith --

Just a comment on the Edwards neighborhood park naming, in case it's not too late:

I think part of the pushback on the naming is that to some degree naming the park will rename the neighborhood (as Edwards school is no longer here to give it that name).

As a friendly amendment what about naming it "The Labh and Tahira Hira Edwards Neighborhood Park" or some similar variant that doesn't rename the neighborhood but does name the park?

Thanks

Steve Holland

Keith,

Thank you again for the presentation last week of the new park proposal in our Old Edwards neighborhood.

After reflecting on the proposal and budget, I suggest, based on community input last spring, focusing on the walking path, open space, and an architecturally appropriate shelter, if possible:

- eliminate the basketball pad, splash pad option, and walkways leading to that part of the park
- reroute the walkway on the west side of the park to the playground and use the border of the playground as part of the walking loop
- extend the winding walking loop through the SE and NE portions of the park, as much as possible
- build a shelter with a design more like the sign, with stone and/or wood, to be more architecturally consistent with our older neighborhood; eliminate the shelter for now if we can't do it well

Would permeable ADA-compliant hard surface paths be less expensive than concrete?

I would suggest doing additional fundraising to ensure that the shelter is a good design for the context. Maybe offer naming rights for the shelter? I would be opposed to putting up a bare-bones shelter like what has been proposed, because I think it would degrade the existing open space.

Here are a couple of examples of what I'm thinking about:

<https://www.iconselters.com/products/cg20x44-9m-p4-30-105-30~30900>
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/poligonbyportercorp/28944577003/in/album-72157673542933186/>

One other suggestion. For those presentations, I recommend presenting the whole proposal with the budget before mentioning naming issues!

Thanks again for your work and the work of your staff.

Steve Godfrey

Phone calls received regarding the request:

Roger and Connie Underwood are in favor of the request.

Warren Madden is in favor of the request.