

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS
ACTION AGENDA SUMMARY

DEPT: Chief Executive Office

BOARD AGENDA # *B-4

Urgent

Routine

AGENDA DATE June 30, 2009

CEO Concurs with Recommendation YES NO

4/5 Vote Required YES NO

(Information Attached)

SUBJECT:

Approval to Rename the Keyes Community Center the "Keyes Community Center - Eddie Best Hall" and Related Actions

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Approve renaming the Keyes Community Center located at 5506 Jennie Avenue the Keyes Community Center - Eddie Best Hall.
2. Approve conducting a public re-dedication ceremony on August 15, 2009 at 10:00 a.m., in collaboration with the Keyes Municipal Advisory Council and other local partners.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The costs associated with the renaming of the Keyes Community Center will be marginal and include updating the existing sign and the installation of a small plaque at the facility. A short re-dedication ceremony will also be held at the facility with minimal expenses for printing, recognitions and light refreshments. The Keyes Municipal Advisory Council has agreed to assist with the refreshments during the event and notification to the community. The annual maintenance budget for janitorial, utilities and routine maintenance for the Keyes Community Center is contained within the Chief Executive Office - County Facilities budget.

BOARD ACTION AS FOLLOWS:

No. 2009-455

On motion of Supervisor Chiesa, Seconded by Supervisor Monteith, and approved by the following vote,

Ayes: Supervisors: O'Brien, Chiesa, Grover, Monteith, and Chairman DeMartini

Noes: Supervisors: None

Excused or Absent: Supervisors: None

Abstaining: Supervisor: None

1) Approved as recommended

2) Denied

3) Approved as amended

4) Other:

MOTION: THIS ITEM WAS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT CALENDAR AND PLACED ON NON-CONSENT FOR DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION



ATTEST: CHRISTINE FERRARO TALLMAN, Clerk

File No.

Approval to Rename the Keyes Community Center the "Keyes Community Center - Eddie Best Hall" and Related Actions

DISCUSSION:

Keyes Community Center - Eddie Best Hall

In the fall of 2008, the Keyes Municipal Advisory Council (MAC) began the process of discussing renaming the Keyes Community Center in memory of Mr. Eddie Best, an active member of the community, who passed away on August 15, 2008. The discussion originated over several regular meetings of the Keyes MAC to allow for public comment on the concept. The Chief Executive Office and Department of Parks and Recreation provided the Keyes MAC direction regarding the Policy for Naming County Parks and Recreation Facilities (Attachment A). In an effort to ensure an opportunity for adequate community input on this item, designated members from the Keyes MAC discussed the concept with the other public entities in the community during their regular meetings (Keyes School Board, Keyes Fire Board and the Keyes Community Services District).

Through those discussions, the recommended proposal became the "Keyes Community Center - Eddie Best Hall". The proposal would maintain that the town's name to identify the community while appropriately recognizing Mr. Best for his public service contributions to Keyes. The Keyes MAC received numerous letters of support regarding the proposed name change (Attachment B). During a special meeting held on March 31, 2009, the Keyes MAC unanimously approved forwarding the recommended name change to the Stanislaus County Parks and Recreation Commission and ultimately the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors for consideration and adoption. This action was consistent with the County's established Policy for Naming of County Parks and Recreation Facilities.

County Process for Naming County Parks and Facilities

On May 14, 2009, the Stanislaus County Parks and Recreation Commission considered the proposal to rename the Keyes Community Center. Per the existing Policy for Naming County Parks and Recreation Facilities, the role of the Parks and Recreation Commission is to provide initial approval and to ensure that the proposed name is consistent with the policy in order to forward the proposal to the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors for final consideration and adoption. Members of the Keyes MAC were in attendance at the meeting and provided a short presentation including the steps they took to ensure that there was sufficient community outreach conducted on the name proposal as encouraged through the existing County policy. The Stanislaus County Parks and Recreation Commission applied the current policy to the proposal and found that it adequately met the established criteria. Specifically, the proposed change recognized "an individual who has made a substantial contribution in terms of volunteer services, providing a broad recreational or environmental benefit to the residents of Stanislaus County."

Per the County Policy, the Stanislaus County Parks and Recreation Commission was unanimous in its initial approval of the proposal to rename the Keyes Community Center the "Keyes Community Center - Eddie Best Hall" and forwarded the proposal to the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors for final approval and adoption (Attachment C).

Approval to Rename the Keyes Community Center the "Keyes Community Center - Eddie Best Hall" and Related Actions

Eddie Best - Commitment to the Town of Keyes

The following is an excerpt from a letter received by the Stanislaus County Parks and Recreation Commission, dated April 2, 2009, from the Keyes Municipal Advisory Council regarding Mr. Eddie Best and his commitment to the town of Keyes:

"Eddie Best was involved with almost everything the Keyes community has done over the years. If Eddie was not asked to help, he found a way into the project or the events. He started out as a volunteer firefighter. Then he was involved with actually raising funds to erect Keyes Community Center and persuaded the County to help finish the project when the community could not complete it. He was not the only person who helped, but he was a substantial contributor. Eddie started our Citizen's Patrol, which turned into what is now the successful S.T.A.R.S. program. He and a few other community members started the Police Activities League (PAL) program, which is still going and to this day operating out of our community center. He helped with our community cleanups, and he worked side-by-side with Sheriff's and California Highway Patrol officers to report illegal dump sites, stolen cars, and speeders. Eddie was also our unofficial volunteer dog catcher."

Re-Dedication Ceremony

Mr. Eddie Best passed away on August 15, 2008. As such, the Keyes MAC has requested that a re-dedication ceremony for the facility be scheduled on August 15, 2009. If approved, a short ceremony will be held at the facility with minimal expenses for printing, recognitions and light refreshments. The Keyes Municipal Advisory Council has agreed to assist with the planning of event. Other local groups like the Keyes Union School District, Keyes Fire Protection District and Keyes Community Services District will also be contacted by the Keyes MAC to participate in the event. Prior to the re-dedication ceremony, the existing sign at the facility will be modified accordingly. In addition, the Chief Executive Office will develop and install a small plaque to be placed at the facility memorializing the re-dedication of the facility. The Chief Executive Office will coordinate as needed with the Keyes Municipal Advisory Council and other local groups to properly notify the community of the re-dedication event.

POLICY ISSUE:

The Board of Supervisors is asked to determine if the recommended actions are consistent with its priorities of striving for effective partnerships.

STAFFING IMPACT:

There is no staffing impact associated with this item. Existing staff from the Chief Executive Office and the Department of Parks and Recreation will assist as needed with the tasks described if approved by the Board of Supervisors.



Attachment A

PARKS AND RECREATION Administration

*Sonya K. Harrigfeld
Director*

*Margarita D. Ramos
Deputy Director*

3800 Cornucopia Way, Suite C, Modesto, CA 95358-9492
Phone: 209.525.6750 Fax: 209.525.6773

POLICY FOR NAMING COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION FACILITIES

I. POLICY STATEMENT

It shall be the policy of the Stanislaus County Parks and Recreation Commission to review and initially approve names for county parks and recreation facilities using the following criteria:

II. CRITERIA

- A. The name of a park or recreation facility should, if possible, have geographic, botanic, zoologic, agricultural, or historic significance. The significance of the name should be generally recognized and known throughout the County, and if possible, recognized and known in the area or neighborhood in which it is located.
- B. A park or recreation facility should not be named after an individual unless one of the following exceptions applies:
 - 1. The park was acquired by means of a substantial gift or donation by an individual, family, organization, or corporation. Such gifts or donations may carry a stipulation, if acceptable to the Board of Supervisors and the Parks Commission, that a certain name is used to identify the park.
 - 2. An individual who has made a substantial contribution in terms of volunteer services, providing a broad recreational or environmental benefit to the residents of Stanislaus County. In most instances, the person should be honored posthumously.
 - 3. It is determined an individual or family has made a significant historical impact to the area or region.
- C. A park or recreation facility should not be named after a person whose contribution to the park system was or is a part of that individual's normal duties as an employee of an agency under the jurisdiction of the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors. An exception may be made for former employees who have contributed volunteer services of an exceptional nature beyond their normal duties.

- D. Parks should not be named after the predominant ethnic group of its surrounding neighborhood, since the ethnic composition of residential areas frequently changes.
- E. However, names with historic significance for the area which happen to be ethnic names are certainly permitted.
- F. A park or facility name should be of reasonable length and easy to pronounce and spell, so it will be readily used and easily displayed. Names that are controversial should be avoided.

III. PROCEDURE

- A. The Parks and Recreation Department will encourage input from historical societies, community groups, or other groups having special knowledge when considering a name to highlight an area's geographic or historic significance.
- B. Temporary designation of names will not be permitted. Temporary designations oftentimes emerge as permanent names by default. The selection of a park name should occur during the acquisition or development processes, or at an appropriate time for the situation.
- C. Naming areas of a park shall be permitted to honor a person or organization that has worked for and distinguished themselves in their dedication to the parks system, or in the efforts towards acquisition or development of a park site. Good evidence should be presented to substantiate such a request.
- D. Community input and park naming contests are highly encouraged to stimulate public interest and obtain name suggestions. Only suggestions which meet policy guidelines will be considered.
- E. To avoid duplication and confusion, all proposed names for parks or recreation facilities should be checked against other park and facilities names found in the County.
- F. Names submitted to the Parks and Recreation Department shall be given to the Stanislaus County Parks and Recreation Commission for selection and initial approval. The selection will then be forwarded to the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors for final approval and adoption.
- G. Groundbreaking and ribbon-cutting ceremonies shall be held by the Parks Commission and the Board of Supervisors. These should take place when the land for a park is donated, when construction commences, or when a new park or facility is ready for public use.

IV. NAME CHANGES

Once given, a name is usually as enduring as the property itself. Therefore, a park or facility name should be selected with the intention that it will be permanent. Change for the sake of change shall not be permitted. Name changes shall only be approved if

there is a serious and substantial reason for requiring a change in a name. It is the responsibility of those who select the names of parks and recreation facilities to do so with the awareness that this name will be on maps and in the community for many generations to come.

V. SPONSORSHIPS

Non-profit groups, civic groups, and community organizations may ask to sponsor a park. For example, they may donate the land or agree to take care of ongoing maintenance of the park. In return, the Parks Commission may agree to recommend to the Board of Supervisors that the Board adopt the name of the property of facility after that group. A written agreement should be reached as to how and in what form the group will fulfill the sponsorship agreement. A long-term agreement should be agreed upon whenever possible.

VI. DONOR RECOGNITION

Plaques and markers will be considered for the purpose of recognizing individuals or groups who have given substantial donations to the parks and recreation system.

- A. All proposals for gifts of funds or park improvements shall be reviewed by the Parks Commission to determine if the improvement is needed and is in keeping with the plan of the park.
- B. If the gift is less than \$500, a Certificate of Appreciation shall be issued by the Parks Commission.
- C. If the gift is over \$500, the name of the donor and the name of the person the gift honors shall be placed on a plaque board at the individual park where the funds were used. The plaque board shall be placed in a prominent place accessible to the public.
- D. If the gift is a major facility such as a building, or playground equipment, or other improvement which is in keeping with the plan of the park, individual plaques shall be affixed to the improvement in such a way that they will be visible to the public. The Board of Supervisors will also receive and acknowledge all major gifts of this type.



KEYES MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
P.O. Box 1112, Keyes, CA 95328

Davie Landers, Chairperson
Karen Poppen, Vice Chairperson
Jeff Reed, Secretary
William Alexander
Harinder Grewal

April 2, 2009

Mr. Ron West, Chairperson
Stanislaus County Parks & Recreation Commission
3800 Cornucopia Way, Suite C
Modesto, CA 95358

Dear Mr. West,

Keyes Municipal Advisory Council (MAC) requests that the Stanislaus County Parks & Recreation Commission add the name of Eddie Best to the name of Keyes Community Center. We ask that the building be renamed Keyes Community Center/Eddie Best Hall, in honor of our friend, who passed away on August 15, 2008. At our MAC meeting on September 18, 2008, MAC members sought the advice of Raul Mendez from the Stanislaus County CEO's office and of Cathy Gomez, Stanislaus County Parks & Recreation Director. As a council, we knew all he had done for the MAC and for our community. We strongly believed that adding his name to the community center in his honor was the right thing to do, and we wanted to begin the process right away.

Eddie Best was involved with almost everything the Keyes community has done over the years. If Eddie was not asked to help, he found his way into the project or the events. He started out as a volunteer firefighter. Then he was involved with actually raising funds to erect Keyes Community Center and persuaded the county to help finish the project when the community could not complete it. He was not the only person who helped, but he was a substantial contributor. Eddie started our citizens' patrol, which turned into what is now the successful S.T.A.R.S. program. He and a few other community members started our Police Activities League (PAL) program, which is still going and to this day operating out of our Community Center. He helped with our community clean ups, and he worked side-by-side with sheriffs and CHP officers to report illegal dump sites, stolen cars, and speeders. Eddie was also our unofficial volunteer dog catcher.

We have continued our efforts to include Eddie in the name of our community center because of his involvement in the Keyes community in the past. The community center is truly the center of our community, and Eddie played a big part in getting it built. It is located next to Hatch Park, and it is the only building in the community that truly belongs to Keyes. We want to include his name on the building so that he is forever remembered in Keyes for his contributions.

We have a number of letters from family members and residents of our community who support our efforts in adding Eddie's name to the building. We propose repainting the sign in the front of the building to add Eddie's name and installing a plaque inside the building. We would like to have a dedication on Saturday, August 15, 2009, which will be the one-year anniversary of his death.

We would be very proud to have Eddie Best's name on the sign as Keyes Community Center/Eddie Best Hall. He has been such an active member in this community, and we want to show appreciation for him and his family. We hope that you will agree with us, approve our request, and pass your recommendation along to the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Reed", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Jeff Reed
Keyes MAC Secretary

April 28, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

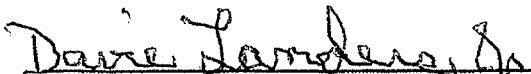
My name is Davie Landers; Jr. this letter is in regards to the Keyes Community Center/Eddie Best Hall. I as one of his closet friends and associates know of his commitment and dedication to the community of Keyes in several ways. One is the formation of the Keyes Neighborhood Watch Patrol. Eddie was responsible in getting the P.A.L. program into Keyes for the children to have something to do. Eddie sat on the Keyes Fire Board.

Eddie put a lot of efforts into helping the Keyes Elementary School. He was well known as the Community Animal Control Officer. He was always willing to help anyone in need no matter who they were or where they were from.

His commitment to the Sheriffs sub-station in Keyes, he was always willing to work and man the station. He was very involved with the S.T.A.R.S. He was a trash, graffiti control, and abandoned vehicle "officer" without pay. He was always willing to help out the Water District by reporting water wasters. Eddie Best was one of the founding members of the Municipal Advisory Council.

"As a note on a personal basis, if anyone could find a better friend and as kind hearted as Eddie I would like to know where. Because of his dedication and active commitment to the Community of Keyes He has inspired me to be as dedicated as I am for this little community of ours and to try to carry on his legacy is a hard thing to bear. People like this should not be easily forgotten."

Respectfully,



Davie Landers, Jr., Chairman of M.A.C.
Eddie's Dearest Friend



Keyes Union School District
5680 Seventh Street • P. O. Box 310 • Keyes, CA 95328
Phone (209) 669-2921 • Fax (209) 669-2923

Marianne Pietrzyk, Board President
Tony Aguilar, Board Vice-President
Remona Rayburn, Board Clerk

Bob Edwards, Board Member
Sandra Marchant, Board Member
Karen Poppen, Superintendent

February 21, 2009

Board of Supervisors
Stanislaus County
10th Street, Suite 6800
Modesto, California 95354

Dear Members of the Board of Supervisors:

The Keyes Union School District supports the efforts by the community of Keyes to change the name of the Keyes Community Center to honor Eddie Best.

We are familiar with Eddie's efforts to improve Keyes and his involvement in the building of the community center, in supporting activities and services to the youth of our community, and in trying to make Keyes a clean and safe place to live.

We hope that you will strongly consider changing the name to honor this fine citizen. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Karen Poppen
District Superintendent

KEYES FIRE DEPARTMENT
5627 7th Street, P.O. BOX 577
KEYES, CA 95328-0577
(209) 634-7690 phone
(209) 634-0659 fax

December 1, 2008

Board of Supervisors:

Keyes Municipal Advisory Council
PO Box 1112
Keyes, CA 95328

Supervisors:
Members of the MAC:


We at the Keyes Fire Department are in great support and favor of your proposal to have the Community Center named after the late Eddie Best.

Eddie Best served on the Fire Department for many years as an active member, when his health made him retire from active service, he still not wanting the walk away from the Department he became a Commissioner. Which he was Vice President at the time he past.

Eddie Best was also part of the STARs program, which he spent any an hour serving the Community once again, thinking of other in the reduction of graffiti, trashing of the Community and crime.

Naming this building in our eyes is only part of us giving back to him and his family for all of his time that he spent away from them.

Respectfully your,



Robert A. Watt
Fire Chief
Keyes Fire Department

RAW/hb

KEYES FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

5627 Seventh St. – P.O. Box 827
KEYES, CALIFORNIA 95328
Ph. (209) 634-7690 – Fax (209) 634-0659

December 5, 2008

Board of Supervisors

Keyes Municipal Advisory Council
P. O. Box 1112
Keyes, CA. 95328

Supervisors:
Members of the MAC:

The Board of Commissioners of the Keyes Fire Protection District would like to confirm that they are in favor of and support the proposal to name the Keyes Community Center (PAL) building in memory of Eddie Best, who was a long time Commissioner and Firefighter of this District and was Board's Vice President when he died.

Keyes Fire Protection District

By Carolyn S. Hill
Carolyn S. Hill
Secretary of the Board

DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL
4030 Kiernan Avenue
Modesto, CA 95356-9506
(209) 545-7440
(800) 735-2929 (TT/TDD)
(800) 735-2922 (Voice)



December 29, 2008

File No.: 465.13406.08-115e

Keyes Municipal Advisory Council
P.O. Box 1112
Keyes, CA 95328

To whom it may concern:

The California Highway Patrol's (CHP) Modesto Area supports the Keyes Fire Districts' request to rename the Keyes Community Center in honor of former Keyes Fire District Commissioner Eddie Best. Mr. Best was a strong supporter and advocate for the citizens of Keyes. Mr. Best also demonstrated his support of the CHP's mission to provide safety, service and security for the citizens of Keyes through his active involvement in traffic safety related events and sponsorship of our community alliance effort.

Thank you for your consideration of the Keyes Fire Districts' request and for your ongoing service as members of the Keyes Municipal Advisory Council.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. C. Duncan".

L. C. DUNCAN, Captain
Commander
Modesto Area

cc: Keyes Fire District

April 23, 2009

Stanislaus County Parks and Recreation Board Members
Stanislaus County, California

Re: Eddie Best Memorial Park

Dear Board Members,

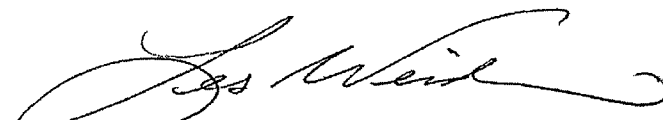
I urge your favorable consideration of re-naming the Keyes Community Park to the Eddie Best Memorial Park (facsimile) in honor of Mr. Best for his unyielding commitment to improving the quality of life in Keyes for more than 4 decades.

I personally knew Eddie Best and owe him a debt of gratitude for his public service and particularly for his tenacity in helping curb the overall crime problem that plagued Keyes for many years. Eddie took the lead in forming a voluntary group of citizens that began patrolling the town to serve as the "eyes and ears" for the sheriff's office.

This group was a prelude to the highly successful STARS program that came into existence in the early 1990's. This is just one example of the many community projects and service groups that Mr. Best was directly involved for the betterment of his community.

By re-naming the park in his honor not only recognizes his outstanding public service, but sends an important and inspirational message that local government does indeed appreciate citizen involvement and leadership.

Sincerely yours,



Les Weidman, Stanislaus County Sheriff, ret.

KEYES COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT
5601 "7TH" STREET
P O BOX 699
KEYES, CA 95328
Office Phone (209) 668-8341/Office Fax (209) 668-8396

January 7, 2009

Board of Supervisors:

Keyes Municipal Advisory Council
P O Box 1112
Keyes, Ca 95328

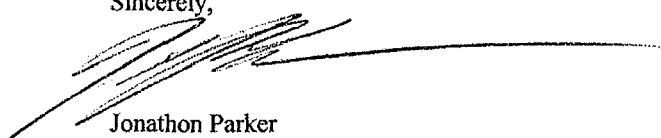
Members of the MAC Committee:

The Keyes Community Services District Board would like to support the proposal of naming the Community Center after Eddie Best.

Eddie Best was a very active member of the Community of Keyes. He was always there when somebody needed help, and he never hesitated even if he had something else he had to do. Eddie was a very nice man. He was always concerned about the community and did everything he could do to try and make things better. He always gave of himself and asked nothing in return.

It would be a very honorable thing to his family and to his memory to have the Community Center named after him. He will be greatly missed in our community.

Sincerely,



Jonathon Parker
Board President
Keyes Community Services District

KEYES COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT
5601 "7TH" STREET
P O BOX 699
KEYES, CA 95328

Office Phone (209) 668-8341/Office Fax (209) 668-8396

January 7, 2009

Board of Supervisors:

Keyes Municipal Advisory Council
P O Box 1112
Keyes, Ca 95328

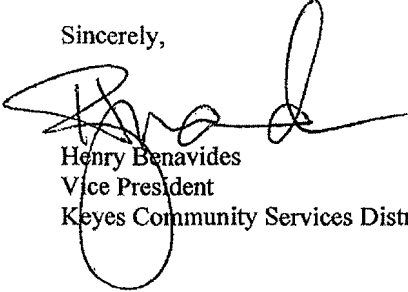
Members of the MAC Committee:

As a Board Member of the Keyes Community Services District I would like to support the proposal of naming the Community Center after Eddie Best.

Eddie was always helping his community in many ways. He never said no and he always greeted you with a smile. He was very involved with the youth at one time at the Community Center. He was always concerned about the young people, and wanted to make sure they had a place to go. Eddie always gave of himself and asked nothing in return.

I would like to recommend that the Community Center be named after the late Eddie Best. He will be greatly missed in our community.

Sincerely,



Henry Benavides
Vice President
Keyes Community Services District

KEYES COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT
5601 "7TH" STREET
P O BOX 699
KEYES, CA 95328

Office Phone (209) 668-8341/Office Fax (209) 668-8396

January 7, 2009

Board of Supervisors:

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Keyes, Ca 95328

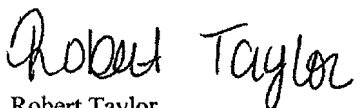
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I would like to recommend that the Community Center be named after the late Eddie Best. He will be greatly missed in our community.

Sincerely,



Robert Taylor
Director
Keyes Community Services District

KEYES COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT
5601 "7TH" STREET
P O BOX 699
KEYES, CA 95328
Office Phone (209) 668-8341/Office Fax (209) 668-8396

January 7, 2009

Board of Supervisors:

Keyes Municipal Advisory Council
P O Box 1112
Keyes, Ca 95328

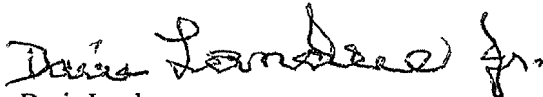
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I would like to recommend that the Community Center be named after the late Eddie Best. He will be greatly missed in our community.

Sincerely,



Davie Landers
Director
Keyes Community Services District

KEYES COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT
5601 "7TH" STREET
P O BOX 699
KEYES, CA 95328

Office Phone (209) 668-8341/Office Fax (209) 668-8396

January 7, 2009

Board of Supervisors:

Keyes Municipal Advisory Council
P O Box 1112
Keyes, Ca 95328


Members of the MAC Committee:

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I would like to recommend that the Community Center be named after the late Eddie Best. He will be greatly missed in our community.

Sincerely,



Casey Chadwick
Director
Keyes Community Services District

12-4-08

To whom it may concern

This is in regards to the desire of

family and friends to name the Kyles

Community Center after Eddie Allen Kyle

I was asked to give my thoughts

on the idea, write them down and

submit them to the local Bureau that be.

My mother is Barbara Best Souza, I

am Eddie's sister. I lived in Kyles

until I was 17 years old. My Mother and

Grand Mom since the early 80's until

their deaths. My sister Virginia also

born and raised in Kyles lived in our family

home and raised her children there.

until her death.

I can remember my Sisters Virginia

& Kathy, mother Eddie. My planning

in Kyles for our little town. The

desire to fix up our ball park & snack bar

was a big issue. Then the town started

governing and the need for some place for

kids to go when the weather was too

bad for Baseball, basketball, games,

parents' community BBQ's and such.

The decision to raise money for a

building/area which the community

came together with the women's from this
to raise money for our Community Center.

There were counter-attacks from
with people being taken from
Be at people involved, the Sheriff's
Department, (later getting Sheriff's
to make it their program site)

The discovery that the
(which he was strongly involved) the
towns left.

The thought of the towns
name this Community Center after my
brother (who is headmaster) and
so incredibly thank you.

It would be a wonderful thing to
Recommend Eric McArthur, one of
had work and influence, and do

Thank him for his constant desire

to stand for a better tomorrow and
working so hard to make our little town of
Kings and nice place to live.

The year is like to Kings if you don't
want to give him a little in return.

Sincerely

Ernestine King

To Whom It May Concern:

As children we are often told stories of kings, princes and heroes. You would fall into dreamy sleep awaiting your prince, awaiting your fairytale hero who could change your life. Then you wake up, grown and often to a world that disappoints you more than changes you; and realize that you may never find that hero you dreamed of as a child.

Eddie Best was my uncle, but he was more than that. He was my hero. He was the man all of those fairytales were based on. He was proud, wise and strongly convicted. He believed in right, shunned wrongs and held a man accountable for his actions.

I attended Keyes School during junior high. I recall many of my classmates and their parents who hated my Uncle Eddie. He would stand in his front yard and flag down speeders, talk to the kids who dropped trash any where down Anna Street and was always quick to state his opinion. I remember losing friends along the way once they found out who my uncle was, but I didn't care. I knew I was safe because of him. My only thought was one of thanks. He was at the butt of many jokes, but it never changed his determination.

My uncle deserves the honor of having the community center named after him because for three generations he instilled change in the small community of Keyes. In my mother's generation the community center emerged. In my generation, it aided the community and in my children's generation it will stand as a reminder that the way to save our town is to save its youth one generation at a time. Who better to name the Keyes community center after than the man who helped to lay the foundation of change? Who better than my hero? Who better than my uncle?

Sincerely,


Micah Kent-Savage

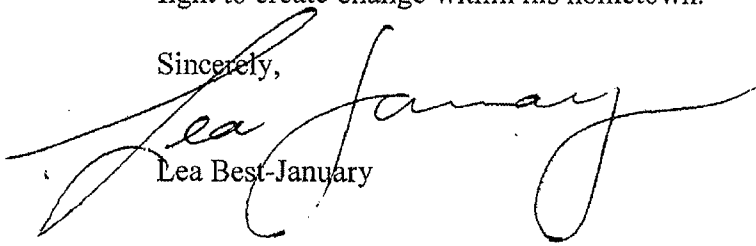
To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Lea Best-January and Eddie Best was my older brother. When I was about 12 years old, Eddie was a volunteer for the fire department and helped all of us kids by talking to the town board about starting a teen-center. He helped us with all of our fundraisers to start what is now called the community center. We used the fire house for our meetings and when we got too big, George Nunes lent us the use of one of the buildings by the old gas station. Eddie was always helping us, from car washes to pop-bottle drives. He wanted us to have a safe place to go and have fun. He would help in any way he could and he never said "no". We needed someone to play Santa at the school, Eddie was there. We needed someone to be Smokey the Bear at the parade, Eddie was there. Eddie was big hearted and kind. He didn't like the kids to do without. He had a way about him. If someone was in need, he had a way to help and if a kid needed a bike, well, he could usually fix that too.

Eddie had a dream. He wanted Keyes to be a safe place. He wanted the kids to be safe on the town's streets, whether they were walking to school or playing ball at the ballpark. In his fight to safe-haven our town, he met with opposition, but ultimately would prevail. He lived to see the Neighborhood Watch, D.A.R.E., P.A.L., and STARS programs all become active in Keyes. He saw that more stop signs were added to the streets to ensure safety and cut down on speeders. He hated fast drivers and wouldn't back down until the stop signs went up. He also tried to keep the town clean by picking up trash and working with the local animal shelters. He worked hand-in-hand with the CHP to help rid the town of abandoned vehicles and because of his efforts; the CHP has a larger presence now in Keyes.

My big brother was not a saint, but he was a man of determination and strong will. He loved his family and home and set out to make change with little care of the personal cost. He was a victim of vandalism, his dogs were killed and his name was cursed, but he paid little head. His goal was to create a safe community within a town that very few people liked to even call home. He changed lives, hearts and opinions. The work Eddie did for Keyes was a huge part of his life and was his dream. It would be an honor to his name and memory to name the community center after him in appreciation of his duty and service to our town. His name is forever etched into many hearts in this town; to name the community center after him would serve as a permanent reminder of one man's fight to create change within his hometown.

Sincerely,


Lea Best-January

March 30, 2009

To whom it may concern:

My name is Harold Moore. I am writing this letter in support of naming the community center after Eddie Best.

I live at 4001 Anna Ave. in Keyes, Ca. I have lived on the same block with Eddie Best for 42 years and have known Eddie Best for 60 years. We were in the same elementary school. We have never had a bad thing to say to one another.

He was always a mans, man with a heart as big as all outdoors. He was adventurous, strong, hard working, and a giving man. He was like a gentle bear. He used to dress up like Smokey the Bear for the parades in Keyes and he also dressed up as Santa Claus for the Keyes Fire House.

He was a loyal friend and loving family man. He would not hesitate to help anybody anytime. Near the end as his health started to fail, he would still try to help you on the telephone.

Of course he always had a joke to tell especially a blonde joke they were his favorite to tell.

He was very serious about his Citizen Patrol and I believe he made a difference on the crime in Keyes.

Sincerely Yours,
Eddie's Friend
Harold Moore



PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Sonya K. Harrigfeld, Director
Margarita D. Ramos, Deputy Director

Ron West, Chair
Patricia Segoviano De Pier, Vice Chair

MOTION: _____

SECOND: _____

MINUTES

May 14, 2009 at 5:00 p.m.

3800 Cornucopia Way, 2nd Floor Conference Room

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ron West
Betty Parker
Ismael Saldana
Chad Kennedy
Patricia Segoviano De Pier

PARKS & RECREATION STAFF PRESENT:

Cathy Gomez
Mae Song
Margarita Ramos
Amanda Fife
Eddie Espinosa

MEMBER ABSENT:

DJ Fransen

GUESTS PRESENT:

Jeff Reed
Dave Landers
Raul Mendez
Jennifer Carlson
Juan Diaz
Domera Benderas

A. CALL TO ORDER & INTRODUCTIONS

- Chair Ron West called the meeting to order. Those in attendance introduced themselves.
- Roll call: Excused absences were received for DJ Fransen.

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Minutes for the April 9, 2009 meeting were approved upon motion and second as written.

ACTIONS

*Parker, Kennedy,
Unanimous Approval*

C. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

ACTIONS & REPORTER

CONSIDERATION OF THE CONSISTENCY WITH THE PARKS NAMING POLICY FOR THE RENAMING OF THE KEYES

D. COMMUNITY CENTER

1. Chair Ron West reviewed and discussed the consistency of the renaming of the Keyes Community Center with the Parks Naming Policy. Letters of support from the public Municipal Advisory Council (MAC) meetings for the renaming was presented. Dave Landers and Jeff Reed from the Keyes MAC shared background information regarding Eddie Best who they would like to rename the hall in his honor. The new name will be Keyes Community Center/Eddie Best Hall. After reviewing the Park Naming Policy, commissioners felt that the add-on name is in consistent with the policy, in that the considerations for renaming has been brought to various boards and public groups for discussion, highlighting historic significance with good evidence in letters of support and group meetings. A dedication ceremony to follow will tentatively be on August 15th which is the anniversary for when Eddie passed away. The Chief Executive Office will be taking on this project to redesign the sign and conduct the dedication ceremony.

ACTIONS & REPORTER

*Segoviano De Pier
motion, Saldana second,
Unanimous Approval*

E. STAFF REPORTS AND UPDATE

ACTIONS & REPORTER

1. Community Parks and County Centers: the current primary focus is the Regional Water Safety Training Center and the Bonita Pool project. One of the center's vehicle was recently involved in an accident. Staff are doing okay but the other party may be in severe condition.
2. Woodward Reservoir is continuing with the regular seasonal mowing, pruning and weeding abatement. The last fish plant was on April 14, 2009. There was a ten-pound bass that was caught today. The Reservation System for all facilities has been put on hold until the system bugs are fixed and can be operated at its optimum. The reservoir has reverted back to a first-come first-serve basis.
3. Modesto Reservoir is finishing up the OHV grant for the La Grange OHV area and seasonal maintenance. They are receiving many graffiti hits near Basso Bridge. The Kiwanis camp is in use and frequently occupied during this summer season.
4. The Department is currently working on compatibility issues, operating concerns, and staff training for the new online reservation system that is currently offline at this time.
5. Graffiti and vandalism cost were at \$3800 for the month of April.
6. Frank Raines Regional Park water project is continuing to progress.
7. The Fireworks Celebration for Stanislaus County is moving forward pending the Board of Supervisors' approval. The Parks Commission's Enhanced Opportunity plans are on hold. The Turlock Chamber of Commerce may be putting on a fireworks display as well. The California State University of Stanislaus has cancelled their fireworks display this year; this may increase attendance at Stanislaus County's Fireworks Celebration.

Amanda Fife

Eddie Espinosa

Margarita Ramos

F. NEW BUSINESS

ACTIONS & REPORTER

Jennifer Carlson, Field Representative of Supervisor Vito Chiesa is putting together an article on the Fireworks Celebration in their quarterly newsletter for District 2 and noted that it is not at taxpayer's expense.

Jennifer Carlson

G. COMMISSION COMMENTS

ACTIONS & REPORTER

1. Patricia Segoviano De Pier commended that Margarita and Cathy's recent presentation to the Youth Commission Teenapalooza event was inspiring. She is impressed with the Department's outreach and compassion.
2. The Friends of the Empire Pool Committee is still selling tiles for the Regional Water Safety Training Center.
3. Chad Kennedy shared a new statewide California Model Water Efficiency Landscaping ordinance requirement for residential landscaping. The Department of Parks and Recreation is currently aware and will try to work toward meeting requirements for its properties.

Patricia Segoviano De Pier

Betty Parker

Chad Kennedy

H. ADJOURNMENT & NEXT MEETING

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned. The next regular meeting of the Parks Commission will be held on:

*Kennedy, Parker,
Unanimous Approval*

**Thursday, June 11, 2009 at 5:00 p.m.
3800 Cornucopia Way, 2nd Floor Conference Room
Modesto, CA**