



City of Arts & Innovation

# Park and Recreation Commission

**TO: HONORABLE PARK AND RECREATION  
COMMISSION MEMBERS**

**DATE: MARCH 19, 2018**

**FROM: PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

**SUBJECT: RECOMMEND NAMING OF BASEBALL FIELD AT ARLINGTON HEIGHTS  
SPORTS PARK**

## **ISSUE:**

Naming of baseball field #1 at Arlington Heights Sports Park in honor of Steven B. Albertson.

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Park and Recreation Commission recommend that the City Council approve the naming of baseball field #1 at Arlington Heights Sports Park in honor of Steven B. Albertson.

## **BACKGROUND:**

Members of the Arlington Little League Board submitted a request that baseball field #1 at the Arlington Heights Sports Park be named in honor of Steven B. Albertson. The attached letter outlines the reasons in support of this request and indicates that Mr. Albertson was a lifelong resident of Riverside for 33 years. Albertson played for Arlington Little League as a child and grew up to become a beloved umpire for the same league among many other accomplishments that served the Riverside community. The Park and Recreation Commission is responsible for the selection of the names for park and recreation facilities, subject to the approval of the City Council.

According to the established protocol for naming of parks and recreation facilities, the naming of specific areas within a park (garden, swimming pool, lake, ball field, etc.) is acceptable but should be kept to a minimum to avoid confusion. All names selected shall be acceptable and meaningful to a majority of the neighborhood/community where the park or recreation facility is located. Resolution No. 18647 adopted by the City Council in February 1995 further stipulates as follows:

*A park or recreation facility can be named for a person only in limited situations. Such person, except for cases deemed extraordinary by the Park and Recreation Commission, should be honored posthumously. The person for whom a park or recreation facility is named must be an outstanding, long-time City leader or a person of national prominence or historic interest who has supported or contributed to open space and/or recreation activities and concepts, or a person who has made a significant personal contribution toward the acquisition and/or development of a specific park or recreation facility. A donor whose contribution represents a major*

*portioned of a planned park or recreation facility may designate a name as a condition of the donation, providing it conforms to the naming criteria set forth above.*

## **DISCUSSION:**

As stated in the background section, Steven B. Albertson was a lifelong resident of Riverside for 33 years. Albertson attended Harrison Elementary, Chemawa Middle School, Norte Vista High School and the University of California, Riverside (UCR), where he graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology. He lettered in three sports at Norte Vista High School – Football, Soccer, and Baseball – all of which he was team captain.

During his college years, Albertson was the assistant coach for soccer and baseball at Norte Vista High School. He was also a member of the Victory Pony Western State Champion team in 1996 and a member of the National AAU Bronze Medalist team in 1997.

In his youth, Albertson played for Arlington Little League from 1989-1995. He made All-Stars at ages 11 and 12; and was on the Championship Team in 1995. Albertson umpired for Arlington Little League for 10 years until his untimely death in 2016.

Albertson's devotion to the youth of Riverside and especially those in the Arlington area is obvious and exemplary. It is the desire of Arlington Little League to have baseball field #1 at Arlington Heights Sports Park be named after Steven B. Albertson in honor and recognition of him as a quality player, knowledgeable coach and fair-minded umpire.

## **FISCAL IMPACT:**

There is no significant fiscal impact associated with naming of ball field #1 at Arlington Heights Sport Park in honor of Steven B. Albertson.

Prepared by: Robin A. Metz, Recreation Superintendent  
Approved by: Adolfo Cruz, Parks, Recreation and Community Services Director  
Approved by: Al Zelinka, FAICP, Assistant City Manager

Attachment:

1. Naming/Renaming Application
2. Map of Arlington Heights Sports Parks