



CITY COUNCIL MEMORANDUM

FROM: The Office of the City Manager **DATE:** March 25, 2024

SUBJECT: Consider recommendations of the Naming Board for requests received for Bruce Jacobson, Stan Gertz, Shannon Bruce, Brent Barrow and Oscar Trevino.

PRESENTER: Naming Board

SUMMARY:

The Naming Board met on February 26 and March 4, 2024 to consider naming requests that had been received by City Manager Mark Hindman over the course of the last year. Members of the naming board are Council member Tito Rodriguez, Council member Rita Wright-Oujesky, and Council member Suzy Compton. The purpose of this item is to present the Naming Board's recommendations for consideration by the City Council in accordance with Ordinance Number 2517.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

Over the course of the last year the City Manager has received several requests to consider naming various City facilities for members of the community who the requestors believe made significant contributions as a result of their service to the North Richland Hills community. Ordinance number 2517, adopted by the City Council September 25, 2000, established a Naming Board to be made up of three City Council members appointed by the entire City Council. The purpose of the Naming Board is to bring recommendations to the City Council for the naming of City facilities. The current Naming Board members are Tito Rodriguez, Rita Wright-Oujesky and Suzy Compton. These members were appointed by the City Council in June of 2023. The ordinance also establishes the guidelines for naming city facilities which are:

- 1 – When giving a name to a facility in honor of a person, living or dead, that person must have made a significant contribution to the community or must have been an outstanding community leader;
- 2 – If the naming board, or council, is considering the naming of a deceased person, 90 days must have elapsed since that person's date of death;
- 3 – No more than one City facility shall be named after any one person. A name may be repeated only for the purposes of being added to a ring of honor;
- 4 – The naming board shall, as part of its duties, do a background search on any person it recommends and shall ascertain affirmatively that the person's name is appropriate for the naming of the subject facility;
- 5 – Renaming of a public facility which has been named for an individual is prohibited;



6 – Names considered which do not meet these guidelines may only be selected if approved by at least three-fourths vote of the council.

The Naming Board convened on February 26 and March 4 of this year to consider naming requests that have been received. Both meetings took place at 4:30 p.m. on the dates listed above in the Community Room at City Hall and were posted in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act. The following naming requests were discussed during both meetings:

- Dr. Bruce Jacobson – Dr. Jacobson was one of the founders of North Hills Hospital. Members of his family have requested that the city consider naming a city facility for him. After discussion, members of the Naming Board recommended the naming of the green space area off City Point Drive that will be part of the City Point Development and will include a walking trail and related amenities be considered for naming after Dr. Jacobson. This area is owned by the hospital and is leased to the city for creation of a walking trail and related open space amenities. Centurion American will construct the amenities which will then be maintained by the City Point HOA. The committee recommended that city staff approach the hospital to request that this area be named after Dr. Bruce Jacobson.
- Former Fire Chief Stan Gertz – Chief Gertz was Fire Chief for the North Richland Hills Fire Department from 1975 – 1997. Mr. Gertz passed away this past year, and his family has requested that Fire Station 5 or a Fire training facility be named for Chief Gertz. The naming committee discussed this request and recommended that the Fire Department choose a training room or community room to name for Mr. Gertz. The committee agreed that Chief Gertz service to the city was significant and left a lasting impression on the North Richland Hills Fire Department.
- Shannon Bruce was a teacher and counselor with the Birdville Independent School District for over 30 years. She passed away as result of a long battle with cancer. A member of the community requested that the city consider naming Northeast Parkway in Ms. Bruce’s memory. After discussing Ms. Bruce’s service as a teacher and counselor, the committee recommended that the best way to honor her service and commitment to the students she served would be for BISD to consider naming a school facility in her memory.
- Brent Barrow was active in the NRH community through numerous educational, church, civic and business organizations. Brent was elected to the City Council in 2018 and served until his passing in 2019. The Naming Board recommended that consideration be given to name the Iron Horse Golf Course Pavilion the Brent Barrow Pavilion after Councilman Barrow. Per Ordinance 2517, this recommendation will require input from the Parks and Recreation Board prior to official consideration of this naming recommendation by the City Council. City staff

will place an item on a future Parks and Recreation Board agenda to receive the input of the Board regarding this recommendation and will place this item on a future Council agenda for official consideration after Parks Board input is received.

- Mayor Oscar Trevino – multiple requests have been submitted to name City Hall or the municipal complex for Mayor Oscar Trevino. In January of this year Mayor Trevino announced that he would not be seeking another term as mayor of NRH. When the mayor completes his term in May, he will have served as mayor for 22 years and served on the City Council for 3 years prior to being elected Mayor. This brings his total service on the North Richland Hills City Council to 25 years. Prior to being elected to the City Council, Mayor Trevino served on the Teen Court Advisory Board. Mayor Trevino is the longest serving Mayor in the history of North Richland Hills next to former Mayor Tommy Brown who served as Mayor for 10 years. Tommy and Sue Brown Park in the Forest Glen neighborhood is named for Mayor Brown and his wife, Sue. During the committee’s discussion regarding the multiple requests to name City Hall after Mayor Trevino, committee members noted that naming City Hall for Mayor Trevino is within the guidelines set forth in Ordinance No. 2517 in that Mayor Trevino is an outstanding community leader whose contributions to the community are not only significant but established North Richland Hills as the excellent City and regional leader that it is today. During his time as mayor, Oscar served on numerous regional and statewide boards and committees including the Regional Transportation Council, the executive board of the North Central Texas Council of Governments, the North Texas Commission, and was one of the founding members of the Tarrant County Mayors Council and served as chair of the Mayors Council numerous times. During his tenure on the City Council, the City increased in population from approximately 40,000 to almost 75,000 people. It was noted by the committee that almost the entire north side of the city developed during this time, and revitalization of the south side of NRH was initiated by redevelopment of much of the land at Loop 820 and Rufe Snow Drive including Babe’s Chicken Dinner House and Sweetie Pie’s Rib Eyes as well as the relocation of City Hall to its current location. Funding for City Hall was approved by an overwhelming majority of voters and resulted in redevelopment along the Boulevard 26 corridor including the City Point development which is now underway. The committee noted that these were just a few of Mayor Trevino’s contributions to the City of North Richland Hills and voted to recommend naming City Hall the T. Oscar Trevino Municipal Center in honor of Mayor Trevino’s outstanding leadership and service to the City of North Richland Hills.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the recommendations of the naming board related to requests received for naming facilities for Dr. Bruce Jacobson, Former Fire Chief Stan Gertz, and Shannon



Bruce. Consideration of naming the Iron Horse Pavilion for Council Brent Barrow will be placed on future Council agenda following receipt of input from the Parks and Recreation Board.

Approve naming City Hall the T. Oscar Trevino Municipal Center in honor of the more than 25 years of leadership and service Mayor Trevino has dedicated to the City of North Richland Hills and the North Texas region.