



# CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH

P.O. BOX 190

2000 Main Street

California 92648

## CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH COMMUNITY & LIBRARY SERVICES COMMISSION

### REQUEST FOR ACTION

**MEETING DATE:** MAY 8, 2024

**SUBMITTED TO:** COMMUNITY & LIBRARY SERVICES COMMISSION

**SUBMITTED BY:** ASHLEY WYSOCKI,  
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY & LIBRARY SERVICES

**PREPARED BY:** CHARLENE GOMEZ, SR. ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

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**SUBJECT:** NAMING OF THE SHIPLEY NATURE CENTER  
INTERPRETIVE CENTER IN HONOR OF PAST MAYOR AND  
COUNCIL MEMBER, SHIRLEY DETTLOFF

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#### **Statement of Issue:**

There has been a request to formally name the Interpretive Center at Shipley Nature Center in honor of former Mayor, Council Member, and long-time community champion, Shirley Dettloff.

#### **Funding Source:**

Not applicable

#### **Recommended Action(s):**

Approve and make a recommendation to City Council to formally name the Interpretive Center at Shipley Nature Center in honor of former Mayor, Council Member, and long-time community champion, Shirley Dettloff.

#### **Alternative Action:**

Do not approve the recommended action and direct staff accordingly.

#### **Analysis:**

Per Resolution 2017-25, the naming of parks and park amenities, such as the Interpretive Center at Shipley Nature Center, are vetted through the Community & Library Services Commission for recommendation to City Council for final approval. Being that a name has already been requested, approval of recommendation for this naming is not required to go before the Commission's Park Naming & Memorial Committee for recommendation to Commission. The Committee is called upon when no name recommendation has been received, or when there is more than one name to choose from, or additional research is required. In this case, the request has been made in memory of and to recognize, Shirley Dettloff, a former Mayor,

Council Member, and dedicated community member, who made a profound impact upon the City of Huntington Beach community.

Named after former Mayor, Donald D. Shipley, the Shipley Nature Center (Nature Center), was opened in 1974. Dr. Shipley's vision was to have a place which reflected what California was like 100-years before.

After years of neglect, the Nature Center became overrun with invasive, exotic plant species that crowded out more desirable native plants on which local native wildlife depended. In addition to non-native plant life, giant reeds were depleting the ground water and causing trees to die off and become fire hazards, which also cause Blackbird Pond to suffer from lack of oxygen.

In 2002, the City considered closing Shipley Nature Center. Shirley Dettloff was instrumental in calling together a group of interested citizens. This began the formation of what would become The Friends of Shipley Nature Center (FSNC), a non-profit organization.

FSNC, with the assistance of former Mayor Dettloff, established a Memorandum of Understanding with the City which allows the non-profit to manage the 18 acres of Shipley Nature Center.

The formation of FSNC allowed contractors to donate the pillars and the entry gate. Stone masons built the pillars on which the gates, donated by the iron workers, swing. Other donations have continued to grace the unique Nature Center. Shirley Dettloff was essential in creating this Interpretive Center which draws thousands of elementary students and visitors to our Central Park.

The Interpretive Center is a 1,500 sq. ft. building located within Shipley Nature Center that houses exhibits on local wildlife and ecology. The Interpretive Center is utilized as a visitor's and learning center for not only the public, but school tours as well, providing access to books on nature, interactive displays, and programs. The Interpretive Center is also used by birders in the recording of birds detected in Huntington Central Park and updated to a national database.

Shirley Dettloff coordinated the creation of the panels which chronical the history of the property from the Ice Ages to the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. These panels are featured inside the Interpretative Center. She also created interactive exhibits, and the extensive Docent Manual which forms the basis of training for volunteers who lead the tours inside Shipley.

Shirley Dettloff, an active member of the community and environmental enthusiast for decades, passed away on Tuesday, April 23, 2024. Shirley was elected to the Huntington Beach City Council, serving as a Council Member from 1994-2000, and held the position of the City's 60<sup>th</sup> Mayor in 1998.

During her tenure, Shirley was instrumental in saving the Bolsa Chica wetland through public acquisition of land and securing of funding for the wetland's restoration. As a Council Member she fought tirelessly for the people of Huntington Beach to make their lives better by bringing in new business to the city, co-authoring the Human Dignity policy, establishing a Human Relations Task Force, forming an Investment Advisory Board to help manage City funds, she increased funding for youth sports, supported senior and library services, participated in infrastructure studies, and voted to hire additional police officers, and to improve helicopter services in order to keep the citizens of Huntington Beach safe.

Additionally, Shirley served as the following: Commissioner on the California State Coastal

Commission and Orange County Harbors, Beaches, Parks Commission; Chair of the HB Planning Commission and Children's Task Force; Director of the OC Sanitation District; City Council Liaison for the HB Council on Aging, the Human Relations Commission, and the Citizens' Infrastructure Committee. Shirley co-founded the Friends of the Library; was past President of the American Heart Association, and her beloved Amigos de Bolsa Chica.

The above description scratches the surface of the service Shirley provided to her community. Shirley was quoted in the Orange County Register, January 2016, while giving an interview about the wetlands, as saying, "we are ordinary people who did extraordinary things." Well, that's who Shirley Detloff was – extraordinary!

**Environmental Status:**

Not applicable.

**Attachment(s):**

1. Resolution 2017-25

RESOLUTION NO. 2017-25

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE  
CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH ESTABLISHING A POLICY  
FOR THE NAMING OF CITY PARKS, PARK FEATURES AND  
COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND REPEALING CONFLICTING RESOLUTIONS

WHEREAS, it is desirable that appropriate names be chosen when naming City parks, park features and community facilities which in some instances recognizes donations of furniture and/or park play equipment and other amenities, and that a policy be adopted by the City Council to accomplish this purpose,

NOW, THEREFORE, the City Council of the City of Huntington Beach does hereby resolve as follows:

1. That the policies contained in this Resolution shall be instituted for the naming of the City's parks, park features and community facilities, and in some cases will recognize donations of furniture and park/play equipment and other amenities.
2. That parks adjacent to schools be named the same as the school.
3. That if an entire park or sizable portion of a park which is not adjacent to a school is donated by an individual or family, it may be named after the donor.
4. That if the park is neither adjacent to a school nor donated, all or in part, it may be named after past Huntington Beach mayors who are no longer members of the City Council ("Former Mayors"). In addition, other individuals, including past council members, (or other names) may be proposed. The names of these persons may be considered when their unique contributions have had a City, state or national impact, are marked by excellence and are worthy of honor.
5. That in addition to parks, other community facilities such as lakes, park features of Huntington Central Park, structures (other than restrooms and benches), groves of trees, walkways, playing fields, group camp and picnic sites, gardens, play equipment areas, meadows, amphitheaters, vistas, bridges and wildlife refuges may be named after former mayors to honor them for their service to the City. In addition, other individuals, including past council members, may be proposed when their unique contributions have had a City, state or national impact, are marked by excellence and are worthy of honor. In addition, other individuals or other names may be proposed.
6. That if a park, park feature or other community facility is to be named based on a finding of historical significance, in addition to review by the Community Services Commission, the City of Huntington Beach Historic Resources Board will be consulted prior to a recommendation from the Community Services Commission to City Council.

7. That if park or pier furniture such as picnic tables, benches, trash cans, or play equipment is donated by an individual, civic organization, family or business, the donor may receive recognition by having the name of a person, family or business placed on the donation. For example, if a donation in memory of a relative were given to the City for a pier bench, the following guidelines would apply when naming the bench: The name only, including the year; in honor of (individual's name), including the year; in memory of (individual's name), including the year.

Another example if a donation were made for a modular piece of play equipment or a park bench from a company with the bench placed immediately adjacent to a new tot lot with the inscription "This tot lot is donated to the City of Huntington Beach by \_\_\_\_\_ Company."

8. That if a business or other entity offers to pay the City in exchange for the City naming a facility or park after the business, then the City may enter into an agreement for the same. The agreement must be prepared by the City Attorney and approved by the City Council.

9. That only one park, park feature or community facility shall be named for an individual.

10. That all recommendations for park/pier memorial naming be processed through the Community Services Commission which shall make a recommendation to the City Council for final approval or denial. City Council retains all authority to name a park, park features and community facilities without returning to the Community Services Commission.

11. That Resolution No. 2004-90 and all other resolutions in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

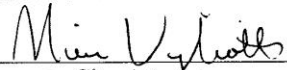
PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Huntington Beach at a regular meeting thereof held on the 7TH day of AUGUST, 2017.

  
Mayor

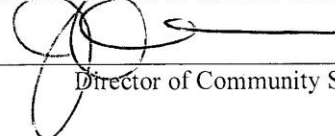
REVIEW AND APPROVED:

  
City Manager

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

  
City Attorney

INITIATED AND APPROVED:


  
Director of Community Services

Res. No. 2017-25

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
COUNTY OF ORANGE                     ) ss:  
CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH         )

I, ROBIN ESTANISLAU the duly elected, qualified City Clerk of the City of Huntington Beach, and ex-officio Clerk of the City Council of said City, do hereby certify that the whole number of members of the City Council of the City of Huntington Beach is seven; that the foregoing resolution was passed and adopted by the affirmative vote of at least a majority of all the members of said City Council at a **Regular** meeting thereof held on **August 7, 2017** by the following vote:

**AYES:**       O'Connell, Semeta, Posey, Delgleize, Hardy, Brenden, Peterson  
**NOES:**       None  
**ABSENT:**   None  
**RECUSE:**   None

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk and ex-officio Clerk of the  
City Council of the City of  
Huntington Beach, California