

## RESOLUTION NO 2010-16

### A RESOLUTION ADOPTING AN OPEN-SPACE NAMING POLICY

**WHEREAS,** The Town of Edgewood, New Mexico is a municipal corporation, and acting by its Town Council, is in support of the need to establish a clear process for determining appropriate names for new open spaces.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT,** the Town of Edgewood hereby establishes the open space naming policy as follows:

Edgewood has a variety of open spaces which includes parks and play areas. These open spaces will be named to reflect the identity of the town and/or the local area and to ensure ease of identification for Council and the public.

The aim of this policy is to provide a clear process for determining appropriate names for new open spaces.

This policy covers Town owned or managed open space. "Open spaces are generally the outdoor places in the town which have ecological, recreational, landscape or heritage values."

This policy applies to new or un-named open spaces. Where existing Town owned land or managed land is not named, Council will apply this policy and associated framework.

The Town usually obtains open space in the following ways:

- Subdivision;
- Purchased by the Town;
- Transferred from another use, for example from landfill to recreation use;
- Vested in the Town by another agency; or
- Gifted to the Town.

This policy applies to all the above cases, however special conditions may apply.

#### **PART A: DECISION MAKING**

When a new or unnamed open space has been identified, Council will, in the first instance discuss whether the site is of significance. If it is, an appropriate name will be determined in conjunction with the Parks & Recreation committee.

All names should have formal approval by resolution of the Council. Once approved by Council, the name will remain in perpetuity. Council will not consider renaming already approved names for open spaces. This will ensure that the title is officially recognized and will guard against future debate, criticism and claims for name change.

Once a name has been approved by Council, appropriate signage will be implemented in the open space.

There are two areas where special conditions may apply.

### **Gifts**

If the open space has been donated to the Town then this policy will apply. However, the name of the donor should be recognized on open space signage and in any written material concerning the open space for example "bequested by ....".

### **Sponsorship**

Both sports and facilities can benefit from sponsorship arrangements. Therefore, commercial involvement in name association may be encouraged in certain circumstances. If a sponsorship arrangement is entered into, which relates to a particular open space the decision-making framework will still apply. However, the name of the sponsor/s should be recognized on open space signage and in any written material concerning the open space for the period of the sponsorship.

### **Suggested names**

Determine if there are names in common usage. 'Common usage' is defined as: -name used by more than one community of interest (for example community groups, schools, businesses); and -name referred to in local documentation (for example local newsletters)

Determine if any names have already been suggested.

Seek additional suggestions through targeted consultation, with:

- Local historians -Local community groups -Community Boards -Developer where appropriate

### **Assessment**

Determine the appropriateness of the names suggested against the style guide (Part B).  
Develop a preferred name ranking using the selection criteria (Part C).

### **Consultation**

Consultation will be undertaken using criteria as identified on the preferred ranked weighted names table in Part C.

### **Consideration for approval**

Following consultation a recommended name will be put to Council for consideration. If there has been no agreement on a preferred name through the consultation process then other options for resolving the issue may need to be developed.

## PART B: STYLE GUIDE

The style guide is a list of “rules” that any open space name needs to abide by. Use of the style guide will ensure consistency of naming. Any name suggested needs to be assessed against the style guide.

1. Duplication of names should be avoided.
2. Possessive form (for example John Smith’s reserve) should be avoided except if it destroys the sound of the name or changes its descriptive application. If used the apostrophe should be dropped.
3. In general hyphens should be avoided. Preferably, the name should be written either as one word or as separate words.
4. Words should be spelled correctly, including the use of diacritical marks such as macrons as appropriate.
5. Names which would be considered in poor taste or likely to cause offence should be not be used.
6. Established geographical names should not be altered unless for reasons such as to avoid confusion, ambiguity or to standardize spelling.
7. Where an incorrect name has become established by local usage the Council may in its discretion retain such incorrect form.

## PART C: SELECTION CRITERIA

These criteria will be used to establish the relative merits of any suggested names. All names that are suggested will be compared using the criteria that have been weighted to reflect relative importance (see Table 1). The names will then be ranked in order of merit with the highest scored name highest ranked.

### **1. Local Usage**

Proof of establishment and the extent of common usage need to be determined.

### **2. Historical Person or Event**

This can be for example settlers, early notable people or events with local association. Naming after persons living or recently deceased should generally be avoided where the issue is potentially sensitive.

### **3. Significant geographical feature, landscape, flora or fauna**

Naming after minor features should be avoided.

### **4. Personal name (surname) for special service**

This can be for conservation, sport, community service or other sphere of activity with local association which can be duly recognized. Naming after persons living or recently

deceased should generally be avoided where the issue is potentially sensitive.

**5. Descriptive name**

**6. Associated name**

For example Hill Park (as in on a hill). Naming after minor features should be avoided.

That is a part of an association or grouping of names in a subdivision.

**7. Published name in any work**

The work needs to be authoritative in the opinion of Council. However publishing will not confer establishment.

**8. Cultural Significance**

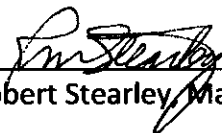
Significance to be determined through written evidence.

**9. Adjacent Street or name of suburb**


<b>Criterion</b>	<b>Weighting</b>	
1. Local Usage	High	3
2. Historical Person or Event *	Medium	2
3. Significant feature	Medium	2
4. Personal name (surname) for special service *	Low	1
5. Descriptive name	Low	1
6. Associated name	High	3
7. Published name in any work	Low	1
8. Cultural Significance	High	3
9. Adjacent Street/suburb	Low	1
<b>Score</b>		

**NOTE: Naming of an open space will not preclude naming significant features within it for example a fountain, artwork or memorial.**

**PASSED, APPROVED and ADOPTED THIS 21st day of July 2010.**

  
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Robert Stearley, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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Estefanie Muller, Clerk-Treasurer.