

RECOMMENDATION RESOLUTION

PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

Recommendation Number: 2025-01RR – PRB

Naming of Rooms within Dunbar Recreation Center

WHEREAS, the Parks and Recreation Department staff's research of Dunbar Park and its associated amenities for the Lone Star Legacy Park award, staff discovered there were many people instrumental in making Dunbar Park what it is today; and

WHEREAS, the Parks and Recreation Board received a presentation from staff on March 20, 2025 outlining staff's suggestions on room naming within the building and a plaque in the foyer; and

WHEREAS, the Parks and Recreation Board is supportive of the naming of the rooms within the building to the following: the Ola Lee Coleman room (large room), the Harvey Miller room (activities room) and the Marshall room (small room). The board is also supportive of hanging a plaque in the foyer to honor the "First Five"; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Ola Lee Coleman was a beloved educator with the longest career at the Dunbar School. For over 35 years she taught generations of local San Marcos residents, retiring in 1951. Though she was not married during her tenure, Ola Lee considered the students her family. When questioned at her retirement about the hardest part of her teaching career, she answered quickly and without hesitancy, "The hardest part of all was waiting for Saturday and Sunday to pass so that school would start on Monday." Ms. Ola Lee Coleman passed away on April 8, 1955. Ms. Coleman's name was one of the original three suggestions to the school board for the naming of the school in 1961; however, the board ultimately voted in favor of Dunbar, in honor of Paul Lawrence Dunbar, a noted black author from Dayton, Ohio; and

WHEREAS, Mr. and Mrs. Courtenay D (CD) and Frances were a philanthropic couple in the San Marcos community who generously provided funding for the purchase of the Dunbar buildings and the associated land to the City of San Marcos from San Marcos Consolidated Independent School District. When the final purchase was made, the City ordinance stated that the property must be permanently and irrevocably dedicated for park and recreational related activities of the general public. Mrs. Marshall was a retired registered nurse and Mr. Marshall was a retired chemical engineer and both were heavily involved with the school district, among other

community activities and organizations. Mr. Marshall served on the board of equalization for the school district and Mrs. Marshall served on the school board. Frances Marshall passed away on March 10, 1986, and Courtenay D. Marshall passed away on February 4, 2002; and

WHEREAS, Harvey Miller was instrumental in implementing and coordinating activities at the Dunbar Recreation Center after it was obtained for the City's Parks and Recreation Department. Mr. Miller was an outstanding individual who was instrumental in coordinating community programming on behalf of the Parks and Recreation Department in the late 1970's and early 1980's. After the City acquired Dunbar Park and the old Dunbar School, Mr. Miller, Dunbar's Playground Director, brought the park back to life with robust programming, and activities such as youth sports programs, Juneteenth Celebrations, movie nights, teen dances, summer camps, arts programs and more. The room is currently used for the City to host many ceramic classes and youth camps, just like the ones Mr. Miller organized after the Parks and Recreation Department acquired the building in 1973. Mr. Harvey Miller passed away on September 1, 2020; and

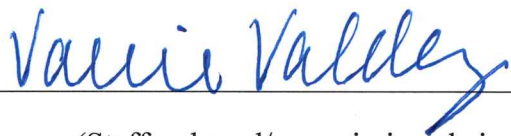
WHEREAS, When the Southwest Texas State Normal School (now Texas State) was authorized in February of 1963 to end segregation at the university, four black women registered for classes on the same day the court order was signed. The fifth woman registered the next day. The plaque will hang to recognize the trailblazing efforts of Georgia Hoodye Cheatham, Helen Jackson Franks, Gloria Odoms Powell, Dana Jean Smith and Mabeleen Washington, the "First Five"; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Parks and Recreation Board recommends that the City Council approve the naming of the following rooms within the Dunbar Recreation Center: the Activities, the small room and the large room, consecutively to the Harvey Miller Room, the Frances and C.D. Marshall Room and the Ola Lee Coleman Room.

Date of Approval: April 17, 2025

Record of the vote: 7-For, 1-Absent, 0-Against

Attest:



(Staff or board/commission chair can sign)