



PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

Tuesday September 28, 2021

5:30 P.M.

City Hall

Council Chambers

6000 Main St SW, Lakewood WA

Residents can virtually attend Park and Recreation Advisory Board meetings by watching them live on the city's YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/user/cityoflakewoodwa>

Those who do not have access to YouTube can call in to listen by telephone via Zoom: Dial +1(253) 215- 8782 and enter Meeting ID: **920 3804 6123**

Virtual Comments and Public Testimony on Public

Hearing: If you would like to provide virtual Public Comments or Testimony on the Public Hearing during the meeting, you will need to join the Zoom meeting as an attendee by calling by telephone Dial +1(253) 215- 8782 and enter meeting ID: 920 3804 6123 or visiting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/92038046123>.

By Phone: For those participating by calling in by telephone (+1(253) 215- 8782 and enter participant ID: 920 3804 6123), the Chair will call on you during the Public Comment or Public Hearings portion of the agenda. When you are unmuted please provide your name and city of residence. Each speaker will be allowed (3) three minutes to speak during the Public Comment and at the Public Hearing.

By ZOOM: For those using the ZOOM link (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/92038046123>), upon entering the meeting, please enter your name or other chosen identifier. Use the "Raise Hand" feature to be called upon by the Chair during the Public Comments or Public Hearing portion of the agenda. When you are unmuted please provide your name and city of residence. Each speaker will be allowed (3) three minutes to speak. Outside of Public Comments and the Public Hearing, all attendees on ZOOM will continue to have the ability to virtually raise your hand for the duration of the meeting. You will not be acknowledged and your microphone will remain muted except for when you are called upon.

Persons requesting special accommodations contact Nikki York at 253-983-7887 as soon as possible in advance of this meeting so that an attempt to meet a special accommodation need can be made.

PRAB MEMBERS

Jason Gerwen, Chair
Vito Iacobazzi, Vice Chair
Sylvia Allen
J. Alan Billingsley
Michael Lacadie
Fred Ramey

YOUTH COUNCIL

Brandan Elliott

Linda Farmer, Council Liaison

STAFF

Mary Dodsworth, Director
Nikki York, Office Assistant

CALL TO ORDER

ATTENDANCE/ROLL CALL

APPROVAL of July 27, 2021 MINUTES

PUBLIC COMMENT

Comments can be emailed in advance to Nikki York at nyork@cityoflakewood.us. Comments received by September 24 will be provided to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board electronically. Live Public Comments may be given during the meeting in person at City Hall or virtually by following the instructions above. Each speaker will be allowed (3) three minutes to speak during Public Comments.

NEW BUSINESS

Naming of City Facility- David Boyd

PUBLIC HEARING

This is the date set for a public hearing regarding the request for Fort Steilacoom Park to be renamed Dr. Claudia B. Thomas Park.

Testimony can be emailed in advance to Nikki York at nyork@cityoflakewood.us. Live Public Testimony may be given during the meeting in person at City Hall or virtually by following the instructions above. Each speaker will be allowed (3) three minutes to speak during Public Hearing.

DIRECTORS REPORT

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

NEXT PRAB MEETING

Regular Meeting Tuesday October 26, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom

ADJOURN

Persons requesting special accommodations contact Nikki York at 253-983-7887 as soon as possible in advance of this meeting so that an attempt to meet a special accommodation need can be made.



**LAKWOOD PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday July 27, 2021– 5:30 PM
Zoom Meeting**

CALL TO ORDER

Vito Iacobazzi called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

ATTENDANCE:

PRAB Members Present: Vito Iacobazzi-Vice-Chair, Sylvia Allen, Fred Ramey, Susan Dellinger

PRAB Members Excused: Jason Gerwen-Chair, Alan Billingsley, Michael Lacadie

Staff Present: Mary Dodsworth – Director, Nikki York – Office Assistant

Council Liaison: Linda Farmer

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Sylvia Allen moved and Fred Ramey seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the June 22, 2021 meeting as written. MPU.

NEW BUSINESS:

Joint Meeting with Council Recap: Vito Iacobazzi asked for a quick update on the joint meeting. Mary Dodsworth thought it was a great meeting and really liked that the board asked the council about their favorite parks. Fred Ramey felt it was very valuable and productive. Vito Iacobazzi asked about the research that was provided by Dave Bugher. Noted that we would like that to be on the work program for next year. Linda Farmer commented that the joint meeting went great and it was really nice for the council to be asked their favorite park.

Parks CIP: Mary Dodsworth shared a power point presentation of the Parks Capital Improvement Projects including the all abilities playground, Pavilion restroom and warming kitchen, Angle Ln South, Service Club Sign, Harry Todd Waterfront Improvements, Springbrook Park Master Plan, American Lake Waterfront Master Plan, Wards Lake, Edgewater Park Master Plan, Seeley Lake Park Updates, Chambers Creek Trail, Fort Steilacoom Turf Infields. Fred Ramey commented that it is amazing the amount of land that we have acquired. Vito Iacobazzi gave Kudos to Mary Dodsworth and staff.

Directors Report: Mary Dodsworth reviewed the Directors Report including: National Night Out Celebration & Dedication, Naming of City Facilities- Claudia Thomas at September Meeting, Forever Green Trails Conference.

Board Comments: Vito Iacobazzi shared that we typically have a social gathering in August.

NEXT MEETING: The next PRAB meeting will be on Tuesday September 28, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: Sylvia Allen moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:21 p.m. Fred Ramey seconded. MPU

Vito Iacobazzi-Vice-Chair

Nikki York, Office Assistant

DRAFT



TO: Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

FROM: Mary Dodsworth, Parks, Recreation & Community Services Director

DATE: September 20, 2021

SUBJECT: Application to Rename a City Park / Facility

ATTACHMENTS: Resolution # 2016-2018
Application to rename City Facility after Dr. Claudia B. Thomas
Community Input provided to the City (prior to 9/24/21) – any
additional information will be provided to the Board at the meeting

Summary: City Resolution No. 2016-2018 created a policy and procedure for naming or renaming city parks and facilities. In 2018 the City received a request to rename a city facility in honor of Dr. Claudia B. Thomas. The application was withdrawn based on resolution guidelines which states that there must be at least 36 months from the date of the death of a person before a name change can be considered. Dr. Thomas passed away on May 12, 2018. The application was resubmitted in June, 2021 for consideration. The original request was to rename the Motor Ave project area. The current application suggests renaming Fort Steilacoom Park.

Background: In 2016 City Council updated the policy, criteria and procedures to name or rename a City park or facility. The purpose of the update was to ensure that we always consider the past, present and future of the city when naming facilities and names should create an enduring legacy, meet city vision, mission and goals, are appropriate for the site, remain relevant as the city changes and grows, create a positive image of the city and have broad public support.

In September, 2018 the City received a request to rename the area currently known as Motor Avenue to the Claudia B. Thomas Promenade. The request was made to honor Dr. Thomas's civic work and her many contributions to Lakewood. At this time Motor Avenue was being redeveloped as a [complete street](#) project with the intent of reinvigorating the area and creating spaces that could be closed off to traffic in order to create community plazas and areas for events and gatherings. Due to Section C (3) of the naming resolution that states *there shall be a lapse of at least thirty six (36) months between the date of the death of the person(s) or of the event commemorated and the final naming or renaming of the City park or City facility*, the City held the application and contacted the applicant over the years to see if the application was still valid.

In June, 2021 the applicant submitted an amendment to the renaming request. When the application was originally submitted the individual expected Motor Avenue would be closed to vehicle traffic at all times and the area would be a community plaza. Since Motor Avenue is open to traffic, and only closed for special events, the applicant wanted to suggest another city site be named in honor of the significant contributions of Dr. Thomas. Two other sites were submitted for consideration:

1. Rename Fort Steilacoom Park the Dr. Claudia B. Thomas park
2. Rename Lakewood City Hall or memorialize the City Hall area after Dr. Thomas.

Review Process: According to City policy the process to rename a public facility is as follows:

- An application will be submitted to the City
- The City will review for completeness and provide verification of submittal.
- The proposal will be reviewed by the City's Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB) at a public meeting.
- The PRAB will review and forward a recommendation to City Council for consideration.
- Council will determine next steps which could include requesting additional information, gathering more public input and/or adding the topic to a future meeting for discussion.

Review Criteria: The following criteria will be considered with each application:

1. The past, present and future history of the land or community should be considered.

Does the name change provide a worthy and enduring legacy for the city?

Dr. Claudia Thomas served on the Lakewood City Council for 15 years, was Deputy Mayor and Mayor during that time and was Washington's first African American female Mayor. She was an excellent leader and public servant.

Does the name reflect the significance of a feature or appropriate to the location?

Name does not represent a specific feature at the park or City Hall, however City Hall is an appropriate location to honor the legacy she provided in municipal government.

Does the name reflect the mission and vision of the city?

Lakewood's vision is a thriving, urban, South Puget Sound City, possessing the core values of family, community, education, economic prosperity, and the equitable delivery of municipal services. The City's 25th Anniversary represents building UNITY in commUNITY. This was a theme of Dr. Thomas work in the City of Lakewood.

2. The individual or entity who has donated substantial monies or land or has been otherwise instrumental in the acquisition of the property; *Not applicable*

3. The request is preferred by residents of the neighborhood surrounding the public facility, would create a positive image and has broad public support.

Based on feedback from the community to date, the candidate is beloved and worthy of recognition, however, Fort Steilacoom Park is not the preferred site for this name change. Other locations have been suggested such as City Hall (City Council chambers, fountain/plaza), Motor Avenue (Unity Plaza or Thomas Promenade), or specific areas at Ft Steilacoom Park (pavilion building or future renovated H-barn).

4. A void undue commercialization of the park and/or recreational facility.

Name would not commercialize the area.

5. When an individual is considered posthumously, was the person exceptionally dedicated to or demonstrated excellence in service or risk their life to protect others.

Dr. Claudia B. Thomas was dedicated and demonstrated excellence in all areas of public service. Her work to provide services to the underserved, represent the unrepresented and unify the community is her legacy.

6. When naming an historic place, consideration will be given to its founders, other historical figures, Native American heritage, local landmarks, prominent geographical locations, and natural features.

Dr. Thomas was considered one of the founders of incorporation and often referred to as the mother of Lakewood.

7. The renaming and reconsideration of current names of parks, facilities & natural areas is allowed but discouraged. Name changes will be subject to a critical review that includes consideration of the original justification for the current name, the monetary value of prior contributors, and the rationale for changing the name.

Fort Steilacoom Park – this site has a long and rich history. In 1849 the US Army established a fort and called it Fort Steilacoom. In 1967 Pierce County signed a lease with the State of Washington. Although documents identifying official action were not located, a memo dated August 12, 1968 from Pierce County to the Department of Natural Resources notes the site on the former Western State Hospital farm grounds, now known as Fort Steilacoom Park. The site is also included in the Fort Steilacoom Historic District.

Lakewood City Hall – named when dedicated in November, 2001.

Motor Avenue – part of the original trolley line, named for the motorized trolley system that was put into place.

Other information presented or to consider: Public comment noted that the Clover Park School District recently named a new middle school after Dr. Thomas. Please note that that recognition was to honor Dr. Thomas's contributions to education. This request is to honor her leadership and work in local government and our Lakewood Community.

Next Steps: The PRAB will review information and hold a public hearing on Tuesday, September 28, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. or soon thereafter regarding a request for Fort Steilacoom Park to be renamed Dr. Claudia B. Thomas Park. The applicant will present his request and public input will be accepted at this meeting.

The Board may request additional information, table the conversation to a future meeting or make a recommendation that will be forwarded to the Lakewood City Council for future consideration.

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-18

A RESOLUTION of the City Council of the City of Lakewood, Washington, relating to parks and public facilities, creating a policy and procedure for naming/renaming City parks and facilities.

WHEREAS, the City Council may have occasions to name or rename City parks and other City facilities; and,

WHEREAS, it is appropriate to establish criteria and procedures for the official naming/renaming of City parks and other facilities.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAKEWOOD, WASHINGTON HEREBY RESOLVES as follows:

Section 1.

- A. The naming/renaming of City Parks and other City facilities shall only be in accordance with the procedures and criteria set forth below. Once adopted, name changes should occur on an exceptional basis only. Permanent naming/renaming opportunities: (1) are non-sponsorship and non-fundraising related opportunities; (2) are permanent and do not expire; and (3) are opportunities that comply with this policy.
- B. The following criteria shall be considered:
1. The past, present and future history of the land or community should be considered. Consideration for naming and re-naming should ensure that:
 - a) It is in the best interest of the city and provides a worthy and enduring legacy for the city.
 - b) The name reflects the significance of a feature and the mission and vision of the city.
 - c) The name is appropriate to the location and remains relevant as the city grows and changes.
 2. The individual or entity who has donated substantial monies or land or has been otherwise instrumental in the acquisition of the property;
 3. The articulated preference of residents of the neighborhood surrounding the public facility;
 4. Engender a strong, positive image.
 5. Have broad public support.

6. Avoid undue commercialization of the park and/or recreational facility.

7. Outstanding Individuals

Outstanding individuals will be considered posthumously. Consideration will be given when:

- a) The person was exceptionally dedicated or demonstrated excellence in service in ways that made a significant contribution to the land, community, park, or city department; or
- b) The person risked his or her life to save or protect others.

8. The naming of historic events, culture, people and places:

When a park and/or facility is associated with or located near events, people, and places of historic, cultural or social significance: consideration will be given to naming the park, facility, etc., after such events, people and places. This history may include its founders, other historical figures, Native American heritage, local landmarks, prominent geographical locations, and natural features.

9. Gift Related Naming

A gift-related naming occurs when a donor makes a significant contribution that adds considerable value to the City of Lakewood. If the city benefits from the generosity of residents, businesses and foundations, the significance of the donation may warrant consideration for requests from either the donor or another party to acknowledge such a gift by naming. Decisions regarding such recognition are made on a case-by-case basis and will take into consideration the total cost of the project, the availability of other funds and the level of financial contribution. All gift-related naming will be documented by a written donor agreement. As a guideline, the threshold for considering the naming of an asset will include one or more of the following:

Land for the majority of the park was deeded to the City by the donor.

- a) Contribution of a minimum of 60% of the capital construction costs associated with developing the park/facility.
- b) Provision of a minimum 20-year endowment for the continued maintenance, operation and/or programming of the Asset.

10. Renaming

The renaming and reconsideration of current names of parks, facilities, natural areas, etc., is allowed but discouraged. Name changes will be subject to a critical review that includes consideration of the original justification for the current name, the monetary value of prior contributors, and the rationale for changing the name. The renaming process would follow all other steps in the Naming process.

The naming of physical entities is intended to be in place for the life of the specific physical entity. If, in the determination of the City Council, circumstances change so that the purpose for which the physical entity was established is significantly altered or if the physical entity is no longer needed or habitable, they will determine an appropriate way to recognize the donor's naming gift in perpetuity. If the City and the

donor(s) previously established a contract that provides a practicable course of action, then that action shall be followed.

11. Moral Clause

Under circumstances that would cast a negative image upon the City (such as committing a serious crime), any naming of City-owned facilities in honor of an individual, family or group may be revoked at the discretion of the City Council.

The names of individuals or corporations or groups involved in controversial enterprises or activities that would be detrimental to the mission or image of the City should be avoided. The donation of land, facilities, or funds for the acquisition, renovation or maintenance of land or facilities, shall not constitute an obligation by the City to name the land and/or facility or any portion thereof after an individual, family or organization.

12. Modification or Relocation of Property and Names

As modifications are made to property over time, situations may occur where it is in the best interest of the city to relocate, modify, or reallocate named city property. This is to insure that the original purpose of the naming and the donor's wishes, if built with private funds, are preserved as appropriate.

C. Prior to City Council approval, the proposed naming information will be reviewed by the appropriate City staff or committee who will consider names based on the criteria outlined below and with consideration of public comment. The following guidelines shall be followed for naming/renaming of City parks and other City facilities:

1. If the City Council determines that a City Park or other City facility should be named or renamed, the City shall solicit suggestions for names from private organizations and individuals. All suggestions, whether solicited or independently offered, shall be acknowledged and recorded by the City.
2. Following a review of recommendations, suggestions and public comments, the City Council shall determine the name for City parks and other City facilities.
3. There shall be a lapse of at least thirty six (36) months between the date of the death of the person(s) or of the event commemorated and the final naming or renaming of the City park or City facility; or at the discretion of the City Council.

D. Naming Application Process

Any group, person, or organization may submit an application to name or re-name a public park, facility, street, natural area or significant capital asset. The application should be submitted to the City Manager. Applications should contain the following information:

Name of applicant

1. Proposed name for asset
2. Background/support for proposed name
3. Demonstrated community support for proposed name

4. Identification of interested/impacted stakeholders
5. Description/Map showing location
6. If proposing to name an asset after an outstanding person, documentation of that person's community or financial contribution to the City, State or Nation's history
7. If proposing to re-name a facility, the application should also include background information on the current name and the rationale for requesting a new name

E. Naming Approval Process

City Council will be advised based on a transparent process and utilize the following steps . The following steps will be used as guidelines for approval:

Advertise intent to name a park or facility or consider proposed names.

1. Refer completed application to appropriate staff or committee for review.
2. Take public comment, the purpose of which is to represent the broad range of demographics and interests of city residents;
3. Forward recommendation to City Council for consideration.
4. Notify the applicant of the application status once the City Council has taken action.

Section 2. That Resolution 1997-2 is hereby repealed.

Section 3. That this Resolution shall be in full force and effect upon passage and signatures hereon.

PASSED by the City Council this 3rd day of October, 2016.

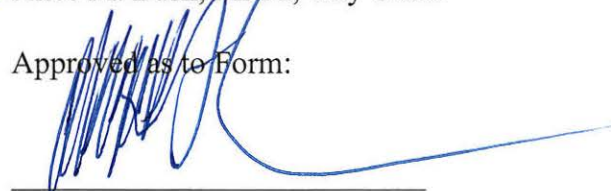
CITY OF LAKEWOOD

Attest:


Don Anderson, Mayor


Alice M. Bush, MMC, City Clerk

Approved as to Form:


Heidi Wachter, City Attorney
m. Kasir, Asst. City Atty



City of Lakewood
Office of the City Clerk
6000 Main St. SW
Lakewood, WA 98499
(253) 589-2489

Application for name/renaming City parks, streets or public facilities.

NAME OF APPLICANT

ADDRESS OF APPLICANT

PHONE NUMBER OF APPLICANT

EMAIL ADDRESS FOR APPLICANT

LOCATION OF STREET, PARK OR PUBLIC BUILDING FOR PROPOSAL TO NAME/RENAME

PROPOSED SITE NAME

CURRENT SITE NAME IF PROPOSING TO RENAME

BACKGROUND/HISTORY SUPPORT FOR PROPOSED NAME

DEMONSTRATED COMMUNITY SUPPORT FOR PROPOSED NAME

IDENTIFICATION OF INTERESTED/IMPACTED STAKEHOLDERS

IF PROPSING TO NAME AN ASSET AFTER AN OUTSTANDING PERSON, DOCUMENTATION OF THAT PERSON'S COMMUNITY OR FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE CITY, STATE OR NATION'S HISTORY

ANY ASSETS OR RESOURCES TO CONTRIBUTE TO COST ASSOCIATED WITH A NAME CHANGE (SIGNS, ADDESS CHANGE, ETC.)

YOU ARE WELCOME TO ATTACH ANY MAPS, OR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION THAT RELATES TO THIS REQUEST

DATE: _____ SIGNATURE: _____

(PLEASE READ THE INSTRUCTIONS AND RESOLUTION NO. 2016-18 INCLUDED IN PACKET FOR DETAILS AND TIMELINE)

DATE RECEIVED BY CITY OF LAKEWOOD _____ RECEIVED BY _____

AMENDMENT TO REQUEST
Recognition of Dr. Claudia B. Thomas

June 10,2021

1. This amendment is made by David N. Boyd to the request, dated September 19, 2018,
SUBJECT: Naming of a geographical site in recognition of Dr. Claudia B. Thomas.
2. The request is amended as follows: unnumbered paragraph 2, sub paragraph 3.

A. This request is that Fort Steilacoom Park be renamed Dr. Claudia B. Thomas Park. The park with its many venues is definitely a community gathering and interaction location for all citizens. It represents the atmosphere Dr. Thomas spent her life dedicated to creating. The current name has no association with the City of Lakewood. Pierce College changed it's name from Fort Steilacoom Community College many years ago.

B. This request also offers Lakewood City Hall has an appropriate site for memorializing Dr. Thomas' name. It too is a community gathering site for its many boards, commissions and the city council.

C. The request for naming Motor Street development area because of its proposed use as a pedestrian walking an gathering area is withdrawn. The area still has some vehicle traffic and is not well presented as a gathering and walking area.



DAVID N. BOYD
8826 Lake Steilacoom Point Road
Lakewood, Washington 98498
253.223.9987
Dnboyd341@comcast.net

September 19, 2018

SUBJECT: Naming of a geographical site in recognition of Dr. Claudia B Thomas

John Caufield, ICMA-CM
City Manager
City of Lakewood
6000 Main Street SW,
Lakewood, Washington 98499

Dear Mr. Caufield,

In accordance with paragraphs 7 and 8 of City of Lakewood, Resolution NO. 2016-18, I am asking that the City Council accept and approve this request to name a proposed City of Lakewood public area for Dr. Claudia B. Thomas because of her contributions to the city and our entire community.

The following information is submitted as required by Resolution NO. 2016-18 and the communication from the City Manager:

- 1. Name of applicant:** David N. Boyd (not son-in-law)
- 2. Proposed Name for asset:** Claudia B. Thomas Promenade
- 3. Background/support for proposed name:** It is my understanding that the area requested for the naming is to be a community open area with emphasis for walking, gathering and even socializing. (Motor Street)
- 4. Demonstrated community support for proposed name:** There appears to be considerable support for a permanent memorial for Dr. Thomas. Several members of the City Council including the Mayor briefly spoke to the accomplishments of Dr. Thomas during the June 4 Council meeting. I have spoken directly with the following persons/representatives of organizations that are in support of such a memorial for Dr. Thomas:

LTG William Harrison

Andrea Gernon
American Leadership Forum
Tacoma/Pierce County Black Collective

I would like to clarify that I have not spoken with the above supporters or anyone one else regarding a specific name for the proposed location. The support was only for the location and the designation of the memorial.

5. **Identification of interest/impact stakeholders:** I am not aware of any negative impact this request would have on any stakeholders or other persons with interest in the area. I am also not aware that the current identification of Motor Street has any attachment to the name of an individual, organization or business. In my opinion this would be the ideal time to name the area since it has not been completely developed as a proposed community promenade or commons.
6. **Description/Map showing location:** A map of the proposed area is attached as a part of this document.
7. **If proposing to name an asset after an outstanding person, documentation of that person's community or financial contribution to the City, State or Nation's history:** In addition to the brief but favorable comments City Council members made regarding Dr. Thomas' many contributions at their June 4, 2018 council meeting, I have attached more detailed information of Dr. Thomas' contribution to the City of Lakewood.
8. **If proposing to re-name a facility, the application should also include background information on the current name and the rationale for requesting a new name:** I am unaware of a name being proposed for the area during this phase of design and development. It is currently known has Motor street.

I have attempted to be concise and brief, but complete with this request. I anticipate that there will be additional opportunities to clarify or further develop this proposal after staff reviews and presentation to the community for input.

Thank you for your accepting this request and I look forward to meeting with you and continuing my efforts to gain city council approval for such a commendable action.

Respectfully,

David N. Boyd, Maj, USA, Ret

Attach: Contribution letter
City of Lakewood Proclamation
Map of proposed memorial site

September 19, 2018

REFERENCE: Attachment to proposal to re-name Motor Street, Dr. Claudia B. Thomas promenade.

Dr. Claudia B. Thomas' contribution to the Lakewood, Washington community

There have been numerous newspaper and social media accolades regarding Dr. Claudia Thomas since her passing. Without a doubt they have highlighted the fact that she was the first African American female elected to the city council of Lakewood, Washington and became the first African American female to serve as mayor of a city in the State of Washington. The media has also addressed the importance of her involvement in many activities that have made Lakewood the wonderful community it is today. However, I believe very few people, including council members, are aware that she did all those commendable things for a community that in the past, was unwelcoming to her and other African Americans.

When Claudia, a military spouse and her family arrived in the unincorporated community of Lakewood, there were barriers for African Americans to become participating members of the community. Housing developers throughout Lakewood, some just ten years before her arrival, had included language in their county file covenants that denied people of color the opportunity to purchase, lease or otherwise live in any unit or house that was a part of their development. Although unenforceable, those covenants remain on record today. The school district where her children would attend, denied her employment although she was extremely qualified and had just returned from teaching in Okinawa, Japan. Unincorporated Lakewood was definitely not a community of brotherly love....at least for residents of color.

Claudia never dwelled on the negative. She never expressed bitterness about the past or was unforgiving. She was a positive person and focused her energy on those things she could be a part of that would change Lakewood into a community accepting of all its residents. Claudia believed if you wanted change, you had to be part of the solution not the problem. Things that have been said about her are evidence that she was a significant part of the solution that brought Lakewood into the twenty first century caring about its citizens, especially seniors, young adults and school age children. Dr. Claudia Thomas must be remembered and championed for her love, dedication and the contributions she made as a council member, as our Mayor and most importantly as a proud citizen.



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, on September 19, 1995, Claudia Thomas was elected to the Lakewood City Council and took office on October 11, 1995 and served for sixteen years through December 31, 2011; and

WHEREAS, on October 12, 1995, Claudia Thomas served as Lakewood's first Deputy Mayor for eight years through December 31, 2003, and as Mayor from January 1, 2006 through December 31, 2007; and

WHEREAS, Claudia Thomas' performance of her duties as Lakewood's first Deputy Mayor, the State of Washington's first African American female Mayor and as a member of the City Council was defined by excellence and led to significant positive contributions to municipal government; and

WHEREAS, Claudia Thomas' years of service was marked by exemplary leadership in working constantly to improve the quality of life for the citizenry of Lakewood; and

WHEREAS, Claudia Thomas' was a strong advocate for youth and education and was instrumental in appointing two Youth Advisors to the City Council which today is now the Lakewood Youth Council with 22 members; and

WHEREAS, Claudia Thomas initiated the City's practice of dedicating 1 percent of its General Fund for social and human services programs; and

WHEREAS, Claudia Thomas created Lakewood's Promise, which is active today and focuses on helping children become successful adults. As a result of her work, the city was recognized nationally by America's Promise as one of the 100 Best Communities for Young People in 2006-2008 and again in 2010-2012; and

WHEREAS, Claudia Thomas represented the City of Lakewood on numerous Boards and Committees that included the Human Services Collaboration, Lakewood's Promise Executive Board, Sound Transit Board, Pierce Transit Board, Clover Park School District Citizens' Committee for Schools, Tacoma-Pierce County Commission on Children Youth and Their Families, Regional Transportation Authority Technical Committee, Pierce County Joint Determining Authority, Association of Washington Cities Large Cities Committee, Lakewood Gardens Board of Directors, Lake Steilacoom Association, numerous task forces and ad hoc committees; and

WHEREAS, throughout Claudia Thomas' service, she earned the respect of her colleagues, peers, and civic leaders and the affection of a host of area residents who were proud to call her "friend."

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Lakewood City Council, and on behalf of the citizens of Lakewood, tribute is hereby paid to the legacy of

CLAUDIA THOMAS

in recognition of her dedication and service to Lakewood and the greater community and urge all citizens to join us in expressing our eternal gratitude for her contributions and knowing that Claudia Thomas' legacy lives on in Lakewood through the policies she crafted, programs she supported and the countless lives she touched while leading this city.

PROCLAIMED this 2nd day of June, 2018

Don Anderson, Mayor

Nicolette York

From: Tom McClellan <tom@mcoscillator.com>
Sent: Friday, September 17, 2021 2:33 PM
To: Nicolette York
Subject: Comment on proposal to rename Fort Steilacoom Park

This email originated outside the City of Lakewood.

Use caution when following links or opening attachments as they could lead to malicious code or infected web sites. When in doubt, please contact the HelpDesk.

- helpdesk@cityoflakewood.us ext. 4357

I do not support this proposal. We have already honored Claudia Thomas with the renaming of a middle school for her. It is possible to go too far with such honoring of recent noteworthy persons, and this proposed renaming would qualify, severing our community from more of its history.

It is not that Mrs. Thomas is at all problematic or undeserving. That is not the point. Rather it is that what the change would accomplish has already been done, and such supposed benefit to the community would not outweigh what would be lost.

Tom McClellan

Nicolette York

From: Suzi Riley <suzir450@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 18, 2021 9:38 AM
To: Nicolette York
Subject: Proposed FSP name change

This email originated outside the City of Lakewood.

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- helpdesk@cityoflakewood.us ext. 4357

Please retain the name of Fort Steilacoom Park for the full park facility and consider naming a restored barn building after Dr. Thomas.

The City has worked very hard for over 20+ years to improve the park property it began to manage in the early 2000's. The added amenities include restored sports fields for soccer and baseball, picnic shelters, a premier playground structure, an entertainment/event pavilion, lake path, cross country routes and bikes racing routes, historic spaces and a dog park. It is known as a park facility well suited for major events and for very small family picnics. Signage in the park denotes the location and importance of various historical sites within the park's acreage. The barn structures, open fields, lake, and adjacency to historic Fort Steilacoom military structures have a connected past that should not be lost in a name change.

Dr. Thomas deserves to be recognized for her dedication and love for Lakewood, Washington. It would be entirely appropriate to name a restored barn after her in addition to the new school in our community. But it does not seem appropriate to change the name of our largest park, with all its historic connections to the actual property and location, when a structure within the park would be much more likely to actually be called by her name. By habit, this park is known by Fort Steilacoom Park to tens of thousands of visitors each year. By habit, too, they will continue to call it by that name long into the future. Some things are not meant to be changed... in this case, one thing that should remain the same in our lives when so many things change unnecessarily daily, is the name of Fort Steilacoom Park. Please use common sense when considering any proposed name change. This is not a name change to be made at this site at this time.

Suzi Riley, Lakewood resident
Sent from my iPhone

Nicolette York

From: PAUL NIMMO <fltcoat@comcast.net>
Sent: Saturday, September 18, 2021 9:54 AM
To: Nicolette York
Subject: No to renaming

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Unfortunately, I have to voice my “no” to this proposal.

I have the utmost respect for Mrs. Thomas. Her accomplishments and achievements are certainly great goals for all to strive for. She had a career in education. No, we must call it a passion for educating. That passion certainly passed on to her daughter, Lisa Boyd, whom my son had the privilege to have as a principal.

Her commitment to her adopted home of Lakewood simply cannot be questioned. She was one of the many that believed in Lakewood, so much so that she worked hard supporting incorporation. I was not a supporter of incorporation, but during our opposite view discussions, she was always gracious. Lakewood became a city, and her reward was being elected to the original City Council. Her leadership abilities helped her rise to the top, becoming Mayor of Lakewood, making her the first African American female mayor in the state of Washington.

The naming of the combined Mann-Woodbrook middle school, Dr. Claudia Thomas Middle School, was an appropriate recognition for a lifelong educator.

Ft. Steilacoom has its’ own history. Our area always has had a tie with the military. Ft. Steilacoom originally was an army installation to protect the residents of the Oregon Territory. This was important to the establishment of Washington as a State. Of course, later part of the property was utilized as Western State Hospital.

Certainly, if the city wishes to further recognize her accomplishments, I can think of several other suitable places/facilities:

- City Hall related
 - Meeting rooms
 - Council Chambers
 - Garden or fountain
- The Pavilion at Ft. Steilacoom
- Wildaire Road, runs past the Lakewood Library (still Tenzler to me)
- 59th St from 100th street leading to City Hall, Dr. Claudia Thomas BLVD.
- If the City were to ever build a Community Center, I could think of no better name for a person who “was gifted with an ability to bring diverse groups together.”

As you can see, I am not against recognizing Dr. Claudia B. Thomas. I just feel that there are more appropriate and fitting possibilities, and not renaming a place that also holds so much history for Lakewood.

Paul F. Nimmo

fltcoat@comcast.net

253-230-1502

5914 Gerlings Dr. S.W.

Lakewood, WA 98499

Nicolette York

From: david aiken <aikendavid74@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 18, 2021 10:07 AM
To: Nicolette York
Subject: Naming Fort Steilacoom Park

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It is and should forever remain Fort Steilacoom Park. She has a school named after her that is more than enough to recognize her achievements.

Dave Aiken
Resident Lakewood

Sent from my iPad

Nicolette York

From: almar_1@comcast.net
Sent: Saturday, September 18, 2021 11:14 AM
To: Nicolette York
Subject: Renaming Ft Steilacoom park

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Hi

This park has been part of ft Steilacoom and our history. Why on earth change our history what's going on?

Why not rename a smaller park in Lakewood.

What did she do for the park and it's history?

Quit changing our history and get off that cancel culture bandwagon!

We have been going to ft Steilacoom park for years and it will always be that to us.

Wake up Lakewood

Marilyn Reid

Steilacoom resident

Sent from my iPhone

Nicolette York

From: LEONARD GOELZ <lj-9902@comcast.net>
Sent: Saturday, September 18, 2021 2:43 PM
To: Nicolette York
Subject: Renaming the park

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- helpdesk@cityoflakewood.us ext. 4357

Absolutely not !! Ridiculous idea. Who the hell is Claudia Thomas

Nicolette York

From: Joseph Vlaming <vlaming@comcast.net>
Sent: Sunday, September 19, 2021 5:32 AM
To: Nicolette York
Subject: Renaming Fort Steilicoom Park-Leave as is

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I do not support the renaming of a nationally known regional landmark for a local contributor. I knew, and highly respect, Dr Thomas and her legacy, however this is not an appropriate revision. Furthermore, Dr. Thomas's legacy has previously been honored by the Clover Park School District's newest middle school, opened in fall 2020, Dr. Claudia Thomas Middle School. Leave the name as as per Resolution 2016-18, sections noted below.

B. The following criteria shall be considered:

1. The past, present and future history of the land or community should be considered.

Consideration for naming and re-naming should ensure that:

- a) It is in the best interest of the city and provides a worthy and enduring legacy for the city.
- b) The name reflects the significance of a feature and the mission and vision of the city.
- c) The name is appropriate to the location and remains relevant as the city grows and changes.

8. The naming of historic events, culture, people and places:

When a park and/or facility is associated with or located near events, people, and places of historic, cultural or social significance: consideration will be given to naming the park, facility, etc., after such events, people and places. This history may include its founders, other historical figures, Native American heritage, local landmarks, prominent geographical locations, and natural features.

Joe Vlaming
206-200-8191

Nicolette York

From: Alex <littlemermaid21@comcast.net>
Sent: Sunday, September 19, 2021 12:40 PM
To: Nicolette York
Subject: Fort Steilacoom Name Change - Leave Name As Is

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Hi-

I do not support the renaming of Fort Steilacoom Park. The park is currently named in honor of a historical landmark, representing the legacy of the City of Lakewood, as well as our county. Dr. Thomas was a wonderful person, with a great legacy, but she is already honored with a middle school that is named after her. Please respect the deep, historical significance of Fort Steilacoom, and leave the park name as is.

I have always been proud of the depth of our history, and wish for our park to continue to honor that history.

Thank you,

Alexandra Vlaming

Nicolette York

From: Linda Shehan <lshahan@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, September 20, 2021 10:44 AM
To: Nicolette York
Subject: Fort Steilacoom Park name change

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I live in Lakewood. No, please do not name the park after Claudia Thomas. I feel a more appropriate place for that would be City Hall. An appropriate name would be Oak Prairie Park or Nisqually Prairie Park to honor our historical roots.

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

Nicolette York

From: Correne Buck
Sent: Monday, September 20, 2021 12:27 PM
To: Nicolette York
Subject: Ft Steilacoom Park

Hi Nikki!

Hey I just heard that the City is considering renaming Ft Steilacoom Park to Dr Claudia Thomas Park.

As a citizen of Lakewood, and employee of over 18 years, this is my note of disapproval for the Council.

The park is named for the historical value on which its sits.

We must remember the past and historical events.

What relevance does the cemetery, barns, apple orchard, etc, have with Dr Thomas?

The cemetery, the orchard, the lake, the Barns.....all have everything to do the history of Ft Steilacoom.

Without remembering Ft Steilacoom (The first Army post in the Pacific Northwest), how will the future generations remember the historical value of the Lakewood area?

How will future generations understand how the US Army helped settle this area, thus, understanding the City's relationship with JBLM?

I believe Dr Thomas already has a school named for her, throwing out the value of the Manns; Where would our schools be now without what they did for this area. Will future generations know who the Mann's were?

Dr Thomas does need to be remembered for her achievements, but not at the cost of forgetting others, who without them, Dr Thomas's name may not be so remembered.

I vote no for changing the name of Ft Steilacoom Park.

Thank you for your time in reconsidering this change.

Correne Buck
Animal Control Officer
Lakewood Police Dept.
9401 Lakewood Dr SW
Lakewood, WA 98499
253-830-5056
cbuck@cityoflakewood.us

Nicolette York

From: Barb Fant <barann54@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, September 20, 2021 4:49 PM
To: Nicolette York
Subject: Ft. Steilacoom Park

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- helpdesk@cityoflakewood.us ext. 4357

Lakewood is my home, has been for 53 years. Worked thirty years at Ft. Steilacoom Community College, then renamed Pierce College.

This is a very caring community, city and appreciate its HISTORY.

I TRULY CANNOT see whatever the reason is to change the name of the Park. Cannot see the benefit. TRULY hope this WILL NOT BE APPROVED. A definite NO.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

Barbara Fant

From: [ROBERT JACKLIN](#)
To: [Nicolette York](#)
Subject: Fort Steilacoom Park
Date: Monday, September 20, 2021 8:08:02 PM

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I read with distress the suggestion to rename historic Fort Steilacoom Park after a well known recently deceased ex mayor.

Fort Steilacoom is an extremely significant regional and national historic site and the park correctly is named in its honor.

In addition Steilacoom as the first town in Washington also is highly significant and the park's name correctly relates to it and makes locating the park easy just by seeing its name locating it adjacent to Steilacoom. Naming it after a person makes it just another anonymous park that could be anywhere.

Lastly the historic indigenous Steilacoom tribe gets little recognition for its centuries of occupation of the area of the park and their name should not be replaced by that of a political figure who had no significant contribution to it.

Lakewood's identification with Fort Steilacoom Park goes back generations and is a significant touch stone for those whose lives have been lived in our area for generations and to strip its name to be replaced with one of no historic significance will do real harm to our community and weaken the glue that makes us all proud citizens of Lakewood.

Thank you
Robert Jacklin
182 Lake Louise Dr SW

Sent from my iPhone

From: [silent girl](#)
To: [Nicolette York](#)
Subject: Re-Name Ft. Steilacoom Park
Date: Tuesday, September 21, 2021 6:12:50 AM

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Please keep the current name of park, Dr Thomas has a school named after her for her years of service. We must keep the historical name of the park.

Thank you

Don Daniels

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

From: [Robin Ferguson](#)
To: [Nicolette York](#)
Subject: Renaming the park
Date: Tuesday, September 21, 2021 7:58:36 AM

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I oppose this name change. Mann junior high was renamed Claudia. Why does the park have to be renamed. Do we need her name everywhere? Isn't this just a waste of money? New signs have to be made, it seems like a frivolous move. There are many other more important things to spend money on. The homeless populations in Lakewood is becoming dangerous & living in Lakewood is starting to feel like a sardine can with all the houses going up with no regard for the increase in population. Sincerely Robin Ferguson

Sent from my iPad

From: [Diane Hubbell](#)
To: [Nicolette York](#)
Subject: name change
Date: Tuesday, September 21, 2021 9:47:14 AM

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City of Lakewood

I am against changing the name of Fort Steilacoom Park. It already has a long history with its current name. We do not need to rename the park after an individual or because some family member with connections to the city thinks its is a good idea.

Did this person donate millions of dollars to the park? Did they go every week and clean the park and do maintenance?

I did not see a reason anywhere why this is even being considered.

From: [Judy Price](#)
To: [Nicolette York](#)
Subject: Renaming Ft Steilacoom Park
Date: Tuesday, September 21, 2021 11:41:03 AM

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I feel Ft. Steilacoom Park should not be renamed.

Ft. Steilacoom Park reflects a portion of the long history of the area, a history that happened and should be remembered for future reflection. It is also used by visitors and other local who know it as is.

However, the Motor Ave. renovation is a new part of local history, and would be the perfect place to honor Claudia Thomas - a gracious, cultured individual - and is an ideal place to be the Claudia Thomas Promenade.

From: [JORDAN HARRIS](#)
To: [Jordan Harris](#); [Nicolette York](#)
Subject: Re: Resolution No 2016-18: Dr. Claudia B. Thomas Park
Date: Tuesday, September 21, 2021 12:21:02 PM

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See my previous comment. Naming City Hall after Claudia Thomas is also an excellent idea and maybe less controversial. I just feel we need somethings high profile with her name. City Hall may be more appropriate

Jordan Harris

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 21, 2021, at 8:33 AM, Jordan Harris <jhhandjnh@aol.com> wrote:

If General Harrison can be considered the "Father of Lakewood" then Claudia Thomas can be considered the "Mother of Lakewood."

Renaming the park in her honor is highly appropriate. We are a relatively new city and we need to recognize our own heritage.

Jordan H. Harris

From: [John Howard](#)
To: [Nicolette York](#)
Subject: Change FSPark name?
Date: Tuesday, September 21, 2021 4:11:48 PM

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Nikki, A ridiculous idea to change the name of the park. If the name needs to be changed, change it to Howard Park. Wayne Howard managed and maintained it from the time PC Parks was established until 1988 when John Howard (no relation) took over the same position until 2005 when the City assumed all responsibilities for the Park.... Whatcha think? (and you know I'm kidding). Thanks and listen to the opposition - John Howard ,retired PC Parks & Rec.

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Dave O'Keeffe](#)
To: [Nicolette York](#)
Cc: [Michael Brandstetter](#)
Subject: Lions Club responses
Date: Wednesday, September 22, 2021 8:12:17 AM

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Hi Nikki,

Here are responses to the name change. They do not need to be part of public record, just an FYI.

Dave O'Keeffe, club president

This would be a deserving honor. On a personal note she was an outstanding LFL member and personal mentor to me. Jan McCaffrey

I agree. Eric Warn

What is the purpose of the name change? I protest this & would like it known. The money could be used for better things. "You only need as much money as you spend" Henry David Thoreau. Robin Ferguson

On Sep 21, 2021, at 9:25 AM, Deanne Bennett <janddbennett@comcast.net> wrote:
I agree with fellow lion Robin Ferguson. I was thrilled when Mann junior high was named after Dr. Claudia Thomas. She was an educator, a long time lion, and a wonderful public servant for the city of Lakewood. That being said, Fort Steilacoom Park has been a part of my life since I moved here in January 1969. I played there with my son who is now 52 years old. We enjoyed exploring the park. We picked apples and pears in season, we explored the old buildings, and Steve learned to ride his bike around Lake Waughop. It will always be Fort Steilacoom Park to me. I think Claudia would understand that for many of us it will always be Fort Steilacoom and the name change is not something I support. Deanne Bennett

I have waited to weigh in on this. I agree that the renaming of Fort Steilacoom park should be left alone. Claudia was a dear friend of mine and Larry's and meant the world to both of us. I feel like we could honor her in a much better way and have in a way in renaming a school after her. This was her love, education. I met Claudia many years ago on Okinawa. She was our chemistry teacher there. At one point after Larry's death they suggested renaming the park after him. I then felt it should be left alone as I do now.

Sally Saunders

Hey all, Good to see our club weighing in thoughtfully on this matter, involving a much loved and respected leader in our community. I had many interactions with Claudia while at CISL and she always hit the mark with truth and a passion for seeing young people thrive. Having Mann MS named after Claudia was the right thing to do and fulfills her legacy. I see no pressing need to rename another landmark at this time. I suggest we compile all the responses and email them to

Nikki York. Sound OK? Dave O'Keeffe

I agree with Sally and previous comments. I think Ft. Steilacoom should remain as is.
Lynda Jackson

I vote to leave the name as is. Mike Stocke

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

From: [ALAN BILLINGSLEY](#)
To: [Nicolette York](#)
Cc: [Mary Dodsworth](#)
Subject: Ft Steilacoom Name Change
Date: Wednesday, September 22, 2021 8:18:34 AM

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Nikki

For your public input file, I have been given input from a number of Lakewood citizens that know I am on the park board.

Every single one is against changing the name of Ft Steilacoom Park.
The park is an important part of Lakewood and Western Washington history and the current name reflects our roots.

The city has a Middle School named after our distinguished citizen, as is appropriate but renaming the park is not.

I suspect you saw the pole taken by Sub times Tuesday. 577 responses, over 96% no.

See you at Parks board!

Alan Billingsley
CEO Paktek Inc.
7307 82nd ST CT SW
Lakewood WA 98498
(253) 584-4914 FAX 589-1091

[https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?
a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.toolpak.com&c=E.1.6VZwLrb7ipPFRReIBKkswwzj7jnb-
3yo74IUfFnCE6Bm1Ek1WZruIBrxH76HSYN2r8d7b2MvIQ0Y-naN-E41LSkQtaDwNwek_Oo-
en9HDEcHNC2mHkBFL5byHg..&typo=1](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.toolpak.com&c=E.1.6VZwLrb7ipPFRReIBKkswwzj7jnb-3yo74IUfFnCE6Bm1Ek1WZruIBrxH76HSYN2r8d7b2MvIQ0Y-naN-E41LSkQtaDwNwek_Oo-en9HDEcHNC2mHkBFL5byHg..&typo=1)

alanb@toolpak.com
paktek@prodigy.net

From: [Jerry Dunlap](#)
To: [Nicolette York](#)
Subject: Renaming Ft. Steilacoom Park
Date: Tuesday, September 21, 2021 5:17:49 PM

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Hi Nikki,

As the individual who requested permission to conduct the first organized event at Ft. Steilacoom Park, I am not in favor of renaming Ft. Steilacoom Park. Although the park is within the City of Lakewood, it is much more than just a city park. It is definitely a regional park. Ft. Steilacoom Park recognizes the region's historical importance.

Jerry Dunlap

Ft. Steilacoom Park Patron

Sent from my iPhone

From: [O'Keeffe, Dave](#)
To: [Nicolette York](#)
Subject: Fw: Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Public Hearing regarding the naming of a geographical site in recognition of Dr. Claudia B. Thomas | City of Lakewood
Date: Thursday, September 23, 2021 1:46:07 PM

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- helpdesk@cityoflakewood.us ext. 4357

Hi Nikki,

Here is another comment.

Dave

From: Jeff Rich <bugled42@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 23, 2021 12:57 PM
To: Janet McCaffrey <janmccaffrey10@hotmail.com>; ERIC P WARN <ewarn6234@aol.com>
Cc: lyndajackson@comcast.net <lyndajackson@comcast.net>; Sally Saunders <sally.saunders@comcast.net>; Deanne Bennett <janddbennett@comcast.net>; Robin Ferguson <Panache13@comcast.net>; Bernie Cooper <marbernatac@aol.com>; Chris Lawlor <clawler@cityoflakewood.us>; Dan Comsia <dancomsia@comcast.net>; O'Keeffe, Dave <dokeeffe@highline.edu>; Doreen Johnson <dutchj_1944@q.com>; Ed Kane <lakewoodnews@harbornet.com>; Hailey Wheeler <Hailey.Wheeler@heritagebanknw.com>; Harley Oda <hoda@firstlions.org>; Jan Rich <jan@gatewayre.com>; Jillian Klingenberg <jillian.klingenberg@heritagebanknw.com>; John Anderson <japaperman@hotmail.com>; Koree Wick <koree.wick@westpierce.org>; Lynnette DeStefano <L_destefano@msn.com>; Meghan Eakin <meakin@cloverpark.k12.wa.us>; Mike Brandstetter <csmmikeb@gmail.com>; Mike Stocke <mstocke@gmail.com>; Nancieann Anderson <orcy@msn.com>; Nancy Burri <bitsyburri@gmail.com>; Pete Piotrowski <petepiotrow@gmail.com>; Ralph Decker <tacomabuff@aol.com>; Robert Allen <voyagerwa@hotmail.com>; Roger Martin <fbrogert@yahoo.com>; Ruth Anne Hickey <ruthahickey@comcast.net>; Sue Bailey <lsuebailey@gmail.com>; Susy Stremel <s_stremel@outlook.com>; Sylvia Ford <Sinderla2101@gmail.com>; Tami Ellingson <tamiellingson0113@gmail.com>; Tracy Kahlo <tkahlo@wapave.org>
Subject: Re: Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Public Hearing regarding the naming of a geographical site in recognition of Dr. Claudia B. Thomas | City of Lakewood

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I have never been a fan of renaming facilities or sites in cities, counties or states. Most of them have their own special history and the current name reflects that. Overriding, or changing that washes away that history. Gone! The Fort Steilacoom Park is almost synonymous with Lakewood. You mention one or the other to someone outside the area, and they tie it to the other. Having been a King County resident for many years, you could mention Fort Steilacoom park, and the people there would know about it, and most had been there for various outings. Every youth activity they had been involved in in King County, had made its way to Fort Steilacoom park for tournaments and playoffs. They knew it was in Lakewood, and had the route memorized. I think new or unnamed sites of facilities are an excellent way to honor those whose names are placed on them. Claudia had a major impact on all of us in the Lakewood community and certainly deserved to have her name openly honored in our community. With her strong conviction on the importance of education, the naming of the latest new school in the district, Claudi B Thomas Middle School,

would make her proud.
