

Regular Meeting

Agenda Item #	1
Meeting Date	May 28, 2013
Prepared By	Gregory Clark Recreation Director
Approved By	Suzanne Ludlow Acting City Manager

Discussion Item	Resolution Rededicating Lee Jordan Field at Takoma Park Middle School
Background	<p>Lee Jordan was one of the most influential citizens in Takoma Park history. By the time of his death in 1988 he had achieved legendary status for his inspirational role in the lives of hundreds of children through the Takoma Park Boys & Girls Club as well as his lay work at Parker Memorial Church and his leadership in the Ritchie Avenue Citizens Association.</p> <p>As a young man growing up on Ritchie Avenue, he was a talented baseball catcher. He left for a short stint with the Negro Baseball League before returning in 1937 to take a job as a custodian at the segregated Montgomery Blair High School. His coaching career started with white students playing basketball at Blair on Saturday. Over the years he created a full-fledged athletic program of baseball, basketball, and football. It encompassed generations of boys and girls, black and white.</p> <p>The Boys and Girls Club that he founded was the first racially integrated one in Montgomery County. His baseball team likewise was a pioneer in integration, enduring catcalls but winning the county league championship in their inaugural season. The first girl to participate in the league also played on a “Mr. Lee” team. In her first game she hit a home run. Lee Jordan's aplomb and good humor as a trailblazer is acknowledged as a primary factor in the smooth integration of Takoma Park schools in 1955 following the Brown v. Board of Education Supreme Court decision.</p> <p>To recognize those efforts, the field at Takoma Park Middle School, where he later did custodial work, was named in his honor in 1981. He was inducted posthumously into the Montgomery County Human Rights Hall of Fame in 2006.</p> <p>To honor the 25 year anniversary of Lee Jordan's passing, the Recreation Committee, the Boys and Girls Club, and Historic Takoma would like to create a meaningful and lasting tribute to Lee Jordan and rededicate the field in his honor.</p>
Policy	The Council may honor individuals who have served the Takoma Park community.
Fiscal Impact	New signage will be prepared for the park. Two interpretive panel signs will be prepared and lettering will be added to the shed at the field. This signage is financed by Program Open Space as part of the Lee Jordan field renovation project.
Attachments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resolution Rededicating Lee Jordan Field
Recommendation	Adopt the resolution.
Special Consideration	Staff recommends that a formal rededication of the park be planned for a date this fall after the new signage is installed.

Introduced by:

CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND
RESOLUTION 2010-
REDEDICATION OF LEE JORDAN FIELD

WHEREAS, Lee Jordan Field is a property owned by MCPS and named for him in 1981; and

WHEREAS, Lee Jordan was one of the most influential citizens in Takoma Park History; and

WHEREAS, Lee Jordan served as a mentor, role model and inspiration to dozens of Takoma Park's children as a coach and founder of the Takoma Park Boys and Girls Club; and

WHEREAS, the Boys and Girls Club that he founded was the first racially integrated one in Montgomery County. His baseball team likewise was a pioneer in integration, enduring catcalls but winning the county league championship in their inaugural season; and

WHEREAS, the first girl to participate in the league also played on a "Mr. Lee" team. In her first game she hit a home run. Lee Jordan's aplomb and good humor as a trailblazer is acknowledged as a primary factor in the smooth integration of Takoma Park schools in 1955 following the Brown v. Board of Education Supreme Court decision; and

WHEREAS, to recognize those efforts, the field at Takoma Park Middle School, where he later did custodial work, was named in his honor in 1981. He was inducted posthumously into the Montgomery County Human Rights Hall of Fame in 2006; and

WHEREAS, this is the 25 year anniversary of Lee Jordan's death; and

WHEREAS, the Recreation Committee, the Boys and Girls Club, and Historic Takoma would like to create a meaningful and lasting tribute to Lee Jordan and rededicate the field in his honor.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND THAT:

1. The City Park hereby supports the Recreation Committee, Boys and Girls Club and Historic Takoma, Inc. in their request to rededicate the field, Lee Jordan Field; and
2. Appropriate signage shall be installed at the field. Said signage shall include at least one sign with historical information about Mr. Lee Jordan.

Adopted this ____ day of _____, 2013.