

CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
DECEMBER 17, 1986

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LAWRENCE PARK  
BASEBALL FIELD  
RENAMED "TONY ZUPO  
FIELD"

CC-6  
CC-27(c)

Council was apprised that the Recreation and Parks Commission has recommended the renaming of the current Lawrence Park Baseball Field to "Tony Zupo Field". The suggestion to rename this facility was presented by Mr. John Nilmeyer to the Recreation and Parks Commission at its November meeting. Mr. Nilmeyer based this proposal on Mr. Zupo's 41 years as manager of the local Guild Wine baseball team. His involvement with hundreds of young adults, who have played for him and have been helped and influenced by him in having the opportunity to play at the semi-pro level, has been significant. He has supported the local B.O.B.S. for 26 years by membership and assistance with the youth baseball programs, as well as having been an active member of the Lodi Sports Hall of Fame Committee, both as a "Hall of Famer" himself and a committee member.

To give some background on the original name of the park, the Lawrence family donated the land for the Grape Bowl, Lawrence Park proper, and the Armory Park facilities, and the park was named after them. In this regard, we contacted a member of the Lawrence family, Moe Gritsch (whom we knew from Recreation Department activities), and

requested this name change. We also asked if this would present any conflicts or concerns to the family. Mrs. Gritsch, whose sons played for Tony Zupo, was elated over the idea and indicated that she definitely would approve the action. It was felt by the Chairman of the Recreation Commission and Parks and Recreation Director that this approval should be put in writing, and Mrs. Gritsch complied with this request with a letter which we received for the Commission meeting of December 2.

With the Lawrence family's full support and the knowledge of Mr. Zupo's contributions, this proposal was presented to the Commission and met with 100% approval.

Mr. Nilmeyer was in the audience and addressed the Council regarding his suggestion.

On motion of Council Member Pinkerton, Snider second, Council renamed the current Lawrence Park Baseball Field to "Tony Zupo Field" per Recreation and Parks Commission recommendation and Department Head concurrence. Further Council directed Staff to have an appropriate plaque or sign placed at the site at the earliest possible time.

# COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

TO: THE CITY COUNCIL

DATE:

NO.

FROM: THE CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

December 17, 1986

SUBJECT:

CONSIDER RECOMMENDATION OF PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION TO RENAME  
LAWRENCE PARK BASEBALL FIELD "TONY ZUPO FIELD"

PREPARED BY: Parks and Recreation Director

RECOMMENDED ACTION: That the City Council rename the current Lawrence Park  
Baseball Field to "Tony Zupo Field" per Recreation  
and Parks Commission recommendation and Department

Head concurrence.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: The suggestion to rename this facility was presented  
by Mr. John Nilmeyer to the Recreation and Parks  
Commission at its November meeting. Mr. Nilmeyer  
based this proposal on Mr. Zupo's 41 years as manager of the local Guild Wine  
baseball team. His involvement with hundreds of young adults who have played  
for him and have been helped and influenced by him in having the opportunity to  
play at the semi-pro level, has been significant. He has supported the local  
B.O.B.S. for 26 years by membership and assistance with the youth baseball  
programs, as well as having been an active member of the Lodi Sports Hall of  
Fame Committee, both as a "Hall of Famer" himself and a committee member.  
Mr. Nilmeyer felt this would be an ideal time to have this particular park  
named for him since he has grown up in it.

To give some background on the original name of the park, the Lawrence family  
donated the land for the Grape Bowl, Lawrence Park proper, and the Armory Park  
facilities, and the park was named after them. In this regard, we contacted a  
member of the Lawrence family, Moe Gritsch (whom we knew from Recreation  
Department activities), and requested this name change. We also asked if this  
would present any conflicts or concerns to the family. Mrs. Gritsch, whose  
sons played for Tony Zupo, was elated over the idea and indicated that she  
definitely would approve the action. It was felt by myself and the Chairman of  
the Recreation Commission that this approval should be put in writing, and Mrs.  
Gritsch complied with this request with a letter which we received for the  
Commission meeting of December 2. A copy of this letter is attached.

With the Lawrence family's full support and the knowledge of Mr. Zupo's  
contributions, this proposal was presented to the Commission and met with 100%  
approval.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Ronald W. Williamson  
Parks and Recreation Director

RW:br

attachment

TXTA.06C COUNCIL23

1160 Green Oaks Way  
Lodi, California, 95240  
December 2, 1981

Mr. Dean Devine: Chairman  
Recreation and Parks Commission  
Lodi Recreation and Parks Department  
125 North Stockton Street  
Lodi, California, 95240

Dear Dean,

When I was contacted a few weeks ago, asking if I would consider allowing the name of the Lawrence Park Hardball Diamond to be changed to Tony Zupo field, "I believe the first words I uttered were, "How wonderful!"

I am the great-grandniece of George Lawrence, the first Mayor of Lodi, who gave the land for the Grape Bowl, the Hardball Diamond and Lawrence Park.

It is with great pleasure and an honor, that I relinquish the name of Lawrence <sup>Park</sup> Hardball Diamond, so that it can be renamed Tony Zupo field, in honor of a very special man, who has given so much to the name of baseball and the game for our town of Lodi.

Sincerely Yours,  
Moira "Noe" Greitsch  
Moira "Noe" Greitsch