



PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURAL SERVICES - REPORT

SUBJECT: NAMING OF TILLIE WONDER PLAZA

Background

- In 1988, Mrs. Tillie Wonder was hired by the City of Valdez as one of its initial Beautification Contractors – continuing on in these duties as lead community flower gardener until 2015, when she reluctantly retired due to personal issues.
 - Her countless contributions include: designing various City information signs including Glacier View Park, numerous Trail Heads, and Old Town Information Signs.
 - Designed the first World Extreme Ski Logo.
 - Authored book on gardening in Valdez entitled “Gardening in the Alaska Rain Forest.”
 - Volunteered countless hours over the past 27 years to train Park Maintenance staff on flower care and floral design.
 - Researched and provided all signage for the snow equipment display that resided in the plaza across from the Post Office for many summers.
 - Designed the Valdez Parks & Recreation Department logo used today.
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Discussion

- In September of 2016, Marcie Robertson (Park Maintenance Supervisor) recommended to the Director of Valdez Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services - that the existing unnamed “pocket park” located at the corner of South Meals Drive and North Harbor Drive (see attached map) be named the Tillie Wonder Plaza to honor Tillie’s 27+ years of dedication to the City of Valdez and her love of flowers.
- Per the City of Valdez Parks and Recreation Commission Park and Facilities Naming Guidelines (attached), I would strongly recommend in favor of this action based on the following criteria:

An individual or group of individuals who have made significant contributions towards improving the quality of life of Valdez Residents and furthering the City’s mission to provide opportunities for the enjoyment of residents and visitors, particularly those opportunities that people cannot supply for themselves.

Next Steps / Action Items (if applicable)

- If approved, the Commission shall hold a public hearing to solicit input from the Community on the proposed name.
- Upon final Commission approval, the application shall be forwarded to the City Council for approval.