



GOLF DESIGN AND CONSULTING SERVICES

May 7, 2009

Mayor Carl Gerlach
City of Overland Park
City Hall, 8500 Santa Fe
Overland Park, KS 66212

Dear Mayor Gerlach,

From 1969 to 1989 I was employed as the first Parks and Recreation Director for the City of Overland Park and later as Community Development Director. It was a terrific experience for me and my family and I have closely followed the activities of Overland Park over the last 20 years as I pursued my golf design and consulting business. I continue to love Overland Park and the people that I worked with and for those twenty years.

I am writing to ask your consideration of a matter that has been on my heart for several years since I left the City. I have noted and applauded the efforts in the community to honor great servants of the City by naming public facilities after individuals who made significant contributions to the greatness of Overland Park. I have noted the honoring of Jack Sanders, Ed Eilert, Don Pipes, Myron Scafe, and Matt Ross in particular. I believe there are two individuals that are long overdue for a similar honor and I solicit your attention in considering these two individuals.

First, please consider honoring Mr. Wendell Lady. Wendell was chairman of the first Parks and Recreation Committee in the late 60's and he was instrumental in working for passage of the first bond issue for parks and recreation facilities. The passage of that first bond issue paved the way for acquisition of eight neighborhood parks, construction of the Youngs Park Pool and Roe Pool and acquisition of land and construction of the Overland Park Golf Club. In the years following, Wendell, as a State Representative and Speaker of the House, worked tirelessly to aid the City in gaining state funding and assistance notably in areas of Parks and Recreation and Transportation as well as other needs in our growing and prospering community. I am sure you have heard of his exploits on behalf of the State of Kansas and Overland Park. Wendell is retired and enjoying his golf at Overland Park Golf Club and seeks no honoring, but it would be a shame if he were not honored soon by the City. I think the Overland Park Golf Course ought to be named for him, but I would willingly defer to others still living and working in Overland Park to make the final choice of how best to honor him.

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Second, please consider honoring Mr. Ben Sykes. Ben has passed away, but not before he placed his "Georgia Democrat" mark on much of the early Parks and Recreation efforts. Ben also served as Mayor from 1980 to 1984. Ben worked hard on many Parks and Recreation projects and programs, but I believe his leadership in the acquisition of the Overland Park Community Park in 1971-72 was the most important. At the time, we had just opened the City's first golf course out in the country on 127th Street and here we were trying to purchase a privately owned golf course and some adjacent ground one mile south of our new course!! Ben worked tirelessly to convince a bare majority of the City Council to issue \$500,000 in bonds to buy the property. With Wendell's help, the State approved a matching Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant and we started operation of the St. Andrews Golf Course and envisioning the Children's Farmstead and some athletic fields. All of us know what has happened in the intervening years and the person responsible for having the vision that could anticipate something as terrific as the remodeled St. Andrews GC, the expanded (beyond my wildest expectations) Deanna Rose Children's Farmstead and now, the most fabulous soccer complex in the country, was Ben M. Sykes. I would like to see the Overland Park Community Park which contains all these great facilities renamed the Ben M. Sykes Community Park. But again, I would defer as I did in Wendell's case above.

Thank you for considering this request. I would be happy to come to Overland Park and visit with you in more detail if you desire. I would also refer you to John Nachbar, James Cox, Sandy Queen, Don Pipes, Ben Craig, Dennis Garrett, Bernice Crummett, Myron Scafe, Tim Owens and others who could confirm the contributions that these two men made to the quality of life and success of the community of Overland Park.

Sincerely,



Larry W. Flatt

Director of Parks and Recreation and Community Development (1969-1989)

cc: John Nachbar
James Cox
Sandy Queen
Don Pipes
Ben Craig
Dennis Garrett
Bernice Crummett
Myron Scafe
Tim Owens