A RESOLUTION

renaming Rockhill Park to the Clyde Wilson Memorial Park.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBIA, MISSOURI, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. The 9.17 acres of land located at 601 Rockhill Road currently known as "Rockhill Park" is hereby renamed the "Clyde Wilson Memorial Park."

ADOPTED this _____ day of ___________________________, 2010.

ATTEST:

_________________________  ______________________________
City Clerk               Mayor and Presiding Officer

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

_________________________
City Counselor
TO: City Council
FROM: City Manager and Staff
DATE: June 14, 2010
RE: Renaming of Rockhill Park

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

At the June 7th City Council meeting, the Council reviewed a report (attached) from the Park and Recreation Commission recommending that the City's Rockhill Park be renamed the "Clyde Wilson Memorial Park" in honor of Mr. Wilson's many years of service to the City. After review of the report, Council directed staff to prepare a resolution officially renaming the park.

This resolution, if passed, will change the park's name from Rockhill Park to the "Clyde Wilson Memorial Park."

DISCUSSION:

In April of 2010 the City Council received a letter (copy attached) from the East Campus Neighborhood Association requesting the Council consider renaming the City's Rockhill Park as the "Clyde Wilson Memorial Park." Rockhill Park is a nine acre neighborhood park located within the boundaries of the East Campus Neighborhood Association. The park features heavily wooded, steep terrain and is developed primarily with a nature trail (dirt and gravel surface) which connects to the park's three access points – Wilson Avenue, Rollins Street, and Rockhill Road.

In the Neighborhood Association's letter, Mr. Wilson's numerous contributions to the community and his extensive public service were given as reasons for the requested renaming. Activities cited included Mr. Wilson's service as a City Council member, one term as Mayor, involvement with many City commissions, and as a founder/leader of the East Campus Neighborhood Association.

At the May 3 City Council meeting, the proposed renaming was referred to the Park and Commission for a recommendation. The Commission reviewed the issue at their May 20th and unanimously voted to recommend the proposed name change.

FISCAL IMPACT:

If Council approves the proposed name change there will be some minimal costs associated with sign replacement and updated print and website materials. Estimated cost is $500 or less.
VISION IMPACT:

None

SUGGESTED COUNCIL ACTIONS:

Approve the resolution officially renaming the City’s Rockhill Park as the “Clyde Wilson Memorial Park.”
TO: City Council  
FROM: City Manager and Staff  
DATE: May 25, 2010  
RE: Rockhill Park Renaming

SUMMARY:  
The City Council recently received a request from the East Campus Neighborhood Association to consider renaming Rockhill Park to Clyde Wilson Memorial Park, in honor of former Mayor Wilson who recently passed away. At its May 3 meeting, the Council referred the matter to the Parks and Recreation Commission for their consideration and recommendation.

DISCUSSION:  
At the May 20 Commission meeting, Park and Recreation Director Mike Hood shared a copy of the letter from the neighborhood requesting the name change. Tom Wilson, Clyde Wilson’s oldest son, was present at the Commission meeting and expressed support for renaming the park, saying it would be an honor for his father and family.

Hood advised the Commission that there would be some minimal costs associated with the renaming such as replacing signs and changing the name on printed materials and the web site. However, he did not anticipate any other issues with renaming the park. Commissioner Devine asked if the renaming adhered to the Department’s naming guidelines? Hood indicated that it did, as parks may be named for city officials who are no longer in office. The motion as made by Pauls and seconded by Blevins was to recommend to Council that Rockhill Park be renamed Clyde Wilson Memorial Park.

Voting in favor of the motion: Kloeppl, Blevins, Pauls, Devine, Davis  
Opposed: None  
Absent: Donaldson  
Motion passed unanimously.

FISCAL IMPACT:  
If Council determines that it is appropriate to proceed with the park renaming, there will be some minimal costs associated with sign replacement and updating printed and website materials.

VISION IMPACT  
This report has no vision impact.

SUGGESTED COUNCIL ACTIONS:  
Accept the recommendation of the Parks and Recreation Commission and direct staff to prepare a resolution renaming the park.
Re: Re: Renaming Rock Hill Park as a tribute to former Mayor Clyde Wilson

Dear Honorable Mayor McDavid and Honorable Councilpersons:

I am writing to you on behalf of the East Campus Neighborhood Association. On April 13, 2010, the East Campus Neighborhood Association unanimously voted to request the City Council rename Rock Hill Park “The Clyde Wilson Memorial Park” in honor of Clyde Wilson’s accomplishments and contributions to the Columbia community.

Clyde Wilson served two years in the Navy during World War II. After completing his military service, he obtained a Bachelor of Art in Mathematics in 1949, a Master of Arts in Anthropology in 1953, and a doctorate in anthropology in 1961. Clyde Wilson moved to Columbia in 1961 to join the faculty at the University of Missouri. The Wilsons bought a home in East Campus. In 1966, he founded the Department of Anthropology. He served as an associate curator of the MU Museum of Anthropology. In the late 70s, Clyde Wilson helped to establish the Peace Studies Department at the University of Missouri. He was a fellow with the American Anthropological Association, an associate with Current Anthropology Society and a member of the Ethnological Society. In 1998, he was awarded the MU Peace Studies Professor of the Year Award. He was a great educator and mentor to his students.

Clyde Wilson was also interested and actively involved in government. Clyde Wilson was elected to the Columbia City Council in 1971. He continued to serve as councilman until he was elected Mayor in 1979. Clyde was actively involved in the fight for civil rights, land use conservation, and the development of the Katy Trail. After leaving office, he continued to serve the community by serving on various city commissions and by working diligently on behalf of the City of Columbia and on behalf of the East Campus Neighborhood Association.

Clyde had a longtime interest in East Campus Neighborhood. Clyde and Betty were two of the original founders of the East Campus Neighborhood Association. For many years Clyde was involved in helping solve neighborhood problems. All projects, big and small, were important to him and he dedicated many hours and strong leadership to make East Campus a better place to live. In addition to taking a leadership role, Clyde Wilson demonstrated his commitment to the community by the simple things he did every day. For example, Clyde would often pick up trash in the neighborhood. He would lobby for the preservation and restoration of the integrity of the physical structure of the neighborhood. He fostered the spirit of the neighborhood encouraging the cohesiveness of the community of neighbors that make up East Campus. Clyde also served as a role model and a close advisor to many councilpersons who served on the City Council over the years.

Clyde Wilson was most proud of his wife Betty Wilson, their five children and eleven grand children. Clyde Wilson dedicated his life to his family, his students, the University of Missouri, the City of Columbia, and to the East Campus neighborhood. Renaming Rock Hill Park is an appropriate tribute to a man who did so much for our community. By doing so, his memory and spirit can continue to inspire the citizens of Columbia into the future.

Bonnie Bourne, President of East Campus Neighborhood Association