

# Staff Report

For the Meeting of March 14, 2016

MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Agenda Item :

## Motion

Adopt Resolution #2019

## SUBJECT:

**Naming Greenwood Park**

### Subject

Resolution naming "Greenwood Park."

### Background:

"Great things are done by a series of small things brought together." *Vincent Van Gogh*

Greenwood Woodrow Luster was born on August 29th 1923 in Parma, Texas. Greenwood was a longtime resident of Hermiston who lived in the neighborhood just west of Highway 395 and south of Elm Avenue. While raising his family, Greenwood dreamed a playground near his home where the neighborhood children could gather and play safely.

This dream was realized in the early 1970's when Greenwood received permission from the City to create a park on a small, derelict lot owned by the City at 80 West Beech Avenue. Greenwood recruited neighbors, members of his church and the Hermiston JC's to develop the playground that was known as "Candy Cane Park" because of the telephone pole painted red and white stripes. However there is no record of the park having been given a formal name.

When the Dunn Rollin' Trailer Park upgraded its playground equipment, the Hermiston JC's salvaged the equipment and relocated swings and a merry-go-round to the Beech location. Over the years other volunteers installed a brick restroom and basketball court.

Greenwood was involved in most of these park efforts and was well known throughout Hermiston having worked at Rohrman Ford, Union Pacific Railroad, & Sanitary Disposal. He was a Pastor for the Church of God for many years, and died in 2010 at the age of 87 years.

### Summary:

The Parks and Recreation Committee has conducted several neighborhood meetings to consider ways to update the park and learn more about the park's uses and history. The accounts of Greenwood Luster's involvement in the creation of the park have inspired the Park Committee to recommend a name for the park. The Parks and Recreation unanimously passed a motion to name the park located at 80 West Beech Avenue as "Greenwood Park" in recognition of the man that turned this neighborhood dream into a reality.

### Recommendation:

Motion to adopt Resolution #2019 naming the park located at on West Beech Avenue as "Greenwood Park" after its creator Greenwood Luster.

Submitted by:



City Manager Approval



**RESOLUTION NO 2019**

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF HERMISTON TO NAME THE PARK LOCATED ON 80 WEST BEECH AVENUE AS "GREENWOOD PARK."

**WHEREAS**, City Council has a tradition naming parks after significant local residents that have made contributions for the development of certain parks, and

**WHEREAS**, Greenwood Luster was the primary motivator behind the creation of the park located at 80 West Beech Avenue, and was a significant longtime local resident who was committed to improving Hermiston, and

**WHEREAS**, the City's Parks Committee unanimously passed a motion to recommend that the park on 80 West Beech Avenue to name the park as "Greenwood Park", and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Hermiston, Oregon, as follows:

That the park located at 80 West Beech Avenue be forevermore named "Greenwood Park" in recognition of Green Luster's contribution in the creation of the park.

PASSED by the Common Council this 14<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2016.

Signed by the Mayor this 14<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2016.

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MAYOR

ATTEST:

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ASSISTANT CITY RECORDER