



A G E N D A
CITY OF SEASIDE
PARKS AND RECREATION

REGULAR MEETING
440 HARCOURT AVE (COUNCIL CHAMBER)
Monday, July 21, 2025
5:30 PM

NOTICE: *The City Council and the City's Boards, Commissions and Committees, will hold its public meetings in person, with a virtual option for public participation based on availability. The City of Seaside utilizes Zoom tele-conferencing technology for virtual public participation; however, we make no representation or warranty of any kind, regarding the adequacy, reliability, or availability of the use of this platform in this manner. Participation by members of public through this means is at their own risk.*

1. To view this meeting: Please click on the following link to the City of Seaside's Recreation YouTube Channel: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8Y_aD_dLjYsqZYtSwnaKNg
2. To view or participate in this meeting: Using the Zoom application on your smart phone, laptop, tablet or desktop and click on this link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81754708643?pwd=RjNEU2xNMDhlNFFpWjB6b0pGSGgzdz09>
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Enter the **WEBINAR ID:** 817 5470 8643 and **PASSCODE:** 417485 when prompted.
There is no participate code – press the pound sign # after the recording prompts you.
4. To make public comment, the following options are available:

Before the Meeting via Email: Written comments can be emailed to dmeewis@ci.seaside.ca.us Include the following subject line: "Public Comment Item # ____" (insert the agenda item number relevant to your comment). Written comments must be received by 2:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting.

During the Meeting via Oral Comments: When the Chair calls for public comment, members of the public participating in person and wishing to address the Commission may approach the podium when the Chair calls for public comment.

When the Chair calls for public comment, members of the public participating on Zoom and wishing to address the City Council can queue to speak with the "Raise Hand" feature. On the Zoom application, click the "Raise Hand" button. On the phone, press *9 to "Raise Hand"; press *6 to unmute.

5. In accordance with the City's Remote Meeting Participation Policy for Public Comment: The City of Seaside reserves the right to refuse, limit, and/or revoke use of video conferencing technology and the option for virtual public participation. Granting use of the virtual

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1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL - PARKS AND RECREATION

Bobby Maxwell	Chair
Karla Lobo	Vice Chair
Alicia Louise Gaines-Lynch	Commissioner
James White	Commissioner
Jeanette Walton	Commissioner
Christy Pappas	Commissioner

3. REVIEW OF AGENDA

If there are any items that arose after the 72-hour posting deadline, this is the point in the meeting where a vote may be taken to add the item to the agenda. (A 2/3-majority vote is required).

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Members of the public wishing to address the Commission on matters within the jurisdiction of the City of Seaside, but not on this agenda, may do so during the Public Comment period for up to three (3) minutes. Comments on specific agenda items are heard under that item. For the public record, please state your name.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. JUNE 16, 2025 MINUTES

6. BUSINESS ITEMS

A. REVIEW APPLICATION FOR NAMING OF PARKS, STREETS, CITY-OWNED BUILDINGS AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES FOR NAMING THE BASKETBALL COURT AT LINCOLN CUNNINGHAM PARK AFTER E.J. ROWLAND AND THE PLACEMENT OF A COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUE ON A BENCH NEXT TO THE BASKETBALL COURT IN HONOR OF HIS FATHER EARL ROWLAND AND MAKE RECOMMENDATION TO THE CITY COUNCIL

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended that the Parks & Recreation Commission review the application for naming the basketball court after E.J.

Rowland and place a commemorative plaque in honor of his father, Earl Rowland and forward a recommendation to the City Council for consideration.

B. DISCUSS ITEMS AND AREAS THAT NEED TO BE MAINTAINED AT CUTINO PARK (CHAIR MAXWELL)

RECOMMENDATION: Discuss and provide direction regarding priority maintenance items at Cutino Park. Based on recent assessments and community feedback, several areas require attention to ensure the safety, aesthetic, and functionality of the park.

- 7. REPORTS FROM RECREATION STAFF**
- 8. REPORTS FROM PARKS STAFF**
- 9. REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS**
- 10. ADJOURNMENT**

Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting:
August 18, 2025
5:30 PM

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<http://www.ci.seaside.ca.us/129/City-Council-Committee-Agendas>

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MINUTES
CITY OF SEASIDE
PARKS AND RECREATION
COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING
440 Harcourt Ave (Council Chamber)
Monday, June 16, 2025
5:30 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at: 5:30 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL – ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM:

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION:

Bobby Maxwell	Chair	<u> X </u>	
Alicia Louise Gaines	Commissioner	<u> </u>	(Excused Absence)
James White	Commissioner	<u> </u>	(Excused Absence)
Jeanette Walton	Commissioner	<u> X </u>	
Karla Lobo	Commissioner	<u> X </u>	
Christy Pappas	Commissioner	<u> X </u>	

STAFF:

Dan Meewis X

GUEST:

* Dianne Nielson – (Zoom)

3. REVIEW OF AGENDA:

If there are any items that arose after the 72-hour posting deadline, this is the point in the meeting where a vote may be taken to add the item to the agenda. (A 2/3-majority vote is required)

* None

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

* None

5. APPROVAL OF JANUARY 27, 2025 MINUTES:

* Jeanette White/Karla Lobo M/S/P

6. BUSINESS ITEMS:

A. WELCOME COMMISSIONER CHRISTY PAPPAS TO THE SEASIDE PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION:

* Commissioner Pappas stated that this is the first time being on a commission like this. She has been a community member for the past sixteen years with a lot of good ideas and she is hoping to hear more good ideas. She wants Seaside to thrive and have fun doing it.

- * Chair Maxwell is very happy that Commissioner Pappas is on the Commission and feels she will be a great asset. He thanked her and welcomed her to the team.
- * All the Commissioners and staff welcomed Commissioner Pappas to the Parks & Recreation Commission.
- * No Public Comment.

B. ESTABLISHMENT OF A PRIORITY LIST FOR FY 2025-26 WORK PLAN IMPLEMENTATION:

- * Staff stated that it would be a good idea if the Commission continue to review the work plan and establish a priority list and a time line. That way they can put together agenda items throughout the year.
- * Chair Maxwell stated that his focus is on capital improvement request. There are a lot of areas and items that need to be repaired or maintained in some of the parks. The light towers at Cutino Park needs to be repaired or replaced due to a safety issue. That is his number one priority. Staff stated that during the City's budget meeting the City Council gave staff the recommendation to approve deferring some of the capital improvement programs or projects that were within the budget as well as deferring some of the street funds. The capital improvement programs and projects that have been deferred are the Fab Lab Trailer and the Hilby Street storm drains.
- * Vice Chair Lobo stated that she had an opportunity to review the budget sessions 1 & 2. There is \$30,000.00 allocated for Laguna Grande Park for the GPA. The budget for the Parks & Recreation Commission is \$3,500.00. There are no other capital improvement funds in this year's budget that are related in parks and recreation.
- * Vice Chair Lobo recommendation for capital improvement for next year is an indoor recreation center. Her first priority is to have the departments talk about the planning stages for an indoor recreation center. They need to start with talking about the vision and concept development. They need to define the center's purpose, establish goals, consider potential amenities, and finding a location.
- * Vice Chair Lobo stated that on the work plan her second priority request is to review current city partners and commissions requests to collaborate on projects that align with their work plan goals. She would like the commission to collaborate on a deeper level that they can potentially use their master plan to cohesively include the commissions and to bring something to the City Council as a collaborative effort. She suggested a training, a retreat, or a workshop for all the commission to do together.
- * Vice Chair Lobo would like the discussion on the budget review in December 2025. Chair Maxwell agrees.
- * Staff and the Commissioners talked about the recreation and parks program, fees, media releases, Blues in the Park, tabling at community events,

conferences, CIP budget presentation, the dog park, Laguna Grande Park pathway, grants, irrigation in the parks, the trail system at Havanna Soliz Park, Lincoln Cunningham Park and Manzanita Stuart Park, and the light towers at Cutino Park.

* No Public Comment.

7. REPORTS FROM RECREATION STAFF:

* Staff reported that summer camps have started. They had their summer staff training at the beginning of the month. They have about 120 part-time staff that will be working in different areas. Junior Giants have started and 230 kids are enrolled. The heater in the big pool at Pattullo Swim Center is down and they are in the process in getting that fixed. There is no ETA of when that will be completed. The Fourth of July event feature band will be "The White Album Ensemble". The event will be at City Hall Lawn from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Blues in the Park starts on July 13, 2025 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. The headliner for the first week is "Chris Cain." On June 28, 2025, the City of Seaside will be co-sponsoring with Pacchetti Dog Park to celebrate the ten-year anniversary of the dog park.

8. REPORTS FROM PARKS STAFF:

* Staff stated that they are trying to address the weeding and netting at Cutino Park. Lincoln Cunningham Park had a soft opening. The fences are down and you can walk through the park. They are waiting for the play equipment to be delivered. Once the play equipment is installed, they will have a re-grand opening. The other parks are completed. FOSPA takes care of eleven parks in Seaside. They are expanding the outdoor area of the preschool at the Oldemeyer Center. They will be a new mural going up on the preschool wall. There will be another mural that will be going up in the west entrance of the Oldemeyer Center. Seaside does not have any beaches. The beaches are under the California State Park department.

9. REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS:

- * Commissioner Lobo stated she attended the Juneteenth Celebration and it was a nice event. She suggested that the Parks & Recreation Commission table at that event.
- * Commissioner Walton stated she attended the Juneteenth Event. It was a great event.
- * Commissioner Pappas asked about Bingo that was on Sunday at the Oldemeyer Center. Staff stated that it ended quite a while ago.
- * Chair Maxwell stated that Junior Giants has stated at Cutino Park. He has been attending a lot of the Monterey Bay Football Clubs matches and have been talking to some of the people there to get some discounted tickets for some of the youth. They have completed PAL's basketball season. Chair Maxwell suggested that the Commission reach out to FOSPA to give them an update on what they have been doing at the parks. Chair Maxwell stated that he and Commissioner Walton are on the Seaside Stars Committee and they are meeting on June 17, 2025.

10. **ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Terry Navarro, PRC Clerk

Bobby Maxwell, PRC Chair

Next Regular Scheduled Meeting

July 21, 2025

Time: 5:30 p.m.

HYBRID (Virtual & In-Person)

Attachments From the
June 16, 2025 Meeting



**CITY OF SEASIDE
STAFF REPORT**

Item No.: 6.A.

TO: Parks and Recreation Commission

BY: Dan Meewis, Assistant City Manager

DATE: June 16, 2025

**SUBJECT: WELCOME COMMISSIONER CHRISTY PAPPAS TO THE SEASIDE
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION**

RECOMMENDATION

We are pleased to announce and warmly welcome Commissioner Christy Pappas to the Seaside Parks and Recreation Commission.

BACKGROUND

Commissioner Christy Pappas was officially appointed to the Commission on June 5, 2025. She has a degree in Recreation Administration and has a strong passion for community development. Commissioner Pappas is very active in the Seaside community and would like to see the community thrive. She is looking forward to being part of the team in helping the community thrive. Her fresh perspective will be an asset as we continue to grow and improve Seaside's parks, trails, community events, and recreational facilities.

Please join us in welcoming Commissioner Pappas to the team. We look forward to her contributions as we continue to serve the Seaside community with excellence and enthusiasm.

FISCAL IMPACT

No fiscal impact on this item.

ATTACHMENTS

None



**CITY OF SEASIDE
STAFF REPORT**

Item No.: 6.B.

TO: Parks and Recreation Commission

BY: Dan Meewis, Assistant City Manager

DATE: June 16, 2025

SUBJECT: ESTABLISHMENT OF A PRIORITY LIST FOR FY 2025-26 WORK PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Parks and Recreation Commission discuss and establish a prioritized list of work plan objectives for Fiscal Year 2025–2026, based on the adopted work plan document, past accomplishments, and current community needs.

BACKGROUND

The Parks and Recreation Commission has developed a comprehensive work plan for FY 2025–26 that reflects the Commission’s mission to advocate for safe, accessible, and enriching recreational services and park facilities throughout Seaside. This plan builds on significant accomplishments and aligns with City Council goals to enhance quality of life for all residents.

To effectively implement the work plan, staff is requesting that the Commission review and prioritize its areas of focus. Prioritization will enable the Commission and staff to allocate time, resources, and partnerships in a manner that achieves the greatest impact.

Next Steps

1. Commissioners individually rank or score projects based on impact, feasibility, and readiness.
2. Staff aggregates feedback to draft a priority list.
3. The commission reviews and finalizes the prioritized list at the next meeting.
4. Staff proceeds with implementing and scheduling efforts based on Commission guidance.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Parks & Recreation Commissions Work Plan 2025-26 updated 6.2.25
-

Reviewed for Submission to the City Council by:



Greg McDanel, City Manager



<http://www.ci.seaside.ca.us/>

CITY OF SEASIDE

Parks and Recreation Commission

FY 2025-2026 Work Plan & Prior Accomplishments

Members

Bobby Maxwell, Chair
Karla Lobo, Vice Chair
Alicia Louise Gaines
James White
Jeanette Walton

2 Vacancy

Staff Liaisons

Dan Meewis, Assistant City Manager
Thomas Korman, Public Works Director/City Engineer

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Seaside Recreation and Parks Commission is to promote and advocate for parks and recreation services in an advisory capacity, to advance and preserve parks and recreation services, and to ensure safe parks and recreation facilities are available for all residents and visitors to the City of Seaside.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The City of Seaside Recreation and Park Commission consists of nine appointed members who hold office for three years. The Commission was established by Ordinance No. 1 on October 13, 1954. At that time SECTION 1-218 authorized the creation of three special committees of three members each; Recreation and Parks Committee, Public Works Committee and Financial Committee. Since then the committee structure was replaced by a Commission structure. Currently the duties of the Recreation and Park Commission are:

1. To act in an advisory capacity to the City Council, Recreation Director and the boards of trustees of the school districts and to cooperate with other governmental agencies and civic groups in the advancement of sound park and recreation planning and programming.
2. Recommend policies on recreational services and facilities to the Recreation Director and the City Council;
3. Consult with the Recreation Director on matters relating to the administration and development of recreation areas, facilities, programs and improvements.
4. Make periodic inventories of recreation services that exist or may be needed and interpret the needs of the public to the City Council, the school boards of trustees and to the Recreation Director.
5. Aid in coordinating recreation services with the programs of other public agencies and voluntary organizations.
6. Advise the Recreation Director in the preparation of the annual budget and a long-range recreation capital improvement program.
7. Advise the City Council on matters regarding trees, plants, landscape, etc.

8. Develop, keep current, and aid in the facilitation of a plan for the development, conservation and care of trees, trails, and parks.
9. Develop and review annually a long-range plan for trees and parks, both naturally occurring and planned.
10. Review, in cooperation with other City Commissions, plans for landscape, planting, trails, etc.
11. Coordinate or conduct planned projects for the advancement of trees, parks, and other outdoor recreational areas.
12. In collaboration with other City Commissions, inform residents regarding landscape projects and care.

FY 24-25 WORK PLAN

The Seaside Recreation and Parks Commission desires and encourages community participation in the decision making process.

Work Plan Objectives

1. Advisory Body to the City Council

As an on-going activity, serve as the recommending body for all matters as defined in the Municipal Code. All proposals and recommendations to come through the commission prior to presenting to the council. Keep abreast of current and emerging issues in parks and recreation. Use information to amend work plans if needed or save projects for future work plans.

Areas of Interest

- Budget review
- Department policies
- Current city and outside proposals for parks and recreation to review
- Current city council proposal considerations

Timeline: Ongoing

Cost Estimate: (\$250.00) Supplies budget for copying, noticing, and educational materials.

Participants: Parks and Recreation Commission Members and staff.

Staff Lead: Recreation Director

2. Programs, Fees, Operating Budget, Collaborations

Annually review recreation programs and fees. If any, the Parks and Recreation Commission will make recommendations to the City Council regarding Parks and Recreation operation, programming, fees for service, development impact fees, and rental fees. On request by Council and/or staff, or as the Commission deems appropriate, conduct an evaluation of Parks and Recreation Programs and Fees. Provide consideration and recommendations to the City Council. Work with city partners to collaboratively on projects that focus on our current work plan goals.

Areas of interest:

- The Commission will request operating budget from the Recreation and Park Directors for the January meetings.
- Presentation on current projects list being worked on
- January 2025- Review the recreation and parks program and fees at the January meeting.
- Review current city partners and commissions requests to collaborate on projects that align with our work plan goals. These collaborations include other commissions like Environmental, NIC, and city partners.
- Parks & Recreation Commission community event
- Blues in the Park collaboration

Timeline: Ongoing

Cost Estimate: (\$1,500) Supplies budget for copying, noticing, and educational materials, promotional items for events and activities.

Staff Lead: Recreation Director

3. Staff Support and Community Enrichment.

Provide support to Parks and Recreation staff in managing the prioritization of demand for limited park and recreation resources. Recommend and support staff in enhancing the City's events, parks, playgrounds, and other recreation programs and facilities.

Areas of interest:

- Participating in Field User Group Meetings
- Attend workshops (1 yearly state/federally or locally funded, recommendations be prior to the beginning of the year.
- Seek yearly Input for needs within Recreation Department and funding for those needs
- Youth involvement in parks

Timeline: August 2024- May 2025

Cost Estimate: (\$5,000) Staff time and supplies budget for copying materials. Attend the California Parks and Recreation Conference in Sacramento of March

2025.

Staff Lead: Recreation Director

4. Review Capital Improvement Plans, Projects, and Budget Review

Make recommendations to the City Council regarding CIP for Parks, Recreation facilities, review operating and CIP budgets for Parks & Recreation departments

CIP recommendations/requests:

- CIP Budget presentation
- Dog Park (identify additional location and design)
- Laguna Grande Park Pathway (explore the idea of lights)(Trails grant)
- Review locations for an indoor facility – Hire a consultant to do a feasibility study for city owned property.
- Increase the community awareness of the policy input process for parks and recreation programs and projects
- Specific grants to aid in the current CIP, project specific, bring at least 1-2 a year
- ADA Playground Equipment for all parks
- Irrigation such as underground water tanks for parks and improvements at community gardens
- Explore Trail System in Seaside at Havana Soliz Park, Lincoln Cunningham Park and Manzanita Stuart Park
- Replace fallen light tower at Cutino, and look at replacing all other towers.

Timeline: As needed

Cost Estimate: (\$40,000) Facility feasibility study for an indoor Gym, Supplies budget for copying, noticing, and educational materials. Funds for minor park projects, and trees.

Staff Lead: Public Works Director, Recreation Director

(#5 ON HOLD for FY 25/26)

5. Advisory Body for Active Transportation Plan. (sub committee perhaps)(CIP)

As an on-going activity, serve as the recommending body surrounding matters dealing with bike and pedestrian safety on the Bike and Pedestrian Advisory Committee.

Areas of interest:

- Work on recommendations for regional connection between Big Sur, Carmel, Salinas, and the BART station in the foreseeable future
- Identify connectivity locations.

- Prioritize the locations based on feasibility, need, and community interest.
- Attend FORTAG Meetings to have a better understanding of the FORTAG trail project that runs through Seaside.

Timeline: Ongoing

Cost Estimate: Supplies budget for copying, noticing, and educational materials.

Participants: sub-committee

Staff Lead: Public Works Director, Recreation Director

Estimated FY 25/26 PRC work plan budget: **\$0 (On hold for FY 25/26)**

ONGOING PROJECTS

<i>PROJECT</i>	<i>ACTIVITIES</i>
Manzanita Stuart Park, Lincoln Cunningham Park and Havana Soliz Park trail system project	Continue to seek community input into park as required by grant.
Recreation and park facilities	Encourage attendance to all parks, recreation center, pool and facilities. Attend and promote events.
Promote recreation and park activities	Blues in the Park, youth, adult and older adult activities.
Monitor park improvements	Laguna Grande, Capra Park, Highland Otis Park, and Manzanita Stuart Park.
Work collectively with other City Commissions	Promote and recommend flora in parks and around the City. Provide solutions to ensure parks, trails, landscape, and adjacent park areas can be enjoyed by all.

PRIOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

<i>GOAL/OBJECTIVE</i>	<i>ACTIVITIES SUPPORTING GOAL</i>	<i>STATUS</i>
Capra Park Grant (Presented by FOSPA)		Completed – City Council approved a 5-year lease for the space located at Capra that is designated for the community garden.
Improve the condition of the Volleyball court at Highland Otis		Completed -- January 2025
Review and update commission ordinance to catch up with current times, enlist help from city clerk office (CC will begin to update ordinances)		Completed by commission for waiting for Council Adoption – FY 25/26
FY 23-24 CIP and budget review	To review, consider and endorse recommended budget for FY 23-24.	Completed
Promote public input in 2023/24	Gather, review, and endorse needs.	Completed
Seek grant funds in 2023/24	Advocate and seek public funds available through the Office of Grants and Local Services and National Recreation and Park Association, etc.	Completed
Work cooperatively with FOSPA and other City Commissions: Homeless, NIC, SAHC, Environmental in 2024/25	Collaborate with other City Commissions and FOSPA.	Completed
Seek Input for needs within Recreation	Gather, review, and endorse needs and	Completed

Department & funding for those needs	funding for inclusion in FY 24-25 budget.	
Attend workshops in 2024/25	Encourage Commissioner attendance.	Completed
Work with environmental commission for tree	Goal of planting at least 30 new trees in City parks.	Completed
Signs for parks	Get signs to parks that do not have signs.	Completed
Implement a water safety program for local youth	Once per year field WSI and screened volunteers to run a drown proofing for the community.	Completed
Community garden	Work on a community garden.	Completed
Submitted SPP Grant	Submitted a competitive grant in order to encumber funds available to underserved CA communities.	Completed
Provide doggy bag stations at all parks	Allocated funding and personnel for installation.	Completed
Major renovation of Cutino Park	Opened to public August 2019.	Completed
Improve Highland Otis Park	Allocated funding for Playground structure, BBQ, ADA, volleyball court improvements.	Completed
Improve Metz Park and Rubio Field	Allocated funding for ADA improvements, Basketball and Futsal resurface and stripe.	Completed
Roberts Lake ECO Park Peace Pole	Provided funding and locations for Peace Poles.	Completed
Improve Durant Park	Allocated funding for Playground structure, ADA and BBQ improvements.	Completed
Community input regarding Manzanita Stuart Park	Public forum held regarding facility additions and	Completed

	construction.	
Community input regarding Ellis Park	Public forum held regarding park improvements.	Completed
Improve basketball court at Capra Park	Allocated funding for resurface.	Completed
Attend Parks and Recreation Workshops during FY 22-23	Five members attended various workshops.	Completed
Submit CDBG Grant	Submit a competitive grant in order encumber funds.	Completed
ADA playground equipment	Provide ADA playground equipment at Laguna Grande Park.	Completed
Review Seaside Municipal Code section 9.08	Make necessary amendments to code.	Completed
Institute Adopt a Park program	Put together policies and guidelines for a community base program.	Completed
Wheeler Street Tennis Courts and Pickleball	Relining pickleball courts, resurfacing the courts.	Completed by June 2024
Capra Park Updates through NIC funding	Picnic Tables, BBQ, ADA accessibility	Completed April 2025

June 2, 2025



**CITY OF SEASIDE
STAFF REPORT**

Item No.: 6.A.

TO: Parks and Recreation Commission

BY: Dan Meewis, Assistant City Manager

DATE: July 21, 2025

SUBJECT: REVIEW APPLICATION FOR NAMING OF PARKS, STREETS, CITY-OWNED BUILDINGS AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES FOR NAMING THE BASKETBALL COURT AT LINCOLN CUNNINGHAM PARK AFTER E.J. ROWLAND AND THE PLACEMENT OF A COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUE ON A BENCH NEXT TO THE BASKETBALL COURT IN HONOR OF HIS FATHER EARL ROWLAND AND MAKE RECOMMENDATION TO THE CITY COUNCIL

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Parks & Recreation Commission review the application for naming the basketball court after E.J. Rowland and place a commemorative plaque in honor of his father, Earl Rowland and forward a recommendation to the City Council for consideration.

BACKGROUND

In accordance with the City of Seaside's **Parks, Recreational Facility, City-Owned Building and Street Naming Policy**, the City has received a formal request to name the Basketball Court located at Lincoln Cunningham in honor of E.J. Rowland, and place a commemorative plaque on one of the benches near the court in honor of his father Earl Rowland.

The City's Naming Policy establishes uniform guidelines, criteria, and procedures for naming or renaming city-owned land and facilities, including parks, recreational facilities, buildings, and streets. The policy encourages names that reflect Seaside's

history, cultural diversity, native geography, and individuals who have made substantial contributions to the community.

In June 2025, the Recreation Department received the completed application from the applicant. After staff reviewed the application, it was deemed complete. In the policy under section IV. Naming Procedure item D, it states "Completed applications will be forwarded concurrently for review to the Parks and Recreation Commission and the Historical Commission at a regularly scheduled meeting within a thirty (30) day period." and item E states "Notice of intent to name a park, recreational facility, city-owned building, or commemorative naming of a street shall be posted in public places and published in the City's paper of record during the same 30-day review period of the City's Commissions".

Staff published the public notification on Tuesday, July 1, 2025, to begin the thirty-day public comment period. The Art and History Commission (AHC) meeting on July 8, 2025, was canceled. The next AHC meeting will be on Tuesday, August 12, 2025. The first meeting that will be available for review is the Parks and Recreation is Monday, July 21, 2025. After both commissions review, the application will be brought to the City Council on Thursday, August 20 2025.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact with this item as it is only to provide direction to staff.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Park, Recreational Facility, City-Owned Building and Street Naming Policy and Application (PDF)
 2. Naming Application EJ Rowland
-
-

City of Seaside
PARK, RECREATIONAL FACILITY, CITY-OWNED BUILDING AND STREET
NAMING POLICY

I. PURPOSE:

To establish a uniform policy regarding requests for the naming or renaming of City-owned land and facilities including parks, recreation facilities, buildings, streets, and the designation of commemorative street names and plaques, that are compatible with community interest and will enhance the values and heritage of the City of Seaside.

II. GENERAL :

- A. This policy shall establish the guidelines, criteria and process for naming or renaming of city-owned facilities.
- B. The City Council shall have the final authority to name and rename City parks, recreational facilities, city-owned buildings, streets and to designate commemorative street names and plaques.
- C. Under extraordinary circumstances that would cast a negative image upon the City, any naming of city-owned facilities in honor of an individual, family or group may be revoked at the discretion of the City Council.
- D. The names of individuals or corporations or groups involved in controversial enterprises or activities, such as those that would be detrimental to the mission or image of the City of Seaside should be avoided.
- E. The donation of land, facilities, or funds for the acquisition, renovation or maintenance of land or facilities, shall not constitute an obligation by the City to name the land and/or facility or any portion thereof after an individual, family or organization.
- F. Existing names are deemed to have historic recognition. It is the City of Seaside's policy to keep the name of any existing park, city-owned buildings, or recreational facility, particularly one whose name has City or regional significance, unless there are compelling reasons to consider such a change; after a thorough study and a unanimous vote of the City Council. Furthermore, the City will consider renaming to commemorate a person or persons, posthumously, only when the person or persons have made a major, overriding contribution to the City and whose distinctions are as yet unrecognized.
- G. It is the intent of this policy to prohibit, except under extraordinary circumstance with a super majority vote (4 to 1) of the City Council and a required minimum of 2/3 of the affected property owners (as shown on the latest Monterey County Tax Roll) written approval, the changing of street names that have existing homes or businesses using the street name in their address, or streets which connect with adjacent jurisdictions.

- H. Street naming and renaming shall be made by City Council resolution or as a result of an approval and recordation of a subdivision map.
- I. All costs including staff time, labor and materials associated with the installation of plaques, monuments and/or replacement of signs resulting from this policy will be borne by the individual, group or organization sponsoring the request.

III. NAMING CRITERIA

A. PARKS, CITY-OWNED BUILDINGS AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES:

- 1. Naming shall begin early in the development and/or acquisition as possible.
- 2. Names should be appropriate to the park, city-owned building, or recreational facility by reflecting the native wildlife, history, flora, fauna, geographic area, or natural geologic features related to the Community of Seaside.
- 3. Names can be from significant historical events, cultural attributes, a local landmark or for a historical figure.
- 4. Areas that can be recognized include: Points of entry, walkways, trails, room or patio within a city-owned building, recreational facilities such as group picnic areas or ball fields, and physical features such as valley, hills, streams or vista views.
- 5. Names which reflect the City's ethnic and cultural diversity are encouraged. Signage shall be in English.
- 6. Commemorative names honoring individuals or families should be based on the following criteria:
 - a. made lasting and significant contributions to the protection of natural or cultural resources of the City of Seaside;
 - b. made substantial contributions to the betterment of a specific facility or park consistent with the established standards for the facility;
 - c. made substantial contributions to the advancement of commensurate types of recreational opportunities with the City of Seaside;
 - d. be associated to an economic development or redevelopment activity;
 - e. had a positive impact on the lives of Seaside's residents;
 - f. has volunteered for ten (10) or more years of service to the community;
 - g. an individual who is to be honored shall be deceased for a minimum period of three (3) years.

B. STREETS:

- 1. Names shall be unique, easily discernable, and simple to pronounce for public safety consideration. Similar sounding or duplicate street names shall not be considered.
- 2. North and South thoroughfares shall be called streets, and East and West thoroughfares shall be called avenues or boulevards.

3. Street names may recognize native wildlife, flora, fauna or natural geologic features related to the community and the City of Seaside.
4. Names with the same theme (i.e. flowers, states) are suggested for naming streets in an entire subdivision, as a means of general identification.
5. Street names shall not contain more than 18-letter characters, including any combinations of spaces, or letters, designations in the base portion of the name.
6. Cumbersome, corrupted or modified names, discriminatory or derogatory names, from the point of view of race, sex, color, creed, ethnicity, religious affiliation, political affiliation or other social factors are not acceptable.
7. Names for public and private streets in a new subdivision shall be proposed by the developer, reviewed by the Planning Commission, approved by the City Council. The street names are adopted by the City when the final subdivision map for the development is recorded.

C. COMMEMORATIVE STREETS NAMES AND PLAQUES:

1. Commemorative street name signs are additions to the street name and will not change the street address. Existing street name shall be retained and a supplemental sign or plaques shall be installed beneath the existing street name signage. Commemorative street name signs shall consider the same criteria for naming of streets.
2. Commemorative plaques shall be placed in common areas such as the entrance columns of City Hall and public benches. In recognition of individuals that should be honored for their accomplishments and contribution to the city, a community COLUMN OF HONOR is to be established at City Hall on the entrance columns of the building. The COLUMN OF HONOR will be a permanent honor, consisting of a marker describing the honorees accomplishments, placed on a bronze plaque. Recognition will be made either at a City Council Meeting or at a special ceremony at the COLUMN OF HONOR. The applicant or sponsoring group/organization will be responsible for the cost of the plaque. If a special recognition ceremony is requested, the applicant may be charged for the cost.
3. Criteria for commemorative street names and plaques are as follows:
 - a. Names honoring **individuals (posthumously)**, groups, or families should be based on the following criteria:
 - i. made lasting and significant contributions to the protection of natural or cultural resources of the City of Seaside;
 - ii. made substantial contributions to the betterment of the City of Seaside which has positively impacted the lives of citizens of the City of Seaside,
 - iii. be associated to an economic development or redevelopment activity in fulfillment of the City's mission;
 - iv. commemorates a significant historical event;

- v. contributed outstanding civic service to the City for a minimum period of ten (10) years;
 - vi. an individual who is to be honored shall be deceased for a minimum period of three (3) years.
- b. Names of **living persons** shall be considered only under the following circumstances:
- i. The honoree contributed half or more of the cost of a major facility;
 - ii. The honoree initiated or contributed major time to the establishment of the city project;
 - iii. The overwhelming belief (public opinion) that the honoree would be likely be honored of that facility posthumously;
 - iv. No other individual now living has, or is likely to have, greater public support for being honored;
 - v. The honoree has given extraordinary service to the City and to the community;
 - vi. The honoree has attained national or international prominence and achievement.
- c. Naming after an individual who has served as a **City Official** or as a **City employee** shall occur after the person has separated from City service and should be based on the following criteria:
- i. Made contribution over and above the normal duties required by their positions.
 - ii. Had a positive impact on the past and future development of programs, projects, or facilities in the City of Seaside.
 - iii. Made significant volunteer contributions to the community outside the scope of their job.
 - iv. Had exceptionally long tenure with the City of Seaside; a minimum of ten (10) years.
 - v. Significant public support for a memorial to the city official or city employee on the occasion of their death or retirement.

IV. NAMING PROCEDURE

- A. A request shall be submitted in writing on the standard application form. Fees associated with administrative and hard costs for the sign or plaque placement will be at the expense of the applicant, such as sign procurement and installation costs. An application fee has been established and will be based on the most current adopted city's Fees & Charges Schedule. The payment of the application fee is required at time of application submission.
- B. The applicant shall be able to provide clear evidence that the individual to be honored has made a significant contribution to the economic vitality and/or quality of life in the Seaside community.

- C. The application will be reviewed for completeness based upon the naming criteria by staff in the Resource Management Services Department. All recommendations or suggestions will be given the same consideration without regard to the nomination source.
- D. Completed applications will be forwarded concurrently for review to the Parks and Recreation Commission and the Historical Commission at a regularly scheduled meeting within a thirty (30) day period.
- E. Notice of intent to name a park, recreational facility, city-owned building, or commemorative naming of a street shall be posted in public places and published in the City's paper of record during the same 30-day review period of the City's Commissions.
- F. After the 30-day review and public comments period, the request will be placed in the agenda for the next regularly scheduled City Council Meeting as a noticed public hearing for the City Council's consideration.

City of Seaside
Application for Naming of Parks, Streets, City Owned Buildings and Recreational Facilities

Applicant's Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

E-mail: _____ Phone: _____

D Park Location _____

Recreational
D Facility Location _____

Commemorative
D Street Name Location _____

D Street Location _____

City-owned
D Building Location _____

D COLUMN OF
HONOR

Yes No

D D Honoree Name, if yes, please complete the following page.

Does this pertain to only a portion of the site or facility? _____

If yes, portion suggested for naming: _____

Signature

Date

Print Name

City of Seaside

Application for Naming of Parks, Streets, City Owned Buildings and Recreational Facilities

Please indicate which criteria below pertain to the application and provide a brief description of how the application meets these criteria (attach additional sheets if necessary):

Yes No
D **D**

Has made lasting and significant contributions to the protection of natural or cultural resources of the City of Seaside.

If yes please
explain:

Yes No
D **D**

Has made substantial contributions to the betterment of a specific facility or park consistent with the established standards for the facility, or to the City of Seaside which has positively impacted the lives of citizens.

If yes please
explain:

Yes No
D **D**

Has made substantial contributions to the advancement of commensurate types of recreational opportunities with the City of Seaside.

If yes please
explain:

Yes No
D **D**

Is associated with an economic development or redevelopment activity that meets the Mission of the City of Seaside and improves the quality of life for its residents.

If yes please
explain:

Yes No
D **D**

Commemorates a significant historical event.

If yes please
explain:

City of Seaside

Application for Naming of Parks, Streets, City Owned Buildings and Recreational Facilities

Please indicate which criteria below pertain to the application and provide a brief description of how the application meets these criteria (attach additional sheets if necessary):

Yes D	No D	The name preserves the geographic, environmental (relating to natural or physical features), historic or landmark connotation of particular significance to the area in which the land or facility is located, or for the City as a whole.
-----------------	----------------	--

If yes please explain:

Yes D	No D	The land, facility, or the funds for the purchase, construction, renovation or maintenance was donated by the individual, family or organization.
-----------------	----------------	---

If yes please explain:

Yes D	No D	An in-kind contribution or service of major and lasting significance was made to the acquisition of the land, facility, or the planning, development, construction, renovation or maintenance of a facility.
-----------------	----------------	--

If yes please explain:

Yes D	No D	The name recognizes a benefactor organization, group or business that contributed to the site or facility.
-----------------	----------------	--

If yes please explain:

Yes D	No D	The name commemorates a significant historical figure.
-----------------	----------------	--

If yes please explain:

City of Seaside
Application for Naming of Parks, Streets, City Owned Buildings and Recreational Facilities

Applicant's Name: Annalisa Mitchell.
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 972. Seaside Ca. 93955

E-mail: Juzaliza@yahoo.com Phone: 831-869-8053.

- Park Location Lincoln Cuningham.
- Recreational Facility Location _____
- Commemorative Street Name Location _____
- Street Location _____
- City-owned Building Location _____
- COLUMN OF HONOR
- Yes No
- Honoree Name, if yes, please complete the following page.

Does this pertain to only a portion of the site or facility? _____

If yes, portion suggested for naming: Basketball Court ¹/₄ / Bench.

Annalisa Mitchell.
Signature

4-5-2025
Date

Annalisa Mitchell.
Print Name

City of Seaside

Application for Naming of Parks, Streets, City Owned Buildings and Recreational Facilities

Please indicate which criteria below pertain to the application and provide a brief description of how the application meets these criteria (attach additional sheets if necessary):

Yes No Has made lasting and significant contributions to the protection of natural or cultural resources of the City of Seaside.

If yes please explain:

see attached

Yes No Has made substantial contributions to the betterment of a specific facility or park consistent with the established standards for the facility, or to the City of Seaside which has positively impacted the lives of citizens.

If yes please explain:

see attached

Yes No Has made substantial contributions to the advancement of commensurate types of recreational opportunities with the City of Seaside.

If yes please explain:

see attached

Yes No Is associated with an economic development or redevelopment activity that meets the Mission of the City of Seaside and improves the quality of life for its residents.

If yes please explain:

see attached

Yes No Commemorates a significant historical event.

If yes please explain:

City of Seaside

Application for Naming of Parks, Streets, City Owned Buildings and Recreational Facilities

Please indicate which criteria below pertain to the application and provide a brief description of how the application meets these criteria (attach additional sheets if necessary):

Yes No The name preserves the geographic, environmental (relating to natural or physical features), historic or landmark connotation of particular significance to the area in which the land or facility is located, or for the City as a whole.

If yes please explain:

Yes No The land, facility, or the funds for the purchase, construction, renovation or maintenance was donated by the individual, family or organization.

If yes please explain:

Yes No An in-kind contribution or service of major and lasting significance was made to the acquisition of the land, facility, or the planning, development, construction, renovation or maintenance of a facility.

If yes please explain:

Yes No The name recognizes a benefactor organization, group or business that contributed to the site or facility.

If yes please explain:

Yes No The name commemorates a significant historical figure.

If yes please explain:

JUSTIFICATION:

Please provide written justification supporting your proposed naming of a city owned facility or provide additional comments related to this application. Attach additional pages or supplemental information, if applicable.

See attached

Please attach petitions and/or letters of support from City community groups and organizations.

If you have any questions, please call the Resource Management Services Department at (831) 899-6825.

Please return completed application to:

City of Seaside
Resource Management Services Department
440 Harcourt Avenue
Seaside, CA 93955

FAX: (831) 899- 6211

Subject: Proposal to Name the Lincoln Cunningham Park Basketball Court in Honor of E.J. Earl Rowland

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to respectfully propose that the basketball court at Lincoln Cunningham Park be named in honor of Mr. E.J. Earl Rowland, a lifelong resident of the City of Seaside whose personal and professional achievements have had a significant and lasting impact on our community.

Mr. Rowland was raised in Seaside, attending Manzanita Elementary School and King Middle School. He later graduated from Palma High School in Salinas, where he distinguished himself as a talented student-athlete. His athletic excellence continued at Saint Mary's College, ultimately leading to a professional basketball career that spanned nearly two decades overseas. In recognition of his accomplishments, Mr. Rowland has been inducted into both the Palma High School Hall of Fame and the Hall of Fame for his international basketball career.

Beyond his achievements in sports, Mr. Rowland is a dedicated business owner within the City of Seaside. He has remained actively involved in community development, consistently giving back by mentoring youth and promoting wellness through sports and education. His ongoing efforts to empower young people and foster a healthier, more connected community exemplify the values that this city holds dear.

In addition to honoring E.J. Rowland, I also respectfully propose the placement of a commemorative plaque on one of the benches at the court in memory of his father. Mr. Rowland's father was a long-time city employee and a devoted volunteer youth basketball coach. His mentorship and commitment to the young athletes of Seaside played a pivotal role in helping many pursue collegiate and professional athletic careers.

Naming the basketball court in Mr. E.J. Rowland's honor—and placing a plaque in memory of his father—would serve as a lasting tribute to a family whose legacy continues to inspire and uplift generations in the City of Seaside.

Sincerely
Annalisa Mitchell
831-869-8053.



**Greater Victory Temple Church of God in Christ
Dr. Ronald Britt, Pastor
Business office (831)394-2774**

Fax (831)583-7583

Email: gvtcogic@comcast.net

Ronald Britt, Pastor
Greater Victory Temple COGIC
P.O Box 1070
Seaside, CA 93955

June 13, 2025

Seaside City Council
City of Seaside
440 Harcourt Avenue
Seaside, CA 93955

Dear Members of the City Council,

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for naming the basketball court at Lincoln Cunningham Park in Seaside, California, in honor of Mr. EJ Rowland Jr. As a distinguished athlete, mentor, and community role model, Mr. Rowland's contributions to the world of basketball and his enduring connection to Seaside make this a fitting and meaningful tribute.

EJ Rowland Jr., an alumnus of Saint Mary's College, recently concluded an outstanding 20-year professional basketball career that took him across four continents—North America, Europe, Asia, and Australia. Now serving as an assistant coach for the Saint Mary's Men's Basketball team, Mr. Rowland is committed to mentoring the next generation of athletes. In addition to his coaching role, he remains dedicated to youth empowerment and is also an active entrepreneur with a business based in his hometown of Seaside.

What makes this proposal especially meaningful is not just EJ Rowland's excellence as an athlete, but also his embodiment of perseverance, discipline, and service—values that resonate deeply within our Seaside community. Naming the basketball court after him would celebrate not only his remarkable achievements but also offer inspiration to local youth who aspire to greatness through dedication and hard work.

EJ Rowland Jr. stands as a proud reflection of the potential nurtured right here in Seaside. Honoring him in this way would be a powerful acknowledgment of his roots and a lasting legacy for generations to come.

Thank you for considering this proposal. I urge you to move forward with naming the Lincoln Cunningham Park basketball court in honor of EJ Rowland Jr.—a true hometown hero and beacon of excellence.

Kind regards,

Ronald Britt
Senior Pastor
Greater Victory Temple COGIC



Fwd: Park Name Recommendation

Justin Stokes <neil.stokes821@gmail.com>
To: Shante Mitchell <Shantebhc@actioncouncil.org>

Tue, Jun 10, 2025 at 4:44 PM

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: george Pincham <george_pincham@yahoo.com>
Date: June 10, 2025 at 4:39:41 PM PDT
To: neil.stokes821@gmail.com
Subject: Park Name Recommendation

I am writing to wholeheartedly recommend naming the basketball court at Lincoln Cunningham Park in honor of EJ Rowland. He is a proud product of Seaside, successful entrepreneur, and a devoted mentor to our youth and peers.

EJ Rowland's journey from Seaside to a Hall of Fame international basketball career is a powerful testament to what perseverance, discipline, and community support can accomplish. Today, as a collegiate coach and businessman, EJ continues to embody the values of hard work, leadership, and humility. True values we strive to instill in every young person in our city.

Beyond his athletic and coaching achievements, EJ is also a community-minded entrepreneur whose business ventures have created opportunities and inspired others. He consistently reinvests his time, energy, and resources back into Seaside, demonstrating a deep commitment to the growth and well-being of the place he calls home. Whether through mentorship programs, youth development initiatives, or simply showing up for those in need, EJ has made it clear that his success is meant to be shared.

Naming the court after EJ Rowland would not only honor his professional accomplishments but would also recognize his enduring impact as a leader, mentor, and builder in our community. It would stand as a powerful symbol for future generations. A constant reminder that with passion and purpose, anything is possible.

Thank you for considering this recommendation. I can think of no better person to represent the spirit and legacy of Lincoln Cunningham Park than EJ Rowland.

Sincerely,

George Pincham III

Peer, Friend, Business Partner and Barber of EJ Rowland

Ted Black
P O box 103
Seaside Ca, 93955
imateddybear99@yahoo.com
831-240-9235

June 11, 2025

Dear Members of the Parks and Recreation Department,

I am writing to formally propose that the basketball court at Lincoln Park be named in honor of EJ Rowland Jr., a distinguished athlete and community role model who has deep roots in our city.


EJ Rowland Jr. began his journey in this very community, attending local elementary and middle schools before moving on to Palma High School and later Saint Mary's College. He went on to enjoy a successful professional basketball career, both in the United States and internationally. His outstanding achievements have earned him induction into the Hall of Fame at Palma and recognition overseas.

Beyond his athletic accomplishments, EJ continues to demonstrate his commitment to our community. As a part owner of both The Barbershop and Geer Apparel, he has made it a personal mission to give back to local youth—mentoring, supporting, and inspiring the next generation.

Naming the basketball court at Lincoln Park in his honor would be a fitting tribute to someone who not only rose to national and international prominence but who also remains actively engaged in uplifting the very community that helped shape him.

Thank you for considering this proposal.

Sincerely,



Ted Black



Fwd: Recommendation to name Basketball Court at Lincoln Cunningham Park in honor of EJ Rowland

Justin Stokes <neil.stokes821@gmail.com>
To: Shantebhc@actioncouncil.org

Tue, Jun 10, 2025 at 12:56 PM

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Robin Lewis <robinrogerlewis@mac.com>
Date: June 10, 2025 at 12:51:48 PM PDT
To: neil.stokes821@gmail.com
Subject: Recommendation to name Basketball Court at Lincoln Cunningham Park in honor of EJ Rowland

Hello, my name is Robin Lewis.

I am a business owner here in Pacific Grove, California. I have also been a longtime head high school varsity basketball coach here on the Peninsula. Currently, I am a assistant men's coach on the Cal State Monterey Bay men's basketball staff.

I am writing this letter of recommendation to honor EJ Rowland by naming the basketball court at Lincoln Cunningham Park in Seaside, California. Mr. Rowland has dedicated himself to the community, making significant contributions to the well-being of the youth, and the programs in the community.

I know firsthand the work that Mr Rowland has done in the community supporting the youth tirelessly during my interaction with him over the last 15 years.

EJ has been a shining example, and a role model to the youth what hard work, and dedication can achieve, and what it really means to give back to your community.

By bestowing this prestigious honor to Mr. Rowland, and his family's name would be a great recognition and acknowledgment for our youth to strive for.

In all of EJ's travels around the world, he has never lost sight or connection with his community, and the youth. It would definitely be seen with tremendous pride by the Seaside Community by honoring Mr. Rowland's continued dedication, and selfless giving to his community by naming the court after him.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Robin Lewis



School of the Arts
1713 Broadway Ave. Seaside, CA 92158
TEL: 831.901.9374

June 6, 2025

To Whom It May Concern:

I support and recommend the naming of the basketball court at Lincoln Cunningham Park in honor of EJ Rowland. Two main reasons support my recommendation.

EJ Rowland grew up in Seaside and exemplifies the hard work, dedication, and excellence we strive for our youth to follow. From his career at King Middle School to his successes at St. Mary's College to a lengthy professional career in Europe, Mr. Rowland has demonstrated the type of dedication that inspires our young people.

He continues to give back to his community, truly leaving a legacy for generations of Seaside to come. For example, his company GRRR made the jerseys for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. School of the Arts after school sports program and over 200 students have worn those jerseys, proud to follow his example. It is these types of positive mentors and examples that transforms a community to thrive and lift up the successes of its own, no matter the challenges they overcome.

Sincerely,

Andrew Aguiñiga
Co-Principal, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. School of the Arts
Principal, Seaside High School (starting 2025-26)
aaguiniga@mpusd.net
831.901.9374

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to formally propose naming the basketball court at Lincoln Cunningham Park in honor of E.J. “Earl” Rowland a lifelong Seaside resident, community leader, and global basketball ambassador whose roots and impact run deep in our city.

I have had the privilege of knowing E.J. for over 30 years. From a young age, he demonstrated exceptional leadership, athleticism, and character. As a student at Del Rey Woods and later at King Middle School, E.J. was not only a phenomenal athlete but also a natural leader among his peers. He consistently encouraged youth participation in community activities—from sports at King Middle School to programs at the Oldemeyer Center, where his father served Seaside’s youth with dedication and heart.

E.J.’s journey from a local standout to an international basketball figure is a testament to the spirit of Seaside. He starred at St. Mary’s College in Moraga and currently serves as an assistant coach there, continuing to influence the game and mentor athletes. Off the court, E.J. remains deeply rooted in Seaside as a local business owner, providing opportunities for residents to develop professional skills and careers. His generous support of youth programs has further strengthened our community and provided countless young people with resources and inspiration.

The Rowland family as a whole has made tireless contributions to the City of Seaside. Their legacy of service, mentorship, and community building has touched countless lives, which included me. I am a proud product of the mentorship and basketball opportunities made possible by the Rowland family. Courts like the one at Lincoln Cunningham Park are where E.J. developed his skills, built community, and inspired generations.

Naming the basketball court in his honor would be a powerful and fitting tribute to E.J.’s extraordinary contributions. It would stand as a lasting symbol of leadership, resilience, and service to the community, it values that E.J. embodies and instills in others.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

Justin Stokes
Community School Coordinator
neil.stokes821@gmail.com

831-917-0340



Fwd: EJ Rowland recommendation letter

Justin Stokes <neil.stokes821@gmail.com>
To: Shantebhc@actioncouncil.org

Tue, Jun 10, 2025 at 11:59 AM

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Orlando Johnson <ovjohnson33@gmail.com>
Date: June 10, 2025 at 6:15:58 AM PDT
To: neil.stokes821@gmail.com
Subject: EJ Rowland recommendation letter

I hope this message finds you well. I'm reaching to honor one of Seaside's own, EJ Rowland, by naming the basketball court at Lincoln Cunningham Park in his honor.

EJ Rowland is a proud product of our community whose journey from the local courts of Seaside to international basketball stardom is nothing short of inspiring. His dedication to the game, unwavering work ethic, and continued commitment to giving back have made a profound impact on our youth and families. Whether through hosting free clinics, mentoring young athletes, or simply showing up for local events, EJ has remained a visible and positive presence in our city.

What sets EJ apart is not just his impressive athletic career — which spans nearly two decades across elite European leagues and includes representing Bulgaria on the international stage — but the way he's carried Seaside with him every step of the way. Even as he transitioned into coaching, his message has remained consistent: ATTACK LIFE IN FULL PURSUIT OF YOUR DREAMS.

Naming the basketball court at Lincoln Cunningham Park in his honor would not only recognize his athletic achievements but more importantly, his role as a community mentor and hometown hero. It would be a lasting symbol of what's possible when talent meets character, and a daily inspiration for the next generation of Seaside youth.

Thank you in advance for your time, consideration, and support of this meaningful tribute.

Best,
Orlando V. Johnson

Business owner/former professional athlete. One of Seasides very own!

June 17, 2025

City of Seaside
440 Harcourt Avenue
Seaside, CA 93955

To Whom It May Concern:

As one who grew up in this great city, as a former City Councilperson and as a carrier of this city's history and legacy, I am writing you in strong support of the proposal to rename Lincoln Park(basketball court as E.J. Rowland, Jr. Park after one of Seaside's most distinguished residents.

As I am sure you know, E.J. grew up in this community, was an outstanding grade school and middle school basketball star who "cut his basketball eyeteeth" playing on the court at Lincoln Park. E.J. went on to become one of the greatest basketball players in Monterey County history while at Palma High School. He received many scholarship offers from numerous universities, based as much on his academic achievements as his basketball skills. He accepted a scholarship at St. Mary's College in Moraga, California and went on to become one of the greatest basketball players in that college's history. He led St. Mary's to its first NCAA tournament appearance in nearly three decades. E, J. went on to play in European Professional leagues, recently being inducted into a Hall of Fame overseas.

E.J. is part owner of a community-conscious business in Seaside called (side effects) which constantly gives back to this community, especially as it concerns youth. I believe it is truly appropriate and fitting to rename Lincoln Park after this fine young Seaside native. As a result, I am avidly adding my name to the list of those who are supporting this proposal.

With sincere regards,

Mel Mason

Mel Mason
1897 Napa Street
Seaside, CA 93955
Cell: (831) 601-0014

June 17, 2025

Greetings

My Name is Regina Richmond. I'm writing this letter on behalf of EJ Rowland Jr. I have known EJ since he was a child. I was his youth Director at Greater Victory Temple Church from a child until he graduated from High School and successfully went on to college.

He was and still is a dynamic young man! He was an exceptional basketball player from the City of Seaside. EJ began his career in Seaside where he hosted several tournaments with his dad in the City of Seaside. He played ball at Palma High School, wger led his team to the CCS and State playoffs. He received a Scholarship to Dominguez University, where he played for 1 year, he came back home where he mentored and tutored many kids in the City of Seaside. He enrolled in Hartnell College and set many, many basketball records. The gym was packed at many of the games to see EJ play. After Hartnell he received another scholarship. This time to the national rank St Mary's men's basketball. He would go on to set records there.

After graduation he would turn pro. He had opportunities to go to the NBA, but he chose to go pro overseas. Where he again set records. And has been in the Pro League ever since. He retired in 2024 and would return to his Almamater the national rank St Mary's university basketball team where is now a assistant coach.

EJ has accomplished so many great things. He has been inducted to Palma High School Hall of Fame as well as so many other great awards. He has helped so many young men in our City of Seaside as well as on the Monterey Peninsula.

He is a man of Integrity, a family man. He represents everything a City would be proud to name a basketball court after. Very few professional athletes have come out of Seaside and given back as much as he has. He has helped young athletes financially and has been a role model.

And to top it off, he opened a business in the City of Seaside, where he gives back. Each year he gives back school haircuts to the students in the City of Seaside! Let's return the love and appreciation to him and show him how much we appreciate him giving back to his hometown.

God Bless Regina Richmond



3 links to help you get the most out of this

Fwd: Letter of Recommendation - Naming of Basketball Courts at Lincoln-Cunningham Park

Justin Stokes <neil.stokes821@gmail.com>
To: Shantebhc@actioncouncil.org

Tue, Jun 10, 2025 at 11:59 AM

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Linda Gardner <lrg_317@yahoo.com>
Date: June 9, 2025 at 1:49:39 PM PDT
To: Justin <neil.stokes821@gmail.com>
Subject: Letter of Recommendation - Naming of Basketball Courts at Lincoln-Cunningham Park

Seaside Parks and Recreation Department, City of Seaside

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to you today, to recommend naming the basketball court at Lincoln-Cunningham Park after Earl Rowland Jr. (EJ).

My name is Linda Gardner, and I am a life-long resident of Seaside, CA (66 years) and I am a close friend of Earl Roland Jr. (EJ)

I met EJ when he was 12 years old, after his dad Big Earl Rowland was recruiting kids in Seaside for his newly founded AAU basketball team Air Express. After signing on my son, Justin Stokes, young EJ and Justin became fast and life-long friends. During EJ's life he has been a leader and has excelled at everything he has put his mind to. He has played basketball throughout his entire life at the highest levels, playing for

prestigious St. Mary's College, to professional basketball overseas. His passion and talent of the sport of basketball has gained him world-wide recognition, but his love of his hometown Seaside, has always brought him back home to mentor kids of all ages. He has also contributed sports gear from his clothing line, GRRR, to all the local high schools and middle schools whenever requested. When a coach from Seaside needs a motivational speaker to talk, mentor or encourage the kids to stay focused on school, they can always count on EJ to come through.

I believe with all of EJ's accomplishments as a professional basketball player, assistant coaching duties at St. Mary's College, as well as a successful Seaside co-business owner, Seaside would benefit greatly from having this beautiful basketball court named after Earl Rowland Jr.

In closing, I would like to thank the city of Seaside for your consideration and to let you know how appreciative we are of all the beautiful park renovations in our beloved city by sea.

If you have any questions or need additional information please reach out to me at lrg_317@yahoo.com or at the number listed below.

Sincerely,

Linda Gardner
Seaside Resident - 66 years
831-915-4773

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone





**CITY OF SEASIDE
STAFF REPORT**

Item No.: 6.B.

TO: Parks and Recreation Commission

BY: Dan Meewis, Assistant City Manager

DATE: July 21, 2025

**SUBJECT: DISCUSS ITEMS AND AREAS THAT NEED TO BE MAINTAINED
AT CUTINO PARK (CHAIR MAXWELL)**

RECOMMENDATION

Discuss and provide direction regarding priority maintenance items at Cutino Park. Based on recent assessments and community feedback, several areas require attention to ensure the safety, aesthetic, and functionality of the park.

BACKGROUND

Cutino Park serves as a vibrant community and youth recreation space with a synthetic turf field, inclusive playground, skatepark, picnic & seating areas, lighting, restrooms, and public art. This park needs proactive upkeep of the turf, playground, skatepark, building, infrastructure, art, landscaping and security systems. With a structured maintenance routine, the park can continue to thrive as a beloved community focal point.

Recommended priority maintenance items for Cutino Park:

- All the light towers on the soccer field need to be maintained or replaced.
- All the soccer nets need to be repaired or replaced.
- The community bulletin board is cracked and should be replaced with a bigger one.
- The bike tool station was vandalized and needs to be replaced.
- Several trash cans and recycling cans need to be replaced.
- Some of the fencing needs to be repaired.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact with this item as it is only to provide direction to staff.

ATTACHMENTS

None
