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June 29, 2011

Anita Tabb
Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board
District IV Commissioner
2117 West River Road
Minneapolis, MN 55411

Re: Mueller Park – Dedication of Allan Spear - LGBT Equality Colonnade

Dear Commissioner Tabb,

At the Wednesday, May 11, 2011 Lowry Hill East Neighborhood Association (LHENA) Zoning and Planning Committee meeting, Kent Searl and David Boisclair, with Join the Impact-Twin Cities, presented a request for support to dedicate the colonnade in Mueller Park, located at West 25th Street and Bryant-Colfax Avenues South, as the “Allan Spear-LGBT Equality Colonnade.” Senator Allan Spear, one of the nation’s first openly gay politicians, served in the Minnesota State Senate for 28 years. Throughout his career he championed equality, particularly through his instrumental role in the passage of the Human Rights Act in 1993, which protects LGBT Minnesotans against discrimination. Senator Spear lived with his partner in Lowry Hill East, just north of Mueller Park, from 1972 until his death in 2008.

The Zoning and Planning Committee noted that Mueller Park was named for neighborhood residents and brothers Herb and Bob Mueller, and emphasized the importance of honoring connections to those who make significant contributions to the neighborhood and larger communities. The Committee also voiced support for the proposal due to the large LGBT population in Lowry Hill East. The Committee unanimously voted to recommend that the LHENA Board of Directors approve the dedication of the Allan Spear-LGBT Equality Colonnade in Mueller Park.

Mr. Searl and Mr. Boisclair returned to the May 18, 2011 LHENA Board of Directors meeting. They stated that a plaque and possibly concrete paving stones would be installed to represent the dedication of the colonnade. They identified People for Parks and the Parks Foundation as possible funding sources. **The LHENA Board of Directors unanimously voted to accept the Zoning and Planning Committee recommendation and approve the dedication of the Allan Spear-LGBT Equality Colonnade in Mueller Park.** If you have any questions, please contact our office at 612-377-5023.

Sincerely,

Katherine Himes
LHENA Board President

Cc: Kent Searl
David Boisclair
Ward 10 Councilmember Meg Tuthill

KEH:cgg