


FROM	NAME & TITLE	CHRIS RYER, DIRECTOR	CITY of BALTIMORE MEMO	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING 8 TH FLOOR, 417 EAST FAYETTE STREET		
	SUBJECT	CITY COUNCIL BILL #20-0633 / Naming Bocek Field House to be Rocky Brown Field House		

TO

The Honorable President and
Members of the City Council
City Hall, Room 400
100 North Holliday Street

DATE: November 13, 2020

At its regular meeting of November 12, 2020, the Planning Commission considered City Council Bill #20-0633, for the purpose of naming the field house, informally known as Bocek Field House and located at 3000 East Madison Street, to be the Rocky Brown Field House.

In its consideration of this Bill, the Planning Commission reviewed the attached staff report which recommended approval of City Council Bill #20-0633 and adopted the following resolution, nine members being present (nine in favor):

RESOLVED, That the Planning Commission concurs with the recommendation of its Departmental staff, with consideration for testimony presented in the meeting, and recommends that City Council Bill #20-0633 be passed by the City Council.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Eric Tiso, Division Chief, Land Use and Urban Design Division at 410-396-8358.

CR/ewt

attachment

cc: Mr. Nicholas Blendy, Mayor's Office
Mr. Matthew Stegman, Mayor's Office
Ms. Nina Themelis, Mayor's Office
The Honorable Edward Reisinger, Council Rep. to Planning Commission
Mr. Colin Tarbert, BDC
Ms. Livhu Ndou, BMZA
Mr. Geoffrey Veale, Zoning Administration
Ms. Stephanie Murdock, DHCD
Ms. Elena DiPietro, Law Dept.
Mr. Francis Burnszynski, PABC
Mr. Liam Davis, DOT
Ms. Natawna Austin, Council Services
Mr. Dominic McAlily, Council Services



Bernard C. "Jack" Young
Mayor

PLANNING COMMISSION

Sean D. Davis, Chairman

STAFF REPORT



Chris Ryer
Director

November 12, 2020

REQUEST: City Council Bill #20-0633/ City Property: Naming Bocek Field House to be Rocky Brown Field House

For the purpose of naming the field house, informally known as Bocek Field House and located at 3000 East Madison Street, to be the Rocky Brown Field House.

RECOMMENDATION: Approval

STAFF: Martin French

PETITIONERS: Councilmember Sneed

OWNER: Mayor and City Council

SITE/GENERAL AREA

Site Conditions: The site is currently improved as a 16.509-acre park located on the northwest corner of the intersection of Madison Avenue and Edison Highway. It was created in the mid-1950s by assembling blocks of undeveloped land that had originally been used as clay pits by the Baltimore Brick Company. The site is largely level, and its northern side is bounded by the embankment of the main East Coast rail line connecting Baltimore with Philadelphia and New York City. Edison Highway does not offer access to this site, as it rises sharply northward from Madison Street to its bridge over the rail line. The park is level with Madison Street on its southern side, which is where the field house that is the subject of this bill is located.

General Area: This site is near the eastern edge of the large residential area of greater East Baltimore. To its west nearly all development is row-housing, with some interspersed institutional and small commercial uses. To its north, across the rail line, are some industrial and commercial uses, and, along Edison Highway, newer row-housing built after World War II. To its south, and east of Edison Highway, are primarily commercial and small industrial uses.

HISTORY

There is no recent history of legislative action concerning this property or any improvements thereon. The park was named for Frank Bocek, a resident of the 800 block of North Milton Avenue and advocate for recreational opportunities for area youth, in the mid-1970s.

CONFORMITY TO PLANS

The proposed action is consistent with LIVE EARN PLAY LEARN, the Comprehensive Master Plan for Baltimore, Play Goal 3, Objective 1: Maintain a Well-managed System of Parks and Open Spaces.

ANALYSIS

Background: The man to be honored by this proposed naming of the field house is a lifelong East Baltimore resident who started the Bocek Madison East End Community Association in 2014. This community association focused on concerns relating to sanitation, crime, and youth sports, and led efforts to clean, “green”, and beautify the community. Recognizing that sports activities represented a valuable alternative to criminal activity, Mr. Brown was active in organizing and supporting youth baseball and basketball games at this site as well as organizing community clean-ups. He did this while working full-time at a tire shop at one of the other corners of Madison Street and Edison Highway. The community now wishes to recognize his considerable personal contributions to youth sports opportunities that benefitted area residents.

Notification: The Bocek Madison East End Community Association, Madison East End Neighborhood Improvement Association, McElderry Park Community Association, The Family Ellwood, HEBCAC (Historic East Baltimore Community Action Coalition), and Councilwoman Sneed have been notified of this action.



Chris Ryer
Director