



## CITY COMMISSION STAFF REPORT

**DEPARTMENT:** Commission

**DATE:** December 10, 2024

**SUBJECT:** Discussion and possible action on renaming the East Concession Stand at the Suellen F. Fardelmann Sports Complex in memory of Karen Rodgers – **Commissioner Katzman**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Commissioner Katzman requests a discussion and possible action on renaming the East Concession Stand at Suellen F. Fardelmann Sports Complex in memory of Karen Rodgers to honor her contributions to the community.

**BACKGROUND OF ITEM:**

Karen Rodgers was a long-time resident and active member of the Cooper City Community. She was born in New York, New York, and lived in Cooper City for the past 25 years. Her dedicated service to the Cooper City Optimist Youth League Sports Program has left a lasting impact on the City.

Karen was in charge of scheduling umpires and then began helping with the concession stands to eventually run them. She would go shopping at Sam's, BJ's, and other shops to restock and load all of the concession stands and make sure they were clean. She volunteered every year for the Cooper City Optimist Golf Tournament selling raffle tickets.

The proposal to rename the East Concession Stand was brought forward to memorialize Karen's significant contributions and unwavering commitment to fostering community spirit and youth engagement.

The Suellen F. Fardelmann Sports Complex, being a hub for youth sports and family activities, is an ideal location to honor Karen Rodgers. Renaming the concession stand at this facility ensures her legacy will continue to inspire future generations.

Sec 2-8. – Naming and recognition procedures – Code of Ordinances states:

- (a) Naming of City-owned properties, buildings, structures and facilities. The City Commission may, by resolution, name any property, building, structure, or facility owned by the City of Cooper City, subject to the following parameters:

- (1) In its sole discretion, the City Commission may involve outside organizations in the process.
- (2) Properties, buildings, structures, and facilities shall not be named after living persons.
- (3) Properties, buildings, structures, and facilities may be named after people who have died, following a minimum 90-day waiting period.
- (4) Consideration of the following in naming properties, buildings, structures and facilities is encouraged:
  - a. Historical significance;
  - b. Geographical identifiers;
  - c. Natural characteristics, including flora and fauna; and
  - d. Individuals making significant, non-financial, humanitarian contributions to the City.
- (5) Any proposal to name a property, building, structure, or facility after a person must be placed on the City Commission's printed agenda at least one month before it is considered for final approval. Community response is to be solicited early in the process and local homeowners' association or other appropriate community groups should be notified in writing of the proposal and their input solicited.
- (6) This policy shall not apply to any property, buildings, structures, or facilities named prior to May 28, 2019, or if the naming rights have been sold or transferred by written agreement or contract approved by Resolution of the City Commission.
- (7) The provisions of this subsection may be waived only by a unanimous vote of the City Commission.

#### **ANALYSIS:**

The proposed renaming of the East Concession Stand serves as a tribute to Karen Rodgers' life and contributions. She was instrumental in establishing and supporting various sports programs that have become central to community life in Cooper City.

Key benefits of the renaming include:

- 1. Community Recognition:** Acknowledging Karen Rodgers' role in enhancing the City's recreational opportunities and youth development.
- 2. Legacy Building:** Creating a lasting reminder of her dedication to Cooper City, ensuring her contributions are not forgotten.
- 3. Alignment with Values:** Reinforcing the City's commitment to honoring those who have significantly impacted the community.

The proposed renaming aligns with similar dedications within the City.

#### **ALTERNATIVES:**

- 1. Do Not Approve the Renaming:** Keep the existing name of the East Concession Stand unchanged.
- 2. Consider a Different Memorial:** Explore alternative ways to honor Karen Rodgers, such as a dedicated bench or tree planting within the Suellen F. Fardelmann Sports Complex.

- 3. Delay Decision:** Postpone the naming until additional community feedback can be explored.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Ordinance 19-8-1