



## CITY OF NORMAN, OK STAFF REPORT

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**MEETING DATE:** 01/24/2023

**REQUESTER:** Jason Olsen, Director of Parks and Recreation

**PRESENTER:** Jason Olsen, Director of Parks and Recreation

**ITEM TITLE:** CONSIDERATION OF ACCEPTANCE, REJECTION, AMENDMENT, AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF A DONATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$100,000 FROM THE NORMAN PARK FOUNDATION TO THE NORMAN MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY TO BE USED FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF BENTLEY PARK IN THE BELLATONA NEIGHBORHOOD ADDITION LOCATED NEAR THE INTERSECTION OF HWY 9 AND 36<sup>TH</sup> AVE SE.

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### **BACKGROUND:**

In 1972, Mr. Lionel Bentley was hired as an assistant Parks Superintendent with the City of Norman's Park and Recreation department. Over the years, through hard work and his dedication to the City, Mr. Bentley rose to the position of Director of Parks and Recreation. In 1984, he left the Parks and Recreation Department to focus on his business operating a sod farm.

### **DISCUSSION:**

In the fall of 2021, Mr. Bentley contacted the Norman Park Foundation regarding "giving back to the City." Lionel Bentley wanted to deed his commercial property to the Foundation, and a portion of the sale of the building be used towards future park projects.

On December 29, 2021, Lionel Bentley deeded the commercial property to the Norman Park Foundation. On March 3, 2022, Mr. Bentley passed away suddenly before he could be recognized for his generous donation. The property was sold in June of 2022.

On December 1, 2022, staff presented to the Norman Board of Park Commissioners the design for the new Neighborhood Park located in the Bellatona Neighborhood Addition. Due to the generosity of Mr. Bentley, the Park Board voted to name the Park "Bentley Park" to honor the family and the donation from the family.

As the Parks and Recreation Department moves forward with the construction of Bentley Park, Parks staff would like to appropriate the donated funds from the Norman Park Foundation to the

NORMAN FORWARD New Neighborhood Park Development account so that the donation can be used for this project

**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. Staff recommends that the Norman Municipal Authority and City accept the donation of \$100,000 from the Norman Park Foundation to be deposited into the NORMAN FORWARD Fund, Donations-Organizations (519-363373).
2. City staff recommends appropriating those funds to the New Neighborhood Park Development Project, Construction (Account 51798830-46101; Project NFP104) for the Development of Bentley Park in the Bellatona Neighborhood Addition.