

NEWS RELEASE

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“Park West” Winner of Public Contest to Name New Park *Skate Park Named As Separate Matter*

SEGUIN, Texas – The winning name of the public contest to name the community park is Park West. Seguin City Council approved the name at its Tuesday meeting.

“Our intent with the contest was to give Seguin residents a sense of ownership in the park by giving them opportunity to participate in naming it,” Seguin Public Information Officer Scott Packard said. “After all, it’s the residents who approved funding for the park by passing the November 2013 bond package.”

More than 300 votes were received during the two week voting period that started on September 29 and ended on October 6. Participants could submit votes by leaving a voicemail, sending an e-mail, filling out an online form or filling out a paper form at Seguin City Hall. The results of the votes were:

- Park West: 129 votes (41.1%)
- Hoermann Park: 86 votes (27.4%)
- Juan Garcia Park: 70 votes (22.3%)
- Daniel C. Rodriguez Park: 29 votes (9.2%)
 - *Total valid votes cast: 314*

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“We are very pleased with the participation in the contest,” Packard continued. “Any time you try something new, there’s always concern about how it will be received. Thanks to the help of our local media, this turned out great.”

City Council approved the public contest to name the park in July. The process included a two-week initial phase during which name suggestions were solicited via e-mail, voicemail, in-person and online. Nearly 200 submissions were received during the submission period.

Phase two of the process required City Council to narrow the list of submissions to 3-5 finalists and that occurred at the September 23 meeting. The finalists of Hoermann Park, Juan Garcia Park, Daniel C. Rodriguez Park and Park West were selected. The four finalists were then put up for a two-week public vote in the same manner names were submitted during phase one.

The new 47-acre community park will be constructed on the corner of San Antonio Avenue and Vaughn Street. A tentative project schedule has the park going to bid in November, a contractor being selected in December, construction beginning in January and the park being complete in July. This schedule is preliminary and subject to change.

The skate park that is part of Park West was also given a name during Tuesday’s City Council meeting. Mayor Don Keil Recommended the name Michael Thomas Raetzsch Skate Park to honor an avid skater who passed away in 2009 at the age of 22. Michael’s mother, Beth, was in attendance and gave her approval for the name. Council approved the skate park name as a matter separate from the naming contest. The skate park will be commonly referred to as M.T.R Skate Park.

About the City of Seguin

Seguin, Texas is located off Interstate 10, about 35 miles east of San Antonio. Seguin is big enough to boast a top-rated university and a state-of-the-art hospital. More than 25,000 residents enjoy a range of cultural, recreational and employment opportunities. Seguin’s robust diversified economy features a steelmaker, a manufacturer of automotive parts and plants making roadside mowing equipment and building materials. In 2009, Seguin was proud to be selected by Caterpillar as the site of a major new engine manufacturing facility.

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