City Council Meeting
04-27-26
Item
1.B.8.

Council Agenda Report

To: Mayor Silverstein and the Honorable Members of the City Council

Prepared by: Kristin Riesgo, Community Services Director

Approved by: Joseph D. Irvin, City Manager

Date prepared: April 10, 2026 Meeting date: April 27, 2026

Subject: Resolution to Rename the Charmlee Wilderness Park Nature Center

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RECOMMENDED ACTION: Adopt Resolution No. 26-20, renaming the Charmlee Wilderness Park Nature Center in honor of Walt and Lucile Keller and changing the name to the Walt and Lucile Keller Nature Center.

FISCAL IMPACT: There is no fiscal impact associated with the recommended action.

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLEMENTATION: N/A.

DISCUSSION: At the November 27, 2023 Regular Meeting, the City Council approved renaming the Charmlee Wilderness Park Nature Center (Nature Center) in honor of Walt and Lucile Keller. At the June 10, 2024 Regular Meeting, Council received an update on the condition of the Nature Center and confirmed its direction to proceed with the name change.

City Council Policy No. 52, *Naming Rights for Public Facilities*, was adopted in March 2025 post Council direction to rename the Nature Center. The proposed renaming is consistent with the Policy's criteria, including the required naming format (honoring an individual(s) of significant stature within the community), visibility considerations, and the requirement for City Council approval. This project was approved before the Naming Rights Policy was adopted, the Policy's financial contribution and timeframe provisions do not apply to the renaming of the Nature Center.

Adoption of Resolution No. 26-20 will formalize the renaming, and a facility name unveiling event will occur in Fiscal Year 2025-26; however, the facility's indoor area will remain closed and remain on the long-term Capital Improvement Project (CIP) list.

Mr. Keller was a Malibu resident for over fifty years and played a significant role in the community prior to the City's incorporation in 1991. He served on the Malibu Township Council and helped organize the Malibu Committee for Incorporation, both of which were instrumental in Malibu's transition to cityhood. Mr. Keller later served as Malibu's first Mayor and as a member of the City Council from 1990 to 1994 and 1996 to 2000, and was recognized for his service by the City Council at Malibu's 20th Anniversary Celebration on March 28, 2011.

Mrs. Keller dedicated more than five decades to preserving Malibu's rural character through environmental advocacy and civic leadership. As a longtime member of the Malibu Township Council, she worked closely with her husband on the City's incorporation and supported efforts to improve water quality in Malibu Lagoon, Malibu Creek, and Surfrider Beach.

ATTACHMENTS: Resolution No. 26-20

RESOLUTION NO. 26-20

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MALIBU TO RENAME THE CHARMLEE WILDERNESS PARK NATURE CENTER IN HONOR OF WALT AND LUCILE KELLER, CHANGING THE NAME TO THE WALT AND LUCILE KELLER NATURE CENTER.

The City Council of the City of Malibu does hereby find, order and resolve as follows:

SECTION 1. Recitals.

A. On November 27, 2023, the City Council approved the renaming of the Charmlee Wilderness Park Nature Center in honor of Walt and Lucile Keller.

B. Walt and Lucile were instrumental in the efforts leading to Malibu's incorporation as a City, with Mr. Keller serving as the City's first Mayor. Together, they dedicated more than 50 years to preserving Malibu's rural character through environmental advocacy and civic leadership.

C. On June 10, 2024 City Council reaffirmed the renaming of the Charmlee Wilderness Park Nature Center in honor of Walt and Lucile Keller and directed staff to bring back a Resolution to memorialize the change.

SECTION 2. The City Council adopts naming the Charmlee Wilderness Park Nature Center as the Walt and Lucile Keller Nature Center.

SECTION 3. The City Council authorizes the City Manager or designee to take all other actions necessary and appropriate to effectuate the name change, including but not limited to, changing signage and updating the City's website.

SECTION 4. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its passage and adoption.

SECTION 5. The City Clerk shall certify to the passage and adoption of this resolution and enter it into the book of original resolutions.

PASSED, APPROVED, and ADOPTED this __th day of ____ 2026.

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BRUCE SILVERSTEIN, Mayor

ATTEST:

_____
KELSEY PETTIJOHN, City Clerk
(seal)

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN REVIEWED
BY THE CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
_____
TREVOR RUSIN, Interim City Attorney