



# **City of Grand Island**

**Tuesday, September 13, 2005**

**Council Session**

## **Item G20**

**#2005-253 - Approving Changing the Name of the Beltline  
Hike/Bike Trail to the John Brownell Hike/Bike Trail**

**Staff Contact: Steve Paustian**

# **Council Agenda Memo**

**From:** Steve Paustian, Parks and Recreation Director

**Meeting:** September 13, 2005

**Subject:** Renaming Beltline Hike Bike Trail to John Brownell Hike Bike Trail

**Item #'s:** G-20

**Presenter(s):** Steve Paustian

## **Background**

For more than ten years the City of Grand Island has been actively developing hike/bike trails. John Brownell has been active as a volunteer, and has served as the Chairman of the Hike/Bike Committee since its inception. John worked many hours to help acquire the current Belt Line rail property from the Railroad. John attended many public meetings, some that were not always pleasant, to convince people that the use of the former rail bed as a trail was positive for the community and an asset to the neighbors. In large part, because of John's efforts, the Belt Line Trail has been constructed and currently serves as the backbone of our trail network.

## **Discussion**

Because of his many hours of commitment to the development of the Belt Line Trail and the overall trail system there is a strong interest by many in the community to change the name of the Belt Line Hike/Bike Trail to the John Brownell Hike/Bike Trail. This name change would help to show the appreciation of the citizens of Grand Island for John's efforts and for his dedication to the development of the trail system and to the additional benefits the trails have provided to all that use them.

## **Alternatives**

It appears that the Council has the following alternatives concerning the issue at hand. The Council may:

1. Move to approve
2. Refer the issue to a Committee

3. Postpone the issue to future date
4. Take no action on the issue

### **Recommendation**

City Administration recommends that the Council approve the re-naming of the Belt Line Hike/Bike Trail to the John Brownell Hike/Bike Trail.

### **Sample Motion**

Motion to approve name change.

R E S O L U T I O N    2005-253

WHEREAS, in September of 1992, the City Council authorized the appointment of a committee to study the need for a hike/bike trail within Grand Island; and

WHEREAS, John Brownell has served as the Chairman of the Hike/Bike Committee since its inception, and has volunteered many hours in pursuing this project; and

WHEREAS, it was anticipated that an initial hike/bike trail could be developed along the abandoned Burlington Northern Railroad Spur Line, and be expanded throughout the community; and

WHEREAS, John Brownell has been instrumental in the development and implementation of such hike/bike trail, in acquiring property for the trail and in attending public meetings on the project; and

WHEREAS, based on his many hours of commitment to the Belt Line Trail and the overall trail system within the community, it is recommended that the Belt Line Hike/Bike Trail be renamed the John Brownell Hike/Bike Trail.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA, that the City Council hereby recognizes the substantial contributions made by Grand Island resident John Brownell in the development and implementation of the hike/bike trails in the Grand Island area, and hereby renames the Beltline Hike/Bike Trail to the John Brownell Hike/Bike Trail.

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Adopted by the City Council of the City of Grand Island, Nebraska, September 13, 2005.

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RaNae Edwards, City Clerk