



City of Coral Gables
CITY COMMISSION MEETING
July 13, 2021

ITEM TITLE:

RESOLUTION. A Resolution of the City Commission of Coral Gables, Florida waiving the City's park-naming policies and procedures and designating the park located in Kings Bay, at 6540 Marlin Drive, as James H. Smith Park.(Sponsored by Mayor Lago)

BRIEF HISTORY:

The City's park naming policies and procedures are set forth in Resolution No. 30314-A, which was first adopted in 2002 and later amended in 2020 via Resolution No. 2020-237. The 2020 revisions to the City's policies and procedures resulted in a more robust and comprehensive process for the naming and renaming of City parks. The changes included a revised criteria for naming a park in honor of someone, the creation of a Nominating Committee to vet applications, a requirement that nominations be made by organizations, community groups, or supported by resident petitions, review by up to three advisory boards, and mailed notice to residents within 1000 feet of the park to be named prior to Parks Advisory Board review. As always, the Commission retains the ability to waive the process in whole or in part.

This resolution seeks to name the park commonly referred to as Marlin Park, located at 6540 Marlin Drive, in the gated community of Kings Bay. In the present case, members of the Kings Bay community expressed support to name the park after James H. Smith several years prior to the passage of the revisions in Resolution No. 2020-237.

Mr. Smith was a husband, father, and the CEO of Americable International. He lived in Kings Bay and served admirably on the Board of Directors of Kings Bay for the better part of three decades. In 1993, Mr. Smith assembled a group of civic leaders in the community to evaluate the annexation of unincorporated Kings Bay. He eventually guided the working group and the greater community to seek annexation into the City of Coral Gables. He later hired an attorney, investing his own money to help the community through the annexation process.

Following the community's success at the city-level, Mr. Smith dedicated seven more years of perseverance and investment to work through a county moratorium on all annexations before Kings Bay was finally annexed into the City in 2002.

Mr. Smith is recognized by his neighbors as the ultimate reason for Kings Bay's annexation into Coral Gables. The Kings Bay Board of Directors, the Kings Bay Homeowners Association, and Mr. Smith's widow, Joy Smith, all unanimously and without reservation have endorsed the naming of the community's neighborhood park after the late James H. Smith.

ATTACHMENT(S):

- 1. Draft Resolution**
- 2. Resolution 2020-237**