

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action: Be Adopted as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed

Vote: 4 - 0 - 1

Yeas: Beyer, Ferrioli, Starr, Rosenbaum

Nays: 0

Exc.: Burdick

Prepared By: Lori Brocker, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 2/13

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Honors Charles Jordan for his visionary leadership and contributions to the City of Portland and people of Oregon.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Commitment to children and community
- Ability to forge collaboration among various constituencies
- Forty-four new parks in Portland during tenure as Director
- Pugsley Award recipient (American Academy for Park & Recreation Management)
- Built foundation for Portland's 2011 Gold Medal for best managed park system in nation
- Amendments

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Adds clause referencing Charles Jordan Community Center.

BACKGROUND: Charles Jordan was born in 1939 and spent his early years in Texas and California. As a child he experienced the effects of segregation, but also lived on a Texas reservation surrounded by children of many ethnicities. He learned early the power of play to bring people together. After serving as an officer in the U.S. Army, he graduated from Gonzaga University, and then worked as a recreation leader in Palm Springs, California, embarking on a life-long commitment to city parks and recreation.

Mr. Jordan moved to Portland, Oregon in 1970 to work on the federal Model Cities Program. He was appointed to a city council vacancy in 1974 and went on to be elected and re-elected as a City Commissioner in Portland, serving for ten years in that position. While he led several different city bureaus through the years, Mr. Jordan was always a fierce advocate for the city's green spaces, bringing a perspective to parks and recreation that has been described as "insightful, refreshing, bold and visionary." He was chosen by the city of Austin, Texas to serve as its Director of Parks and Recreation beginning in 1984. He returned to Portland in 1989 to become the Director of Portland Parks and Recreation, serving with great distinction in that position until his retirement in 2003.

While overseeing the city's parks and recreation, Director Jordan significantly expanded the reach of the department into the daily lives of Portlanders. The city increasingly received accolades for having "one of the most progressive park systems in the country" (*Chicago Tribune*). Mr. Jordan believed passionately that a great parks and recreation system was not just about "fun and games." Known for his passion, leadership and eloquence on the topic, he would often say when speaking around the country: "*I challenge any police department in the country to beat me at crime prevention. We have thousands of young people playing on fields and courts, and when they are with me, they are not hurting themselves or anyone else.*"

Director Jordan's many distinctions include: Conservation Fund Chair, National Park Service's Land and Water Conservation Fund Review Commission Co-Chair, National Park System Advisory Board Member, Urban Alliance for Parks and Recreation Co-Chair, National Forest Foundation Board Member, African American Experience Fund of the National Park Foundation Trustee, National Recreation and Park Association Trustee, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon Board President, and member of the President's Commission on American Outdoors (appointed by President Reagan).

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This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.