

City of Grand Rapids
IRA Civic Center / Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

Regular Monthly Meeting
Wednesday, September 11th, 2019 – **5:30 pm**
IRA Civic Center

- I. Call to order
- II. Financial reports (only if end of quarter)
- III. Approve July Minutes
- IV. Setting of regular agenda
- V. Visitors
- VI. Old business
 - a. Facility improvements update
 - b. Steering Committee Update
- VII. New business
- VIII. Staff Reports
 - a. Programs and events update
- IX. Correspondence
- X. Adjournment

**To serve the Grand Rapids area by providing outstanding opportunities
through our facilities, programming and civic partnerships.**

CIVIC CENTER AND PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
Regular Monthly Meeting
July 10, 2019

The IRA Civic Center and Park and Recreation Advisory Board held its regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, July 10, 2019, at the IRA Civic Center.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Board Members Present: Tasha Connelly, Lilah Crowe, Tina Glorvigen, Brad Hyduke and Steve Oleheiser
Board Members Absent: None
Staff Present: Dale Anderson, Sara Holum
Visitors: None

II. FINANCIAL REPORTS

No financials presented.

III. MINUTES

A motion was made by Connelly and second by Hyduke, to accept the May 8, 2019 minutes.

Upon roll call vote, the following voted in favor thereof: Connelly, Crowe, Glorvigen, Hyduke and Oleheiser. Those opposed: none. Motion carried.

IV. SETTING THE AGENDA

Steve Oleheiser asked that the discussion of Playground Equipment be added to "New Business".

A motion was made by Connelly and second by Oleheiser, to accept the setting of agenda and additional items.

Upon roll call vote, the following voted in favor thereof: Connelly, Crowe, Glorvigen, Hyduke and Oleheiser. Those opposed: none. Motion carried.

V. VISITORS

None.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Facility improvements update. As of right now, there is nothing new to report on.
- b. Steering Committee Update. Council approved the Steering Committee consisting of members from ISD #318, City of Grand Rapids, GRAHA, SNSC, Visit Grand Rapids and other businesses and business owners. The Committee will be responsible for recommendations to the City Council regarding:

1. Roof design.
2. Joining of the two facilities.
3. Improve locker room situation.
4. Funding of the project.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Discuss Naming Policy for City Parks and Facilities. Dale presented the City of Grand Rapids' Policy for Naming City Parks, Buildings, and Related Recreational Facilities. Brian Ames and his family used to live in the house by the Hale Lake Landing on Highway 38 that the City took over with eminent domain. Mr. Ames asked if the Board would consider renaming the boat landing the Ames/Williams Boat Launch or something to that effect. After the discussion regarding the policy, the Board suggested that Dale return a call to the family and discuss the adoption of the landing instead of renaming.
- b. Playground Parks. Steve Oleheiser discussed that after using the playground equipment at the Oakland Park, he has some concerns with the equipment. The sand and dirt was all washed out under the swing set and the slide, which sits out in the sun, was too hot to slide down. There was a conversation regarding the codes of the equipment and the possibility of researching sun shades to go over some of the equipment.

VIII. STAFF REPORT

- a. Programs and events update.

Civic Center: Ice is in and there are hockey camps, figure skating, and private groups skating. There was a Circus that took place in June but their show attendance was not great. The pavilion dashboards are going to be replaced as there are some with cracks and holes in them. Dale discussed the large bike event that took place wherein the bicyclists camped in the Conifer field, used the Civic Center showers and restrooms and then had a weeklong bicycle trip around northeast Minnesota.

Sports Complex: Girls fastpitch and men's league softball is underway at the sports complex. With the construction of the new elementary school, the parking lot was minimized and there had to be an overflow parking lot set up behind Dick Distributing. The playground equipment from the sports complex is going to be moved to the Library Riverfront area.

IX. CORRESPONDENCE

X. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted: Sara Holum

To: Park and Recreation Board
From: Mike Johnson
Re: Renaming Legion Field to Streetar Field at Legion Park
Date: April 15, 2019

It is a privilege to help facilitate the process for the renaming of Legion Baseball Field to Streetar Field at Legion Park. Bob Streetar has become a household name to any person that has been involved with Grand Rapids area baseball within the last 50 years. The name is instantly associated with the most manicured baseball diamond in northern Minnesota as well as a coach who consistently produced winning baseball teams at all levels.

I had the opportunity to play for Bob Streetar for many years. From a young boy in 7th grade to a successful adult in my 40's, Streetar was always there. He had a sneaky way of using his knowledge of the game to teach me life lessons that I will never forget. He always held his players to the highest expectations, ensuring that everyone knew how to play the game and what it would take to come out on top every time.

I remember former Indiana basketball coach Bobby Knight, once said, "Everyone has the will to win.....few have the will to prepare to win!" Bob believed this philosophy through and through. He always expected us to work hard and act with honesty and integrity during every game AND every practice, whether on our home field or not.

We were taught on road trips to always leave the dugouts in better shape than when we got there. I remember many times picking up tiny gum wrappers on the ground of the dugout we occupied, even though they had been there before we arrived!


Bob expected a lot out of his players, but he expected even more out of himself. No matter the skill level, Bob took time every day to help each player develop his skills. It didn't matter if you were a reserve player or a college prospect, every player got the same attention from Bob. Being a farm boy, he always had a soft spot for the "country" kids, who had to sacrifice a great deal just to get to practice and back home again.

Along with believing in his team, Bob always believed that Legion Field was a gift that needed constant care and improvement. He labored thousands of hours every year in order to keep Legion Field at the level of a professional league ballpark. He also took time to teach all of his players how to properly manicure a mound and home plate area, trim the grass, and chalk the lines. He would do anything needed to ensure it projected a positive image for Grand Rapids baseball.

It would be a great honor for Bob to see Legion Field renamed to Streetar Field at Legion Park. Bob cared about the development of his players, both on and off the field, and dedicated his life and his family's life to Grand Rapids baseball and Legion Field. It is hard to think of Grand Rapids baseball without thinking of him.

I highly advise the Grand Rapids Park and Recreation Board recommend to the Grand Rapids City Council the renaming of the baseball field to Streetar Field at Legion Park. Thank you in advance for your strong consideration of this proposal.

Sincerely,
Dr. Mike Johnson
GRHS Class of 1974

From: **Bill Kinnunen** bkinnunen@isd318.org 
Subject: **Fwd:**
Date: **April 18, 2019 at 2:38 PM**
To: **Mike Johnson** Mike82556@gmail.com

Here is the GRABA letter.

----- Forwarded message -----
From: <ALCikon@isd318.org>
Date: Thu, Apr 18, 2019 at 2:33 PM
Subject:
To: **Bill Kinnunen** <bkinnunen@isd318.org>

This E-mail was sent from "RNP014740" (Aficio MP 5001).

Scan Date: 04.18.2019 17:29:32 (-0500)
Queries to: ALCikon@isd318.org

GRAND RAPIDS

AMATEUR BASEBALL ASSOCIATION



PO BOX 927 Grand Rapids, MN 55744

April 11, 2019

Dear Grand Rapids Parks and Recreation Board:

The Grand Rapids Amateur Baseball Association supports the motion to rename Legion Field to: Bob Streetar Field at Legion Park. Bob is an important icon in the history of Grand Rapids Baseball and in the development of hundreds of baseball players throughout his coaching years. It would be an honor to rename this field after him.

Sincerely,

GRABA OFFICERS

Brian Miller—President

Derreck Moen—Vice President

Amanda Miller—Treasurer

Tricia Sterle—Secretary

From: **Mike Johnson** mike82556@gmail.com
Subject: **letter from Jim Jetland**
Date: **April 17, 2019 at 3:33 PM**
To: Mike82556@gmail.com



EXCELSIOR

✦ *The Excelsior Group*

April 16, 2019

To Whom it May Concern

I wanted to write to the Grand Rapids City Parks & Recreation Department in support of changing the name of Legion Baseball Field to Streeatar Field at Legion Park.

I had the pleasure of being a part of Bob Streeatar's baseball program from 1974-1978. I have often said Bob was the best coach I have ever had in my sports career. That list includes, Herb Brooks at the University of Minnesota. Bob preached preparation and hard work; an attribute that helped us succeed on the field but more importantly has helped me succeed in life.

Bob's dedication to the program and the field itself was unparalleled. I cannot imagine how much time and personal money he poured into making Legion Field one of the best conditioned ballparks I have ever seen. He did most of the work himself but also encouraged his players to take pride in our field for visiting teams and fans.

In my opinion it should be a very easy decision to rename Legion Baseball Field to Streeatar Field at Legion Park. There has never been or likely ever will be one single person to have a greater impact on a high school sports program and field than Bob Streeatar. I am lucky to have Bob as an impactful part of my life which can also be said by hundreds of fellow teammates in Grand Rapids!

I appreciate your consideration of this request.

Sincerely

James K. Jetland

From: Brian Trygstad BTrygstad@oakridgefinancial.com
Subject: Streetar Field at Legion Park
Date: April 16, 2019 at 1:24 PM
To: Mike Johnson mike82556@gmail.com

Grand Rapids City Parks and Recreation Department:

I hope you will consider honoring 'One of Our Own' by renaming the Legion Baseball Field in honor of Bob Streetar.

Bob Streetar molded the lives of many young men in the Grand Rapids community (of which I was one of the fortunate) who were lucky enough to play on the beautifully manicured diamond that Bob lovingly and meticulously maintained for more than 40 years. Ask any baseball player, coach, or fan from 1970 – 2000+ where the best park to play at in (from a maintenance standpoint) and without a doubt they'd say Legion Field in Rapids.

Bob sacrificed his blood, sweat, tears, and countless lawn mowers to the care of his beloved Legion Field. Bob has been elected to the Minnesota Baseball Hall of Fame for the success of his teams on the field and I think it is a fitting tribute (albeit, far too long in coming) to share his name with the Legion Field moniker.

Back in the day, Grand Rapids High School baseball players coached the youth baseball teams around town. Games were played during the day and using Bob as a reference I was lucky enough to be able to teach younger baseball players what Bob had taught me as my summer job during high school, 1972-1974.

Upon graduation from college I returned home for the summer of 1979 and ran the youth baseball program for the GR Park and Rec Department in addition to being the VFW Baseball Coach. Bob would go to all the VFW games at Legion Field and specifically told me, "Tryg, just leave the field after the game, I'll take care of it!" Legion Field was Bob's baby....Sharon and the boys will attest to that!

I could certainly extoll many additional accolades that Bob Streetar richly deserves but I think he would certainly be appreciative of sharing his name with a piece of GR history that he was so instrumental in its success and legacy.

Thank you for your consideration of adding Bob Streetar's name to the Legion Baseball Field's signage. I think it is an honor that is warranted, justified, and long overdue.

Sincerely,

Brian Trygstad
GR Class of '74

Brian Trygstad, CFP, MBA
Vice President - Investments
OAK RIDGE
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4/7/19

Dear G.R. Parks & Her Board,

This letter is written in support of
naming Legion baseball field to Stricker Field.

I was involved in many activities in GR in the
late 60's and early to mid 70's but specifically
the HS baseball program from 1972-75. I
was extremely impressed by her hard work
and tender loving care Coach Stricker put
into the field back then. He would always
be raking, dragging, chalking lines way before
and after games to make sure it was in top
shape. No doubt we had the most
well manicured field in N. Minnesota! But
he was much more than that. He treated
his players with the respect and dignity
they deserved. I don't think anyone has

SOUTH HAVEN PROFESSIONAL BLDG.
1500 BROADWAY STREET, SUITE 4
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110 N.E. 1st STREET, SUITE 8
LITTLE FALLS, WY 82416
703-637-3740

1548 PINE RIDGE AVE. N.W.
BENNDI, MN 56601
218-758-1755

1225 WASHINGTON AVE.
DETROIT LAKES, MN 56601
218-847-3111

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ORAL AND MAXILLOFACIAL PATHOLOGY
TEMPOROMANDIBULAR JOINT SURGERY

*made more of an impact on GR baseball and feel
that naming the park after him would only
be fitting!*

*Sincerely,
Pete Parker
GRHS Class of 1975*

QUALITY DENTISTRY PROFESSIONAL BLDG.
1000 BICKWITH 2ND STREET, SUITE 4
BEMIDJIE, MN 56601
218-829-1709

FALLS COURT
119 N.E. 1ST STREET, SUITE 6
LITTLE FALLS, MN 56345
320-632-2743

6048 PINE RIDGE AVE. N.W.
BEMIDJIE, MN 56601
218-759-1755

1225 WASHINGTON AVE.
DETROIT LAKES, MN 56602
218-847-3111

April 4, 2019

To the Grand Rapids City Parks & Recreation Department:

I am writing to encourage you to the name change of the Legion Field to "Bob Streetar Field at Legion Park." The time, talents, effort, and blood sweat and tears Bob put into that field was gigantic for so many young people who had the privilege to play for him. Coach Streetar dedicated so much of his life to coaching, both as the GRHS head baseball coach as well as the American Legion baseball coach. He was the coach, general manager, chief fundraiser, concessions director, building general contractor, and head of field maintenance!

As a former player at Grand Rapids (1971-1975) I gained so much in so many ways. I moved to Grand Rapids just after eighth grade and I did not know one person in town. One of the very first people who welcomed me was Coach Streetar. I can't tell you strongly enough how good that felt, for THE baseball coach to welcome a very young and impressionable boy. At that time I respected him so much and that feeling of respect has never changed.

Coach Streetar was the main reason I chose a path as an educator. I was an elementary physical education teacher, a sixth grade teacher and also coached basketball and baseball; with my passion being baseball. In addition to my coaching at Northfield High School I was also the Northfield American Legion Baseball Coach for many years; desiring to give back to the kids and game that gave me so much. The last seventeen years of my career I have been the athletics/activities director at Northfield High School and have been fortunate having many leadership opportunities; one of them being the President of the Minnesota High School League Board of Directors. I say this because Coach Streetar instilled such confidence in me so that I have always felt I can take on any challenge and succeed. Additionally I learned the importance of service to others from Coach Streetar as I saw him donate so much of his time to his players, the game of baseball, and to Legion Field.

Coach Streetar taught all of us how to "professionally" manicure a baseball field. Without any doubt, Legion Field had the best playing surface (infield, home plate, the mound, and all the grass areas) of all fields I played on at that time. We were so proud to have other teams come to OUR home park

because it was so nice to play on. So much of the credit for the field being in such great condition is attributed to Coach Streetar's effort. Again, with that being said, Bob had his players work along side him teaching all of us how to properly maintain a baseball field. These lessons have been brought to all the communities Coach Streetar's former players are now a part of as we all properly groom the baseball fields where we live. We all want to make Coach Streetar proud!

I was so very fortunate that my family moved to Grand Rapids and that Coach Bob Streetar was my coach. I feel so blessed to have played for him and learn from him. He is my role model. All the players I have communicated with are excited that the Grand Rapids Parks and Recreation Department are considering a name change to Legion Field with Bob Streetar's name being associated with it. Thanks so much for your work with this project and all that you have done and continue to do to make Grand Rapids a great place for people of all ages.

Sincerely,

Tom Graupmann
GRHS Class of 1975
Member of the 1975 Minnesota State Championship American Legion
Baseball Team (coached by Bob Streetar)!

April 14, 2019

To: GR Parks & Recreation Board
From: Bruce LaRoque
Re: Renaming of Legion Baseball Field

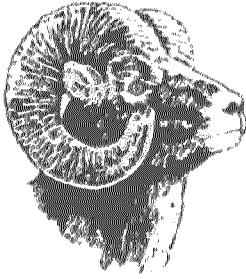
I am writing this letter to give my whole hearted support to the renaming of Legion Park (baseball field) to Streetar Field at Legion Park. This is an idea and action that would be a great honor for any person and I cannot think of someone who is more deserving than Mr. Bob Streetar.

Bob was a person who committed himself completely to the game of baseball and the players he coached as well as the program he was in charge of. He sacrificed a lot of extra time to ensure that baseball in Grand Rapids was a success and he left the program in a better position when he retired than when he began. Beyond that he constantly gave of his time to ensure that Legion Baseball field (playing field) was in pristine condition every day. He gave his all and was totally committed to do things the right way and this took a lot of sacrifice by him and his family over many years.

I also want to add that I now have a much greater understanding and appreciation for how much Coach Streetar sacrificed in order to help build a great baseball program and in keeping Legion Field in the condition that he did. Please understand that he was meticulous in all that he did. I was fortunate to have not only played for Coach Streetar but to have also coached a little with him as a JV coach. Through these experiences and through my own as a player of multiple sports, teacher of 29 years, and a coach of multiple sports at the high school and JV level in baseball, JV and Varsity level in football and multiple levels in hockey which includes 14 years as Head Coach in Grand Rapids I have a much deeper understanding of all that he sacrificed for so many.

Please do not hesitate in your consideration in the renaming of Legion Baseball Field to Streetar Field at Legion Park in honor of Bob Streetar. I cannot overstate how much he has meant not only to the program but most importantly to the players he coached and the lessons he taught about life to so many.

Sincerely,
Bruce LaRoque



Home of the Rams

Roseau Public Schools

Independent School District #682

509 Third Street NE

Roseau, Minnesota 56751

(218) 463 – 1471 Office

(218) 463 – 3243 Fax

www.roseau.k12.mn.us

April 14, 2019

To the Grand Rapids Parks & Recreation Board:

I am enthused to extend my support towards renaming Legion Baseball Field to **Streetar Field at Legion Park**.

I was an Assistant High School Coach under Robert (Bob) Streetar from 1980 – 1988. During that time I coached with Bob in six (6) high school state tournaments including a state championship in 1984. I learned first-hand the positive impact Bob had on Baseball players, Baseball teams and the Legion Baseball field itself. I don't know if there's a person who could even to begin to count the hours he worked on Legion Field to do things like: drag the field, water the field, sprinkle the infield, calk the batters boxes & foul lines, mow the grass, acquire support for bleacher seating, cover home plate and the pitcher's mound, rake and do it all over again each baseball season for 32 years. In my 40 years in public education, no one else I've known surpasses Bob's commitment to [Grand Rapids] Baseball and Baseball Coaching.

Bob dedicated over three (3) decades of effort on and off the field to put Grand Rapids *on the map* for excellence in High School, VFW and Legion Baseball in the State of Minnesota. I strongly urge the Grand Rapids Parks & Recreation Board to approve the renaming of Legion Baseball Field to **Streetar Field at Legion Park** to honor long-time coach Robert (Bob) Streetar.

Sincerely,

Larry S. Guggisberg, Ed. D.

Roseau Superintendent of Schools

Bob was inducted into the St. Cloud State Hall of Fame (1997)
Bob was inducted into the Minnesota State High School Hall of Fame (2004)

Coaching Records

Source: Tink Larson, Minnesota State High School Baseball Coaches Association

Updated: August 1, 2017

please contact Tink Larson: tlarson@hickorytech.net or 507-838-5645

[Back to State Records](#)

[Back to History](#)

Minimum: 200 wins

	NAME	SCHOOL	W	L	PCT	YRS	RETIRED
1	Bob Karn	St. Cloud Cathedral	765	296	.720	47	Active
2	Lowell Searcy	Brainerd	751	311	.707	48	Active
3	Jim Senske	New Ulm	707	171	.805	40	Retired
4	Darwin Busseiman	Prior Lake	535	335	.615	42	Retired
5	Craig Anderson	Pine Island	526	381	.580	41	Retired
6	Bob Mullen	Bagley	524	267	.662	41	Retired
7	Dick Seltz	Austin	509	165	.755	36	Retired
8	Bob Streetar	Grand Rapids	481	178	.730	32	Retired

224 Main St. SW
Menahga, MN 56464
April 13, 2019

Dale Anderson
Director of Parks and Recreation-City of Grand Rapids

Dear Dale,

My name is Al Cleveland. I'm a 1977 graduate of Grand Rapids High School. I played baseball for Bob Streetar and GRHS from 1974 to 77. I'm writing to you and the Parks and Rec advisory board to encourage you to rename Legion Field to Streetar Field.

I consider myself very fortunate for having had the opportunity to grow up in the city of Grand Rapids and participate in varsity athletics under quality coaches like Bob. Lessons learned during those years on the field and ice paid for college in the form of an athletic scholarship and provided a template for living my life. I can't tell you how many times I used those lessons learned in my own teaching and coaching career. Even though Bob was tough and not so easy to get to know, he cared. Cared about his players and the quality of our program. Even today when I go back to GR for reunions or funerals, I see Bob there, still supporting his players.

The amount of time Bob committed to the baseball program at GRHS was amazing. Many nights after practice or a game we'd drive by the old field house and Bob's truck was still there, working on getting that field just perfect. I didn't appreciate that then, it was his job. I certainly appreciated it later when I had my own team and did the same thing. I realized how special he was. And let's not forget his wife Sharon and the energy she brought to the program.

I would often share one of my many memories with my players when they felt we were working way too hard. We had a winter, like this winter, where it just wouldn't quit snowing. Late March, early April rolled around and there was still 2 to 3 feet of snow on the field. Bob got all of us out there early on a Saturday morning and we cleared the entire field, by hand. Bob was anxious to get on the field, yes, but he was also teaching.

I would urge you to please recognize those decades of time and effort by renaming Legion Field in honor of Coach Bob Streetar.

Thank you,



April 14th, 2019

Dear Grand Rapids Parks and Recreation Board,

I'm writing you today showing my support for naming the baseball field at Legion Park "Streetar Field".

I played for Bob Streetar in 1994, 1995, and in 1996 where we finished 3rd in the State. Bob was clearly a passionate coach with an unbelievable knowledge of the game. I learned a lot from him both about baseball, but also how to prepare. These preparation lessons have certainly carried over from high school baseball to many facets of my current life!

One reason why I believe the naming of the field should go through is I don't believe Grand Rapids could have asked for a coach that took more pride in his field. Legion Field has been a gem of the Northland and wonderful place to play. Every April Bob could be found spending countless hours getting the field prepped to play in the spring. Once the season started his work didn't stop as he would groom and ready the field like no other sports coach would.

I also had the opportunity to coach Legion baseball with Coach Streetar in the summer of 1999. Coaching along side of him I continued to see his dedication and passion for the sport. His discipline and demand from his players have had a big impact on my coaching skills as well as the skills of many of his former players that have gone on to coach too.

I believe that it would be very fitting for the new name of our Grand Rapids ballpark to be called Streetar Field at Legion Park.

Sincerely,

Guy Clairmont Jr.

Grand Rapids Parks and Recreation Board:

This letter is in support of renaming the Grand Rapids Legion Field to Streetar Field. Bob Streetar has been instrumental in impacting the lives of so many, from the very young to the very old. I have many life-long friends because of my years on the field with Bob Streetar as my coach. Baseball is a passion of mine, and I attribute that to Bob. He put countless hours into making Grand Rapids baseball the highlight of every spring and summer. His encouragement and support on and off the field surpassed any other I've had experience with in our community.

I am definitely in support of changing the name from Legion Field to Streetar Field, and encourage the GR Parks and Rec Board to accept this recommendation as well.

Sincerely,

Lee Thies

To: The Grand Rapids Parks & Recreation Board

As a friend of Grand Rapids Baseball, I am writing in support of renaming Legion Baseball Field to Streetar Field at Legion Park. Bob was a mentor to me and hundreds of other student athletes. He is a major reason why baseball is what it is today in Grand Rapids.

As a coach he helped develop great teamwork - the reason for the many successes that we have enjoyed. Baseball coaches in Grand Rapids also take care of the fields. Bob's field was always in terrific shape, a fact recognized throughout Minnesota.

This would be a fitting tribute to a great coach and mentor to many young men.

Best regards,

**Tom Saxhaug
Captain, 1966 District 28 Champs**

Brian Titus

24542 Old Still Road
Grand Rapids. MN 55744

April 10, 2019

City of Grand Rapids
Grand Rapids MN 55744

To members of the Grand Rapids Parks and Recreation Board:

I wholeheartedly support the idea of renaming the Grand Rapids baseball field to honor Bob Streetar. When you think of Grand Rapids baseball, you have to think of Bob and all he has contributed to the sport in our city.

I worked closely with Bob when I served as president of the Grand Rapids Amateur Baseball Association in the 1970s. His dedication to and knowledge of the game were key factors in the success of baseball programs at every level in the Grand Rapids area. He spent 32 years as head baseball coach, and he is a member of the MN State High School Baseball Hall of Fame.

This would be a well-deserved honor for a man who spent most of his life helping young men develop into good baseball players and great citizens of our city. Please consider making this change—many people in our community and throughout the state would approve of this action.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Titus", with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Brian Titus

Grand Rapids Parks & Recreation Board:

I am writing on behalf of the proposed name change of Legion Baseball Field to Bob Streetar Field at Legion Park. I am very much in favor of this name change.

I played for Coach Streetar in the 1980's. I played varsity baseball for four seasons under Bob. I was fortunate to be a member of the 1984 State Championship team as a junior at Grand Rapids. I have also spent several years as an assistant coach for our varsity program at Grand Rapids under current coach, Bill Kinnunen.

During my time as a player, coach Streetar served as a teacher, mentor and more or less, a second father figure to most of us. We spent more time with Bob than with our families during the spring and summer baseball season. Bob not only taught us to be very good baseball players, he made us young men. Bob had standards as a coach that demanded accountability, commitment, and excellence to the task, whatever the task may be. I owe Bob a lot for his involvement in my life.

Coach Streetar worked tirelessly on Legion Field. There is no one who has put more time in to the maintenance of the facility. He also taught us as players to take proper care of the field. These traditions hold true today. Each player in our program has jobs to do on a daily basis to properly maintain Legion Field and keep it nice. We owe this to Bob.

Coach Streetar has done more for baseball in our community than anyone before or since. Our program has a rich tradition and has produced many fine players and successful men in all walks of life. Qualities like leadership, team work, integrity and honesty were stressed and made us successful in all aspects in life. We all owe Coach Streetar for stressing those things to us as players.

This honor of renaming Legion Field is far overdue in my opinion. Bob is very much deserving of this honor. His name and accomplishments as one of the most winningest coaches in Minnesota Sports history should be recognized and appreciated now and in to the future. Renaming the field would be a great way to honor Bob. Please consider the name change, it is the right thing to do.

Sincerely,

Dr. Scott McBride, DC



Specialty Contracting & Waste Management

14000 Veit Place
Rogers, MN 55374-9583

Office 763.428.2242
Fax 763.428.8348

VeitUSA.com

April 2, 2019

Grand Rapids
City Parks and Recreation Department
Grand Rapids, MN 55374

RE: Renaming Legion Baseball Field to Stretar Field

Thank you for the time to consider changing the Legion Baseball Field to Stretar Field, I was lucky enough to play high school baseball in Grand Rapids for Coach Robert "Bob" Stretar. I was a player on the team that won the 1984 State High School Baseball Tournament.

Bob took a lot of pride in his teams and his field, always working diligently on the field to present Grand Rapids as a serious baseball community. His success in High School Baseball is legendary in Minnesota High School Baseball, I know this because my son was a Blaine High School Baseball player and many of the parents and coaches, that I would speak with while watching my son, remembered the Grand Rapids Baseball Teams and the beautiful baseball field that we all played on.

I hope you will consider changing the name to Stretar Field, it would be a great tribute to a man that spent so much of his life showing pride in Grand Rapids and Grand Rapids Baseball.

Thank you,

Mark Sonaglia, Vice President
Veit & Company

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From: **Mike Johnson** mike82556@gmail.com 
Subject:
Date: **April 7, 2019 at 6:25 PM**
To: Mike82556@gmail.com



April 4, 2019

Grand Rapids City Parks &
Recreation Department

To whom it may concern:

I am writing this letter in support of the Department renaming Legion Field to Streetar Field at Legion Park. Mr. Streetar was a phenomenal coach, teacher and advocate for baseball in our community for many years. He volunteered thousands of hours on maintaining the field and park for players that came through the program. He took pride in keeping the park clean and the field in top condition. Even when he was running a high school practice or Legion summer team practice, he was always multi-tasking to improve the conditions of the field. There is not one person in this community that has given more to baseball than Mr. Streetar. He is more than deserving of having this field renamed in his honor.

I fully support this effort by another great baseball person in our community, Mike Johnson. As a former player of both men, I would be happy to help out with this in any way I can.

Sincerely,

David Kuschel

GRHS Class of 1992

From: dean and karen bailey kdbailsc@yahoo.com
Subject: Renaming Legion Field
Date: April 6, 2019 at 3:29 PM
To: Mike Johnson mike82556@gmail.com

Dear Parks & Recreation Dept. :

When I heard there is a chance to rename the Legion Field to "Streetar Field", I am all for it. I coached with Bob for 15 years as his assistant baseball coach and 3 years as his assistant coach in basketball. He is not only a great coach but great teacher of young men. This honor is long over due. He has done more for the sport of baseball than any other baseball coach Grand Rapids has ever had. Let's get this done!!!

Sincerely yours,

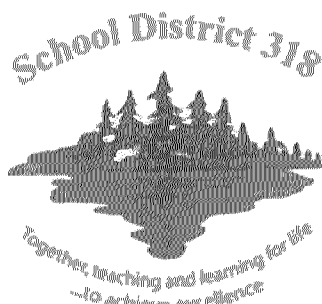
Dean Bailey

From: **Bill Kinnunen** bkinnunen@isd318.org
Subject: Fwd:
Date: April 15, 2019 at 1:55 PM
To: Mike Johnson Mike82556@gmail.com

----- Forwarded message -----
From: <ALCikon@isd318.org>
Date: Mon, Apr 15, 2019 at 1:50 PM
Subject:
To: Bill Kinnunen <bkinnunen@isd318.org>

This E-mail was sent from "RNP014740" (Aficio MP 5001).

Scan Date: 04.15.2019 16:46:21 (-0500)
Queries to: ALCikon@isd318.org



GRAND RAPIDS AREA LEARNING CENTER
413 SE 13th St, Ste B
Grand Rapids, MN 55744-2499

218 999-0247
Fax 218 999-0970

April 7, 2019

Dear Grand Rapids Parks and Recreation Board,

My name is Bill Kinnunen, and I am entering my 19th year as the head baseball coach at Grand Rapids High School and my 20th season as the head baseball coach of American Legion Post 60. I am writing this letter to encourage you to support the renaming of Legion Baseball Field to Streeatar Field at Legion Park.

Bob Streeatar is the "Godfather of Baseball" in Grand Rapids. Along with coaching youth league, VFW, and Town Team baseball, he coached high school and Legion baseball for 32 years in Grand Rapids. He is the ninth winningest coach in Minnesota high school baseball history. His high school record is 401-178 for a .730 winning percentage. He guided Grand Rapids to an American Legion state championship in 1975 and two high school state championships in 1978 and 1984 along with numerous other high finishes in state tournaments. His teams played in 19 high school section championship games winning 14 of them.

Those are some impressive statistics but they pale in comparison to what he has meant to the lives of countless boys and young men who had the privilege of playing for him. Simply put, he turned hundreds of boys into men. He taught his players about the game of baseball and the game of life by teaching commitment, responsibility, self-discipline, focus, patience, and persistence.

Anybody that was around Legion Field while he was coaching certainly witnessed Coach Streeatar model all of those traits listed above before or after games in the way he selflessly maintained the playing diamond and the entire ballpark. He spent weekends raking the outfield after he had push mowed it with his own personal mowers. I think his record was three mowers burnt out in one summer. Time was not a factor – getting the job done the right way was the only thing that mattered to him. That field was his baby, and he wanted it to be perfect for the kids that played on it. He took great pride in the field, not just for the Grand Rapids kids but for the kids from all the teams that came to play here.

I was fortunate to grow up in the Streeatar's neighborhood, play for coach Streeatar, and later coach with him. I personally witnessed and benefitted from the many volunteer hours he put in not just coaching but also maintaining that beautiful ballpark.

Please help us honor Mr. Bob Streeatar by renaming Legion Field to Streeatar Field at Legion Park.

Thank you for your support.



Bill Kinnunen

Teacher Grand Rapids Area Learning Center

Head Baseball Coach

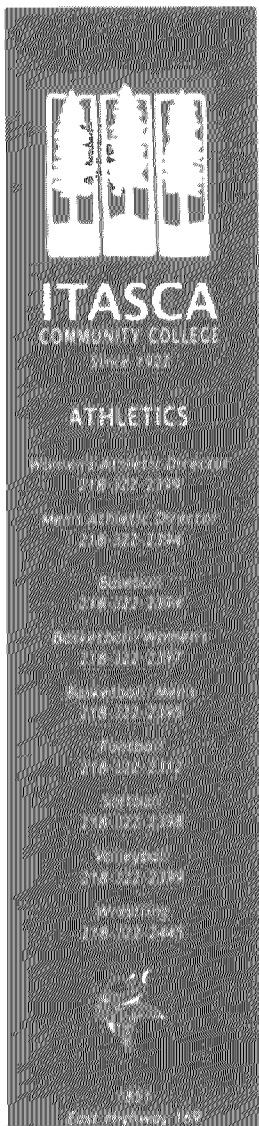
Grand Rapids High School

American Legion Post 60

From: **Lamppa, Justin L.** Justin.Lamppa@itascacc.edu
Subject: **FW: streetar**
Date: **April 23, 2019 at 11:21 AM**
To: **Mike Johnson** mike82556@gmail.com

From: Nelson, Darla J <Darla.Nelson@itascacc.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, April 23, 2019 11:21 AM
To: Lamppa, Justin L <Justin.Lamppa@itascacc.edu>
Subject: FW: streetar

From: Darla Nelson <darla.nelson@itascacc.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, April 23, 2019 11:08 AM
To: Nelson, Darla J <Darla.Nelson@itascacc.edu>
Subject: streetar



April 17, 2019

To the Park and Recreation Board:

I am in full support of naming the field at Legion Park "Streetar Field." Mr Streetar is well deserving of this honor. The time and energy he has put into that field is beyond comprehension.

Mr. Streetar made the field special with his work ethic on the field and also with his ability to coach baseball to the youth of Grand Rapids. I am a firm believer that he earned this honor through his passion for baseball and the desire to give young athletes a beautiful place to play ball.

As the baseball coach of Itasca CC and a community member of Grand Rapids I would be very proud to have the field named after Mr. Streetar. I also believe the players who played for him would echo my support.

Sincerely,

Justin Lamppa
ICC Head Baseball Coach
ICC Athletic Director