

ATTACHMENT 1 – Location Map



JAPANTOWN FUTURE PARK SITE LOCATION MAP

APN 249-39-045



0 75 150 300 Feet



ATTACHMENT 2 – Park Master Plan



NTS

ATTACHMENT 3 – List of Nominated Names¹²³

Nominated Name	Justification Provided	Conformance to Policy
1. *James Benjamin Peckham (14 votes)	During the unjust and forced removal of the Japanese Americans from the San Jose area, James Peckham, a lawyer volunteered to watch over many of the vacated properties until the Japanese returned. He did not ask for any compensation.	Conforming; Deceased individual.
2. *John Heinlen Park (37 votes)	John Heinlen set aside this land for Chinese Americans seeking refuge from other parts of San Jose in 1887. Japanese Americans and Japantown grew up next door.	Conforming; Deceased individual; Historical event.
3. *Tokio Ishikawa (43 votes)	1st Japanese American Doctor in Japantown. Led tours of Japantown.	Conforming; Deceased individual; Historical event.
4. *Nihonmachi Park (37 votes)	Common name for Japanese communities outside of Japan, this name recognizes the community this park is located in.	Conforming; Prominent geographic or local reference point; Adjoining subdivision/community.
5. *Sakura Park (54 votes)	Sakura is the Japanese national flower. The Japanese enjoy Sakura in Ohanami which is the cherry blossoms festival in spring time. In floral language it has the meaning of “Accomplishment” and “Beauty of heart”.	Conforming; Prominent geographic or local reference point; Adjoining subdivision/community.
6. *Japantown Park (56 votes)	Please do not name a park after a Caucasian. Please use something that is meaningful to the community. If it is named Sakura park it better have cherry trees in it.	Conforming; Adjoining subdivision/community
7. *Heinlenville Park (41 votes)	Heinlenville was located here after an 1887 fire destroyed most of Chinatown and Chinese people had a hard time finding a place to relocate to but John Heinlen was willing to lease them land at a reasonable rate and support the community in other ways. More information can be found at San Jose History Park, including in the temple that was originally located in Heinlenville. That also provides a connection between the History Park and the new park in Japantown	Conforming; Adjoining subdivision/community; Historical event.
8. *Yujo Park (69 votes)	Yujo or Yuujou means friendship in Japanese. As a public park, we want it to be welcoming to our	Conforming; Prominent geographic or local

¹ Names with an asterisk were presented to the public for voting in the surveys, all other nominations were collected during the second phase of voting.

² Justifications provided by survey participants are unedited by staff.

³ Fact checking for participant submissions only occurred for nominated names considered by staff for recommendation to the Parks and Recreation Commission.

	community, a place where strangers can become friends and connect. A Japanese name for the park is critical to reflect the history and established community of Japantown.	reference point; Adjoining subdivision/community.
9. Heinlenville – Chinatown Gardens	It was the site of John Heinlen's Chinatown. John Heinlen invites the Chinese to establish a safe community for themselves after they were burned out of Downtown. Without John Heinlen, there wouldn't have been a Chinatown. Without a Chinatown, there wouldn't have been a Japantown. His selflessness is carried on today.	Conforming; Adjoining subdivision/community; Historical event.
10. Resilience Park	It recognizes the incredible resilience that the Japanese community showed to survive internment during World War 2, and then rebuild and thrive afterward.	Conforming; Adjoining subdivision/community; Historical event.
11. Japantown Park Plaza	It's very straightforward and in Japantown. Japantown has long-standing roots for over a century.	Conforming; Prominent geographic or local reference point; Adjoining subdivision/community.
12. Jimi Yamaichi Park	Jimi Yamaichi has contributed greatly to Japantown.	Conforming; Deceased individual.
13. Taylor Friendship Park	Represents the area and the many diverse activities that take place around the community.	Conforming; Prominent geographic or local reference point.
14. Dave Tatsuno Park	Mr. Tatsuno was an internee who was able to document conditions with a smuggled 8mm movie camera. He did so at considerable risk. When he returned to San Jose, he was an inspirational supporter and leader of the YMCA.	Conforming; Deceased individual; Historical event.
15. Sonshainpaku Park	It means "sunshine park."	Conforming; Prominent geographic or local reference point; Adjoining subdivision/community.
16. Arbuckle Family Memorial Park	Clyde Arbuckle and his son, Jim, were both San Jose historians and passionate about preserving the city's history. Clyde's wife, Helen, worked on the history of women in San Jose.	Conforming; Deceased individual.
17. Shizukesa Park	San Jose has a Japanese Friendship Garden. This park could reflect another Japanese aspect: Tranquility. It promotes a sense of peace and harmony for humanity. San Jose needs inspiration and compassion. AND it teaches everyone Japanese!	Conforming; Prominent geographic or local reference point; Adjoining subdivision/community.
18. Miyuki Park	The name has a lot of meanings: beautiful fortune and beautiful happiness, to name a few.	Conforming; Prominent geographic or local reference point;

		Adjoining subdivision/community.
19. Onizuka Park	"He was the first Asian American and the first person of Japanese ancestry to reach space."	Conforming; Deceased individual.
20. Kazoku Park	Kazoku is the Japanese word for family, when people go to the park they often times take their family and see other such families bonding in these public areas. Overall a park should feel safe and happy for people and their children, Whats more of a reassurance for warmth and welcome than naming a park after something that's very important. This will hopefully allow people to see the park as welcoming, hence drawing in more people. Just reading the name will draw folks in.	Conforming; Prominent geographic or local reference point; Adjoining subdivision/community.
21. Korematsu Park	Fred Korematsu was an American civil rights activist who actively opposed the unconstitutional detention of Japanese Americans during World War 2.	Conforming; Deceased individual.
22. Fred Korematsu Park	Fred Korematsu was a civil rights leader who challenged the constitutionality of Japanese internment all the way to the Supreme Court. He was a resident of California and an important figure in American history.	Conforming; Deceased individual.
23. Hibari Misora Park	Hibari Misora was a significant singer in Japan who boosted morale after World War 2	Conforming; Deceased individual.
24. Yaezakura Park	The Yaezakura is the famous double bloom formation of the Japanese national flower Sakura, it can represent the new layers of community and the beautiful reinvigoration of our historic Japantown.	Conforming; Prominent geographic or local reference point; Adjoining subdivision/community.
25. Gaman Park	The location is important as being located in one of 3 Japan towns in California. The Japanese word Gaman means: "Gaman (我慢) is a Japanese term of Zen Buddhist origin which means "enduring the seemingly unbearable with patience and dignity". The term is generally translated as "perseverance", "patience", or tolerance." Gaman was how the Japanese American community dealt with the hardship of the internment camps of WWII. It's our perseverance and tolerance that made this part of the community what it is now. The park name is a sign of respect and in memory of all of those who struggled and persevered through the obstacles placed before them.	Conforming; Prominent geographic or local reference point; Adjoining subdivision/community.
26. Mineta Plaza	Honors a true icon of the SJ and national Japanese-American communities.	Non-conforming; Existing city facility named after individual.

27. Any Japanese Leader from San Jose	N/A	Non-conforming; Not enough information provided to determine conformance.
28. Allegiance Park	American citizens of Japanese descent were forced from their homes and into camps. Their allegiance was not trusted, but they loved their country. So much so, that many gave their lives along the front lines in Europe during WWII.	Non-conforming; Not enough information provided to determine conformance.
29. Beholden Park	Our climate is in crisis. We ought to pick a name that expresses our gratitude for green space and the role of green space in carbon sequestration. Further, if the park will feature a commemoration of individuals who helped build a better society, we owe it to them to continue their legacy.	Non-conforming; Not enough information provided to determine conformance.
30. Cherry Blossom Park	Celebrating the beautiful trees indigenous to Japan.	Non-conforming; Not enough information provided to determine conformance.
31. Scarnecchia Park	Vito Scarnecchia is an award winning local activist and real estate agent and all around good family guy!	Non-conforming; Individual not deceased.
32. Soulful Park or Tranquility park	It sends a message for peace and tranquility.	Non-conformance; Not enough information provided to determine conformance.
33. Lotus Park	Brings up pleasant visions of Japanese culture.	Non-conformance; Not enough information provided to determine conformance.
34. 集合場所 Shūgō Basho	Japanese for “Gathering Place.”	Non-conforming; Not enough information provided to determine conformance.
35. Sensi Park	Teacher	Non-conforming; Not enough information provided to determine conformance.
36. City of Diversity Park	N/A	Non-conformance; not enough information provided to determine conformance.
37. Shinjuku Park	Crossroads in Tokyo and other Japanese cities.	Non-conformance; not enough information provided to determine conformance.

38. Hummingbird Park	Japantown gardens are full of hummingbirds. Personally, I am so tired of public parks being named after people.	Non-conformance; not enough information provided to determine conformance.
39. No Homeless Allowed	It's self-evident.	Non-conformance; does not reflect criteria outlined in the naming policy.
40. Cherry Tree	Because sakura is not a national flower.	Non-conformance; not enough information provided to determine conformance.
41. St Nicholas Park	Great person in history.	Non-conformance; not enough information provided to determine conformance.
42. Another park for homeless people	Its the truth.	Non-conformance; does not reflect criteria outlined in the naming policy.

Attachment 4 - Community Correspondence

CINDY CHAVEZ

**PRESIDENT, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
SUPERVISOR, SECOND DISTRICT
COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA**

COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER, EAST WING
70 WEST HEDDING STREET, 10TH FLOOR
SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA 95110
TEL: (408) 299-5020
cindy.chavez@bos.sccgov.org • www.supervisorchavez.com



May 4, 2020

Honorable Mayor and City Council
City of San Jose
200 East Santa Clara Street, 18th Floor
San Jose, CA 95113

Dear Mayor Liccardo and Members of the City Council:

I write in support of the Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services staff recommendation to name the new public park plaza within the San Jose Japantown neighborhood as Heinlenville Park.

The naming of the park is an opportunity to appreciate the history of this neighborhood in addition to honoring John Heinlen, a German immigrant farmer and local businessman. After the destruction of the Chinese settlement in the downtown area by a suspicious fire in 1887, John set aside a portion of his land to permanently house Chinese American immigrants who were seeking refuge from persecution in the area. This was a group of people discriminated against based solely on their ethnicity. John Heinlen set the example to treat every person with respect and dignity that we aspire to today.

San Jose Japantown is also proud to be a diverse community with a rich history of people of Japanese, Chinese, Filipino, and African American descent in addition to many other ethnicities. San Jose Japantown is one of three remaining Japantowns left in the United States. This welcoming area was created by John Heinlen. As an acknowledgement of the generosity of John Heinlen as well as the historic and current demographics of this community, I support the naming of this park in San Jose Japantown as Heinlenville Park.

Sincerely,

Cindy Chavez
President, Board of Supervisors

July 2, 2020

City of San Jose
Mayor Sam Liccardo and City Council
Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Service (PRNS)
Parks & Recreation Commission
200 E. Santa Clara Street
San Jose, CA 95113

Re: Naming Japantown's Newest Public Park

Dear Mayor Sam Liccardo, City Councilmembers, PRNS Staff, and Commissioners Daphna Woolfe, George Adas, Lawrence Ames, Trami Cron, Rudy Flores, Andre Morrow, and Kelly Snider,

We are responding with strong objection to the San Jose Parks and Recreation Commission's decision on March 4, 2020 to nominate that Japantown's newest public park be named "Sakura Park".

During the Mar. 4 meeting, the Commissioners overruled the City's Dept. of Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services (PRNS), recommendation that the park be named after John Heinlen or Heinlenville, which received the highest number of votes in four public, city-wide PRNS surveys. This usurps the consensus of the people. We believe Heinlenville/John Heinlen would have received even more votes if the greater community were aware of his contributions.

The exact location of the future park is the former Heinlenville Chinatown (1887-1931), a point that was not explicitly stated in the PRNS survey, but was shared with the P&R Commission by PRNS Planner Rebekah Ross prior to discussion. This Chinatown was called "Heinlenville" by San Joseans after John Heinlen, who built a community for the former inhabitants of the Market Street Chinatown after it was burned down by arsonists in 1887. A plaque commemorates the destroyed Chinatown at its site, which is now the Fairmont Hotel.

Heinlen's courageous act was in direct opposition to racist societal norms, as Chinese families were driven out of several West Coast cities. The Chinese Exclusion Law of 1882 denied naturalization and U.S. citizenship of the Chinese, legalizing discrimination and inciting overt violence against them.

John Heinlen and his family were vilified by the local press and they faced death threats from thousands of angry protestors. In spite of this, the new Chinatown took root and became home to families and an anchoring point for working class people throughout the Valley for 44 years.

When the Japanese began arriving in Santa Clara Valley in 1890s, they sought refuge in Heinlenville, where Chinese merchants offered them financial credit. John Heinlen leased land to the Japanese adjacent to Chinatown, and Japantown was born. After he died, his children took over management of the properties in the same spirit of friendship. The memory of John Heinlen's moral courage remained with the Japanese

community long after Chinatown ended, as Dr. Tokio Ishikawa stated in a 1990 interview, "When the name Heinlen was spoken, it was always with respect." The Chinatown site eventually became known as "The Corp Yard", owned by the City of San Jose, without any marker or visible trace that it once was a beloved community.

In an audio recording of the Mar. 4 P&R Commission meeting, Commissioners made it clear they were opposed to naming yet another City of San Jose landmark after an "old white guy" (their exact language), fearing that it didn't fit within the City's diversity, equity, and inclusion lens. One Commissioner stated that John Heinlen's actions were not "necessarily heroic...he wasn't greedy, which is great." Laughter can be heard after that remark. Another stated that the Heinlen name "doesn't evoke a multicultural past" nor the "Japanese character of the area".

The Commission's statements dismiss the fact that today's Japantown would not exist without John Heinlen. The City of San Jose Memorandum issued to the P&R Commission (dated Feb. 21, 2020 by Nicolle Burnham of PRNS), includes the following statement: "John Heinlen created a refuge and established resources that resulted in the creation of a safe and attractive community for Asian American immigrants to settle. The haven would lead Japanese American immigrants to settle in the area, resulting in the formation of what is now San José's Japantown." Despite staff's summary prior to discussion, Commissioners appeared to engage in reverse racism -- dismissing Heinlen simply because of his race.

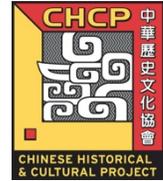
The Commission's choice rides roughshod over Heinlenville's past and assigns a generic term to a historically significant place. One Commissioner stated that *sakura* should be chosen because "everyone knows what it is." Japantown's history is not of cherry blossoms and indeed most of the cherry blossom trees in our neighborhood have, in fact, died. It shows even less respect to the Japanese-Americans who continue to live here, ones whose grandparents cultivated apricots, strawberries, and peaches, to summate our history with a cherry tree. Despite being an ethnically-diverse district with a dynamic history, we are being reduced to an ornamental stereotype.

The Commissioners may not be aware that there are already multiple monuments, benches, and tributes commemorating the Japanese-American experience in Japantown, and that support for the Heinlenville name is shared by several Japantown organizations, nonprofits, and generational families.

Assigning a contemporary brand to a historic enclave is the very definition of whitewashing, reinforces a system of disenfranchisement, and is deeply offensive to the City's Chinese-American past. It removes an opportunity to show others how diversity ruled in spite of popular opinion in the 1880s, enriches our City's understanding of race and culture, and fully embraces San José's current edict of diversity and inclusion. We would be proud to have the Heinlenville name represent Japantown's newest park.

Sincerely,

Tamiko Rast, 5th generation Japanese-American Japantown resident
Connie Young Yu, Heinlenville descendant, author, *Chinatown, San Jose, U.S.A.*



April 18, 2020

City of San Jose
Mayor Sam Liccardo and City Council
Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Service (PRNS)
Parks & Recreation Commission
200 E. Santa Clara Street
San Jose, CA 95113

Re: The Naming of Public Park in Japantown

Dear Mayor Sam Liccardo, City Councilmembers, PRNS Staff, and Commissioners,

The Japantown Business Association, Japantown Community Congress of San Jose, Japantown Neighborhood Association, and Chinese Historical & Cultural Project would like to submit a recommendation regarding the naming of the future park on 6th Street adjacent to Japantown. Our letter is divided into two parts: response to the City of San Jose Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Service (PRNS) survey and the history behind our selection.

PRNS Survey

In response to the survey hosted by the City of San Jose, we strongly support the name *Heinlerville Park*. We believe that the park should pay homage to the entire Jackson Street community and its historical evolution over 130 years. Of the eight options provided in the survey, six pay exclusive homage to the neighborhood's Japanese legacy, totally ignoring the original Chinese settlers whom John Heinlen welcomed with open arms, despite the virulent racism directed against them by society at large.

We are rightfully proud of our community's Japanese heritage and appreciate the City's willingness to bestow this honor, but to give the park a Japanese name in spite of its Chinese-American history and significance would be extremely near-sighted and disrespectful. It is also imperative to remember that the original Chinatown, or Heinlerville, was located in an area surrounded by ethnic diversity, including large congregations of Italian, Sicilian, Portuguese, and Mexican families, whose children attended public schools with Chinese and Japanese children. In addition, at least three African American Churches have been part of the Jackson Street community, and there have been Cuban, Filipino, Korean, Hawaiian, Ethiopian, and other cultural influences shaping Japantown's past and present.

We cannot, in good conscience, perpetuate the marginalization of these significant influences. The title *Heinlenville Park* provides a much wider, inclusive perspective of history and acknowledges the multi-ethnic foundation of the community that now thrives on John Heinlen's former property.

As it should, the title *Heinlenville Park* pays proper respect to John Heinlen. As we will detail below, without his courage and commitment, there would've been no Chinatown and subsequent Japantown. He was a singular profile in courage at a time when hostile nativists threatened to wipe out the Chinese community in San Jose, but John Heinlen wasn't alone in his accommodation of the persecuted Chinese. After his death in 1903, his children honored his legacy by continuing to support the residents of Heinlenville for nearly three decades, thus our proposed title also pays homage to the Heinlen family, not just the patriarch.

The Case for Heinlenville

At a time when our current President espouses the demonization of non-white immigrants, it is imperative to acknowledge not only the many significant contributions made by diverse peoples, but also the support of those who risked their own futures by helping persecuted people survive in an inhospitable environment. John Heinlen was one such person.

To fully grasp the significance of his life, we must consider the historical context in which he lived. Born in Württemberg, Germany in 1815, Heinlen was brought to America as a two-year old child with his parents, who chose to escape the harsh winters, failed crops, and widespread famine that devastated Germany's economy. After settling first as farmers in Pennsylvania and Ohio, the Heinlen family relocated to Santa Clara Valley in 1852, eventually purchasing farmland in San Jose, approximately two miles north of downtown along Jackson Street. John married Jane Rogers in 1845 and by the 1880s, they had five surviving children.

The 1880s were a politically turbulent time in America, primarily due to the changing nature of immigration to America. As America's population grew increasingly diverse, nativist forces – often in concert with organized labor and local government – rose in opposition to many newcomers, including the Chinese, who were routinely abused, ostracized, and discriminated against as nativist voices screamed about the dangers of the “yellow peril”. In 1882, Congress passed the Chinese Exclusion Act, the first federal attempt to regulate immigration along racial lines. In many cities, the confrontation between organized labor and Chinese immigrants often turned violent as rioters drove the defenseless Chinese out of their cities and towns.

Unfortunately, San Jose was one of the cities that did not take kindly to the Chinese. Yet, by 1887, Chinese immigrants had created a small Chinatown adjacent to downtown, along what is now Market Street. San Jose's Mayor and City Council soon passed a declaration identifying Chinatown as a public nuisance. Several weeks later, an arsonist set fire to a nearby wooden shanty and Chinatown burned to the ground. It was one in a series of disastrous and suspicious

fires to strike the immigrant community. The headline in the *San Jose Daily Herald* the next day ran: "Chinatown is Dead. It is dead forever". Demoralized, despondent, and victimized by the city, state and federal government, the Chinese seemingly had nowhere to go. At that point, John Heinlen, fully cognizant of the risk, stepped up and seized the moment. Because of his singular act of humanity and courage, the history of downtown's northside, what we now call Japantown, would be forever altered.

Ten days after the fire that destroyed their homes and businesses, a group of Chinatown merchants met with Heinlen, who offered to negotiate a lease for the rebuilding of Chinatown on his property, located on 6th Street between Jackson and Taylor Streets – the precise location of the yet unnamed Japantown park. Heinlen was immediately confronted by an angry City Council that rejected his permit application; when he ultimately won a court case establishing his right to negotiate with the Chinese, he became the target of a hostile citizenry.

A San Jose city resolution was passed, forming a "home protection" association intent on stopping Heinlen's project while he and his family were routinely subjected to public scorn, harassment, and threats. An anti-Chinese rally was held on the corner of 5th and Jackson Streets, attracting a crowd of 2,000 angry protesters. Despite the intense public agitation, Heinlen bravely stood his ground and he signed a contract with eleven Chinese merchants calling for the construction of buildings that would constitute a new Chinatown.

But through sheer determination, a sense of duty, and considerable financial commitment, Heinlen would ensure that this incarnation would be much more than mere wooden shanties, exposed to the transgressions of hostile neighbors. He hired famed architect Theodore Lenzen, a fellow German immigrant, to design the entire site, a choice that would prove to be rife with historical irony. The destruction of downtown's Chinatown had opened up enough real estate to accommodate the building of a new City Hall, a showy edifice and city landmark that would also be designed by Lenzen, who unsurprisingly, was ordered by the City not to use building materials made by Chinese laborers. Lenzen's Chinatown blueprint included tenements, stores, and restaurants, all built with brick to withstand fire. Sewer lines were established, a water tank was built, and streets were lit. A wooden fence topped with barbed wire encircled the entire community, gates were locked during the evening, and night guards patrolled the perimeter. Even now, it is difficult to comprehend how the entire destiny and survival of a community of unwelcome immigrants would hinge exclusively on the good will of one person, himself an immigrant. Yet, against the formidable forces of racism applied by San Jose's political and social elite, a rebuilt Chinatown, often referred to as "Heinlenville" grew from one man's vision of mercy into reality. Not only would Heinlenville survive, it would thrive.

As Connie Young Yu notes in her definitive history of San Jose's Chinatown, Heinlenville became an insular, self-sustaining community with its own culture, social structure, religious beliefs, family codes, and methods of financial transactions that very much resembled village life in their homeland. At its peak, four hundred Chinese lived within the walled community, but

hundreds more from outlying areas frequented Heinlenville's churches, gambling parlors, herbalists, public baths, barbers, food markets, and dry goods stores. Most importantly, Heinlen's security methods meant that rather than worry constantly about the threats posed by outside agitators and a toxic political climate, these sheltered immigrants could concentrate on raising families in an amenable environment that both celebrated and guaranteed the survival of their fundamental beliefs and way of life.

By the 1890s, changing demographic patterns along the West Coast began to transform Heinlenville as Japanese immigrants moved into San Jose and were understandably attracted to the safe haven created by John Heinlen and his family, who quickly leased land to them adjacent to Heinlenville along Jackson Street. Chinese merchants graciously granted the Japanese financial credit, small businesses were subsequently established, families moved in, and a burgeoning Japantown began to rise.

When Heinlen died in 1903, the reins to his company were handed to his daughter, Mary. Her sister, Ann, became treasurer and her brother, Marion, served as secretary. They did an admirable job of maintaining their position as caring landlords and did their best to honor their father's legacy, but by the 1930s, a combination of historical circumstances led to a drastic transformation of Heinlenville. New exclusion laws, continued pressure from labor unions, shifting demographic patterns, and the impact of the Great Depression all contributed to a local dispersion of Chinese immigrants and the eventual demise of Heinlenville. In 1931, the Heinlen Company went bankrupt and after many Chinese businesses closed, the walls and empty buildings were razed. Heinlenville was gone, but in its place evolved a Japantown community that expanded not only in size and scope, but continues to exist, 130 years since its own humble beginnings.

The outbreak of World War II and the incarceration of Japanese Americans threatened to destroy Japantown permanently, but due to the significant contributions of non-Asian friends and neighbors, the community managed to survive and after the war, many Japantown natives returned to their roots. Throughout the 1950s and 1960s, Japantown continued to grow as families reclaimed businesses and children of the original immigrant generation began to raise families of their own, clustering in the neighborhoods immediately surrounding the Jackson Street environs. This was a period of rapid growth as the congregations of the San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin and Wesley United Methodist Church swelled, necessitating the need for additional property to accommodate building expansion. The primary Japantown business district stretched from Third to Sixth Street, and was home to doctors, dentists, pharmacists, barbers, lawyers, cleaners, bakers, jewelers, optometrists, importers, as well as restaurants and other retail operations.

Despite creating their own identity, these early denizens of Japantown never forgot their Heinlenville roots and continued to hold John Heinlen and his family in the highest regard. The same holds true for the current Japantown leaders, who now represent a newer and more

diverse generation of community benefactors as Japantown assumes a vibrant, multicultural character that extends beyond its original Chinese-Japanese roots. City redevelopment money, preservationist funds, and the beautification efforts of countless volunteers over the years have given Japantown a pleasing physical makeover with a welcoming ambience.

But the past is not forgotten. It is this enduring reverence for the Heinlen family and the brave souls who called Heinlenville home, that we propose naming the new park in their honor. Perhaps most importantly, given the blatantly racist attempts by the late Mayor and City Council of San Jose to defame the Heinlen family and obstruct their campaign to provide sanctuary to an abused and persecuted people, the City can now create no greater justice and no greater act of civic redemption than granting the title, *Heinlenville Park*.

The collective footprints of the Heinlens and their brave immigrant tenets dominate the physical area where the park will sit. It is where John Heinlen defiantly drove a stake – and because he did, those who would otherwise be homeless could hope for a better future, which is precisely why they had come to America in the first place. Heinlenville allowed those dreams to become reality.

Thank you for your attention. In closing, may we quote an old proverb that comes from another notable group of persecuted immigrants, the Irish:

“It is within the shelter of each other that the people live.”

Sincerely,

Richard Kogura, Board Member, Japantown Business Association
Pam Yoshida and Ryan Kawamoto, Presidents, Japantown Community Congress of San Jose
Victoria Taketa, President, Japantown Neighborhood Association
Dave Yick, President, Chinese Historical & Cultural Project / Chinese American Historical Museum

Sources

- Connie Young Yu, *Chinatown, San Jose, USA*, San Jose Historical Museum Association, 1991
- Curt Fukuda and Ralph M. Pearce, *San Jose Japantown: A Journey*, Japanese American Museum of San Jose, 2014

City of San Jose
Mayor Sam Liccardo and City Council
Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Service (PRNS)
Parks & Recreation Commission
200 E. Santa Clara Street
San Jose, CA 95113

August 12, 2020

Re: Naming Japantown's Newest Public Park

Dear Mayor Sam Liccardo, City Councilmembers, PRNS Staff, and Commissioners Daphna Woolfe, George Adas, Lawrence Ames, Trami Cron, Rudy Flores, Andre Morrow, and Kelly Snider:

As members of De Anza College's Ethnic Studies departments, we question the San Jose Parks and Recreation Commission's decision on March 4, 2020 to nominate "Sakura Park" as the name of Japantown's newest public park. We believe it would better serve future park goers and the local community to name the park after John Heinlen or Heinlenville, as recommended by the Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services (PRNS).

The PRNS's recommendation was based on the results of four public, city-wide PRNS surveys. Additionally, the recommendation was intended both to memorialize and to educate the public about the historical overlapping communities of Chinese Americans, Japanese Americans, and Filipino Americans who developed the neighborhood we recognize today as San Jose Japantown.

However, the San Jose Parks and Recreation Commission decided at the March 4 meeting to overrule the recommendation made by the PRNS. We believe this overruling to be unwise.

Why We Oppose the Name "Sakura Park"

As educators at a community college, we believe choosing the name "Sakura Park" will be judged as a missed opportunity when we look back in time. By opting for "Sakura Park" instead of what was recommended by PRNS, the San Jose Parks and Recreation Commission will have missed a chance to amplify the historical significance of the park's location as well as to provide a promising educational opportunity to park goers and the local community.

The historical significance of the park's location was explained by Tamiko Rast (5th generation Japanese-American Japantown resident) and Connie Young Yu (Heinlenville descendant) in their letter to the Commission dated July 2, 2020:

The exact location of the future park is the former Heinlerville Chinatown (1887-1931), a point that was not explicitly stated in the PRNS survey, but was shared with the P&R Commission by PRNS Planner Rebekah Ross prior to discussion. This Chinatown was called "Heinlerville" by San Joseans after John Heinlen, who built a community for the former inhabitants of the Market Street Chinatown after it was burned down by arsonists in 1887...

Heinlen's courageous act was in direct opposition to racist societal norms, as Chinese families were driven out of several West Coast cities. The Chinese Exclusion Law of 1882 denied naturalization and U.S. citizenship of the Chinese, legalizing discrimination and inciting overt violence against them. John Heinlen and his family were vilified by the local press and they faced death threats from thousands of angry protestors. In spite of this, the new Chinatown took root and became home to families and an anchoring point for working class people throughout the Valley for 44 years.

When the Japanese began arriving in Santa Clara Valley in 1890s, they sought refuge in Heinlerville, where Chinese merchants offered them financial credit. John Heinlen leased land to the Japanese adjacent to Chinatown, and Japantown was born. After he died, his children took over management of the properties in the same spirit of friendship. The memory of John Heinlen's moral courage remained with the Japanese...The Chinatown site eventually became known as "The Corp Yard," owned by the City of San Jose, without any marker or visible trace that it once was a beloved community.

In this case, we believe, choosing the name "Sakura Park," serves to erase the history that has animated the communities associated with San Jose Japantown. The name "Sakura Park," in this instance, panders to Orientalist stereotypes and minimizes the historical relevance of the lived experiences of the Chinese American, Japanese American, and Filipino American communities that resided in the neighborhood. "Sakura Park," it seems, is meant to conjure stereotypical aesthetic imagery at the expense of pointing out the rich history of the park's location.

The Importance of Historical Truth-Telling in this Moment

Today, leaders across our country are reckoning with how to tell the history of racism and its profound legacy in communities throughout the United States. In this moment, San Jose has the opportunity to demonstrate its courageous and bold leadership in how it names the Japantown park. *Do we stand by truth and uplift the rich and complex histories of racism and the communities upon which today's Japantown was built, or do we choose to erase that history and take cover under a tokenistic gesture of cultural diversity?*

It is understandable that the Commission wants a name that on-the-face-of-it signals San Jose's commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion. However, in this case, choosing the name "Sakura Park" does not seem to be a good answer. In fact, it goes against the expressed interests of communities whose histories and cultures are to be symbolically represented by the naming of the park.

The Commission has an opportunity to select a park name that sparks greater public engagement and education with the important, but little known, history of the San Jose Japantown. Recognizing Heinlenville Chinatown in the naming of the park would pique interest in the complex story of racism, anti-racism, and the multiple ethnic communities that have led up to today's San Jose Japantown. For this reason, we strongly urge re-consideration of the PRNS's recommendation to name the park after John Heinlen/Heinlenville.

Sincerely yours,

Mae Lee, Ph.D.	◆ Department Chair of Asian American and Asian Studies, De Anza College
Mylinh Pham	◆ Faculty in History, De Anza College; San Jose resident
Marlo Custodio	◆ Multimedia Producer, De Anza College; Former San Jose PRNS Digital Arts Coordinator
Helen Pang	◆ Counselor, De Anza College; San Jose resident
Jim Nguyen	◆ Faculty in Political Science and Asian American Studies, De Anza College
Christine Chai	◆ Faculty in Asian American Studies, English, English as a Second Language, De Anza College
Susanne Wong Chan	◆ Emeritus Faculty, De Anza College
Michael Chang, Ph.D.	◆ Emeritus Faculty, De Anza College; Founding Executive Director of the Asian Pacific American Leadership Institute; Former Mayor of Cupertino
Edmundo Norte	◆ Dean of Intercultural (Ethnic Studies) and International Studies Division, De Anza College
Hyon Chu Yi-Baker	◆ Faculty Director, College Life & Judicial Affairs Officer
Sherwin Mendoza	◆ Faculty in Asian American Studies and English, De Anza College
Rochelle Mae Gatus	◆ Community Chair of the Pilipino Unity Student Organization, De Anza College
Karen Chow, Ph.D.	◆ Academic Senate President; Faculty in English, Asian American Studies, and Women's Studies, De Anza College



JAMSj

JAPANESE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF SAN JOSE

July 24, 2020

City of San Jose
Mayor Sam Liccardo and City Council
Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Service (PRNS)
Parks & Recreation Commission
200 E. Santa Clara Street
San Jose, CA 95113

Re: Naming Japantown's Newest Public Park

Dear Mayor Sam Liccardo, City Councilmembers, PRNS Staff, and Commissioners Daphna Woolfe, George Adas, Lawrence Ames, Trami Cron, Rudy Flores, Andre Morrow, and Kelly Snider:

We are responding with strong objection to the San Jose Parks and Recreation Commission's decision on March 4, 2020 to nominate "Sakura Park" as the name of Japantown's newest public park.

During the March 4 meeting, the Commissioners overruled the recommendation by the city's Dept. of Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services (PRNS) that the park be named after John Heinlen or Heinlenville, choices that received the highest number of votes in four public, city-wide PRNS surveys. This usurps the consensus of the people. We believe Heinlenville/John Heinlen would have received even more votes if the greater community were aware of his contributions.

This is an opportunity to educate our community about the heroic acts of John Heinlen, a German American immigrant, who stood against anti-Chinese sentiment to secure Chinatown on his own property bounded by 6th/7th and Jackson/Taylor. The Japanese American immigrants were also drawn to that location, amidst their own exclusion, and lived and worked alongside Chinese businesses and families. *Heinlen's compassion is what we hunger to hear more about -- especially during these turbulent times.*

Please consider this decision carefully. The name should reflect the true history of the Heinlenville Chinatown, which is a significant part of San Jose Japantown history. It should reflect the important anti-racist role played by John Heinlen in opposing the anti-Chinese movement in San Jose.

Sincerely yours,

James Nagareda
Executive Director

Michael Sera
Board President



ASIAN LAW ALLIANCE

991 West Hedding Street Suite 202 San Jose, California 95126
Tel (408) 287-9710 Fax (408) 287-0864

July 22, 2020

City of San Jose
Mayor Sam Liccardo and member of the San City Council
Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Service (PRNS)
Parks & Recreation Commission
200 E. Santa Clara Street
San Jose, CA 95113

Re: Naming Japantown's Newest Public Park

Dear Mayor Sam Liccardo, City Councilmembers, PRNS Staff, and Commissioners Daphna Woolfe, George Adas, Lawrence Ames, Trami Cron, Rudy Flores, Andre Morrow, and Kelly Snider:

The Asian Law Alliance has a strong objection to the San Jose Parks and Recreation Commission's decision on March 4, 2020 to nominate "Sakura Park" as the name of Japantown's newest public park.

During the March 4, 2020 meeting, the Commissioners overruled the recommendation by the city's Dept. of Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services (PRNS) that the park be named after John Heinlen or Heinlenville, choices that received the highest number of votes in four public, city-wide PRNS surveys. This usurps the consensus of the people. We believe Heinlenville/John Heinlen would have received even more votes if the greater community were aware of his contributions.

Please consider this decision carefully. The name should reflect the true history of the Heinlenville Chinatown, which is a significant part of San Jose Japantown history. It should reflect the important anti-racist role played by John Heinlen in opposing the anti-Chinese movement in San Jose.

Noted local historian, Connie Young Yu, has direct knowledge of the San Jose Chinatown that was located between North Sixth and North Seventh Street and Jackson and Taylor Street. She also strongly objects to the "Sakura Park" name because of the significant role of John Heinlen in providing protection to the San Jose Chinese community in Heinlenville.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard Konda', written over a horizontal line.

Richard Konda
Executive Director



August 14, 2020

Ms. Trami Cron

Re: Response to Trami Cron letter of August 13, 2020

Dear Trami,

Thank you for sending us a copy of your letter of August 13, 2020 to Mayor Liccarrdo, members of the City Council and of the Parks and Recreation Commission. We appreciate it as it includes your objection to a letter-writing campaign that we participated in as well as a criticism of the opinion expressed by one of the community advisory board members of our project, the Hidden Histories of San Jose Japantown, which is affiliated with the Japanese American Museum of San Jose (JAMsj) and the California History Center of DeAnza College.

We haven't met yet, but we know that you've done great work with your Chopstick Alley project, and are interested in bringing together the Vietnamese American and Japanese American communities, an endeavor that we also support.

Naming city parks and other public places is an important task that requires much thought and investigation. In the case of the new park within the footprint of the historic Heinlerville Chinatown, this is magnified by the dramatic nature of the history, the significance to the community today, and the fact that this history, like that of many immigrant communities is unknown due to historical erasure, redevelopment, and a history of forced assimilation.

The fact is that the story of Heinlerville Chinatown is indeed a "hidden history," but given the city's prior knowledge of this history -- from its own involvement with the demolition of the Ng Shing Gung temple and the archaeological investigation of the site as part of the environmental impact report for the current development -- the city's community outreach and survey design left a lot to be desired. To their credit, PRNS staff did include some historical information with their recommendation to assist the Parks and Rec Commission in their choice.

You referred to our letter's contention that names related to Heinlerville or John Heinlen were the top vote getters in the survey, and called our statement an inaccuracy. We respectfully disagree with your interpretation of the survey results. Heinlerville and John Heinlen, both names referring to the same historical events, did indeed receive, together, the highest votes of all other names in the

survey. It makes no sense to add up the votes of all the other candidates to ensure that the Heinlen-related choice comes up short. This survey was not a poll to determine a choice between a Japanese-related name vs. a non-Japanese-related name; that's only your interpretation.

This issue is not about Japanese referenced names vs. non-Japanese names, nor is it about Japanese vs. Chinese. It is about the true historical origins of what is now known as Japantown or Nihonmachi that includes the intermingling over time of Chinese, Japanese, and Filipino American history. And, as our advisor Robert Ragsac makes clear, the goal of our project is to unearth the nature of these multi-ethnic connections so we can learn from it and strengthen our communities' identities as well as help other communities that are trying to bring to light their own hidden histories.

We are not questioning your public service or your intentions, nor those of the Commission you serve on. We feel strongly that our understanding of the decision-making process so far is correct and that our contention in our letter is true -- that Heinlen-related names received the highest vote total. We feel strongly that the Parks and Rec Commission should have taken the recommendation of the PRNS staff.

We would be happy to assist in any way we can to help clarify this issue with the Mayor, the city council, and the Parks and Recreation Commission.

We are looking forward to working together in the future.

Sincerely yours,

Handwritten signatures of Susan Hayase and Tom Izu.

Susan Hayase and Tom Izu
Co-directors of the Hidden Histories of San Jose Japantown project
susanh@jamsj and tom@jamsj

Cc:
Mayor Sam Liccardo
Members of the City Council
City Clerk's Office
Dave Sykes, City Manager
Jon Cicirelli, Director of PRNS
Teresa Meyer-Cavert, PRNS staff to CC PRNS Commissioners
Daphna Wolfe, PRNS Commission Chair
George Adas, PRNS Commission Vice Chair
Rebekah Ross, PRNS Staff

International
Electrical



Brotherhood
Workers

AFL-CIO

Local Union No. 332

2125 CANOAS GARDEN AVENUE, SUITE 100

SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA 95125

Telephone: (408) 269-4332

Fax: (408) 979-5500

July 23, 2020

City of San Jose
Mayor Sam Liccardo and City Council
Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Service (PRNS)
Parks & Recreation Commission
200 E. Santa Clara Street
San Jose, CA 95113

Re: Naming Japantown's Newest Public Park

Dear Mayor Sam Liccardo, City Councilmembers, PRNS Staff, and Commissioners Daphna Wolfe, George Adas, Lawrence Ames, Trami Cron, Rudy Flores, Andre Morrow, and Kelly Snider:

IBEW Local 332 is responding with strong objection to the San Jose Parks and Recreation Commission's decision on March 4, 2020 to nominate "Sakura Park" as the name of Japantown's newest public park.

During the Mar. 4 meeting, the Commissioners overruled the recommendation by the city's Dept. of Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services (PRNS) that the park be named after John Heinlen or Heinlenville, choices that received the highest number of votes in four public, city-wide PRNS surveys. This usurps the consensus of the people. We believe Heinlenville/John Heinlen would have received even more votes if the greater community were aware of his contributions.

Please consider this decision carefully. The name should reflect the true history of the Heinlenville Chinatown, which is a significant part of San Jose Japantown history. It should reflect the important anti-racist role played by John Heinlen in opposing the anti-Chinese movement in San Jose.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dan Rodriguez", with a long, sweeping underline.

Dan Rodriguez
Business Manager

DR:jr/opeciu#29/afl-cio

July 22, 2020

City of San Jose
Mayor Sam Liccardo and City Council
Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Service (PRNS)
Parks & Recreation Commission
200 E. Santa Clara Street
San Jose, CA 95113

Re: The Naming of Public Park in Japantown

Dear Mayor Sam Liccardo, City Councilmembers, PRNS Staff, and Commissioners,

It is with surprise, alarm and disbelief that I learned of the vote against the recommended name preferred by the community, Heinlenville Park or John Heinlen Park; thereby erasing a significant historical touchstone important to Japantown and its earlier iteration, Chinatown.

In this time of consciousness raising as related to ethnic and racial identity, it is inconceivable that the Parks and Recreation Commission would deem to think it appropriate to give it a generic name - one that is, simply put, an easy, stereotypical choice.

John Heinlen is not another white man. He exemplifies for those of color, most especially those of Chinese, Japanese and Filipino descent, a courageous soul who provided a place to live safely and thrive. Yes, some institutions are named for racist 'white guys' – Sen. Phelan of Montalvo comes to mind. But, naming the park after Mr. Heinlen instead celebrates the bravery of a man who withstood prevailing discriminatory and dangerous actions to protect a marginalized people.

This exercise reminds me of an earlier incident a few decades ago when talk first began about the Sixth Street Corp Yard property and the city's early attempts to support Japantown with signage. Your city representatives showed up with a potential design of the chrysanthemum logo. I had the privilege of pointing out that the design was the official logo of the Emperor of Japan and, therefore, certainly not something to be usurped. This superficial attempt to 'support' the community serves to highlight the ignominy of selecting a name that identifies as Japanese only in a shallow and platitudinal context.

As a past member of the Japantown Community Congress of San Jose and many other local organizations, I have traveled this journey to fruition of this development. When I attended the groundbreaking ceremony, I believed that we were finally reaching a completion of a major Japantown project. I do sincerely hope that you will understand the need to give the park a name that honors the ultimate history of this beloved neighborhood. John Heinlen Park or, more specifically, Heinlenville Park will arouse the curiosity of future residents and visitors who will learn of the challenges faced by the early inhabitants of this significant site and the resolute bravery of the man who was essential to its growth and success.

As aforementioned, current movements acknowledge the need for all entities to recognize past struggles in order to appreciate each other compassionately. You have a role and responsibility to assist this process by understanding the heritage of Mr. Heinlen. Select **Heinlenville Park** in recognition of the site's historical importance as Chinatown, one that provided the opportunity for Japantown to take root.

What a legacy this will prove to be!

Thank you.

Best regards,

Reiko Iwanaga*

**My grandfather owned a laundry/cleaners where the current city hall is located.*

Heinlenville Park name nomination

Alexis Macnab <alexismacnab@gmail.com>

Mon 8/3/2020 7:14 PM

To: Ross, Rebekah <rebekah.ross@sanjoseca.gov>; Mendez, Zacharias <Zacharias.Mendez@sanjoseca.gov>; Nguyen, Mindy <Mindy.Nguyen@sanjoseca.gov>

Cc: bjhwong@yahoo.com <bjhwong@yahoo.com>

[External Email]

Hello,

I am a San José resident and I'm writing to voice my support for the San José Asian-American community's choice of the name "Heinlenville Park" for the new public park planned for San Jose's Japantown. I've been fortunate to learn from Brenda Hee Wong at the Chinese Historical & Culture Project, historian Connie Young Yu, and Curt Fukuda at the Japanese American Museum of San Jose more about the Heinlen family and their work to support a safe and welcoming neighborhood for Asian-Americans in early San José history. I urge you to listen to their recommendations, and those of the people who lived the history this park will commemorate, and name the park as they wish:

Heinlenville Park.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Alexis Macnab

701 S. 10th Street, San José 95112

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

FW: John Heinlen Park

Burnham, Nicolle <nicolle.burnham@sanjoseca.gov>

Tue 8/11/2020 8:52 AM

To: Mendez, Zacharias <Zacharias.Mendez@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Allison Baroni [mailto:avbaroni99@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2020 6:33 PM
To: Burnham, Nicolle <nicolle.burnham@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: John Heinlen Park

[External Email]

Dear Ms. Nicolle Burnham,

I hope that you are doing well. My name is Allison Baroni and I am a resident of San Jose. I am writing in support of calls from the Asian American community of San Jose to name the new city park being developed at 6th/7th and Taylor/Jackson Streets after John Heinlen. As I am sure you know, this name was developed by community leaders Connie Young Yu and Tamiko Rast in conjunction with PRNS staff. It has large support amongst community members, who want to commemorate an important moment in their history that too few people in San Jose know about.

I stand against the SJ Parks and Rec commission ignoring the community's input and proposing the park be called Sakura Park. While I trust there was no ill intent in doing so, the reality is that to reject the name proposed by the community after taking the time to get their input would not only be illogical, but would demonstrate a disturbing paternalism on the part of the City of San José. This is not in line with the values I believe the City works to exemplify. Please, listen to the voices of the community you serve, and name this new park after John Heinlen.

Thank you,
Allison Baroni

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Naming Japantown's Newest Public Park

Amy g <hapagoo@yahoo.com>

Thu 8/13/2020 10:06 PM

To: Ross, Rebekah <rebekah.ross@sanjoseca.gov>; Mendez, Zacharias <Zacharias.Mendez@sanjoseca.gov>; Nguyen, Mindy <Mindy.Nguyen@sanjoseca.gov>

[External Email]

Dear Mayor Sam Liccardo, City Councilmembers, PRNS Staff, and Commissioners Daphna Woolfe, George Adas, Lawrence Ames, Trami Cron, Rudy Flores, Andre Morrow, and Kelly Snider:

We are responding with strong objection to the San Jose Parks and Recreation Commission's decision on March 4, 2020 to nominate "Sakura Park" as the name of Japantown's newest public park.

During the Mar. 4 meeting, the Commissioners overruled the recommendation by the city's Dept. of Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services (PRNS) that the park be named after John Heinlen or Heinlenville, choices that received the highest number of votes in four public, city-wide PRNS surveys. This usurps the consensus of the people. We believe Heinlenville/John Heinlen would have received even more votes if the greater community were aware of his contributions.

You need to honor the choice of the people and not what you think is best. Remember we "hired" you in your position to respect your power in government and not to abuse it.

Please consider this decision carefully. The name should reflect the true history of the Heinlenville Chinatown, which is a significant part of San Jose Japantown history. It should reflect the important anti-racist role played by John Heinlen in opposing the anti-Chinese movement in San Jose.

Sincerely yours,

Amy Goo

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Naming New Park

Andrew Chang <tennistenor@sbcglobal.net>

Sun 8/9/2020 5:42 PM

To: Mendez, Zacharias <Zacharias.Mendez@sanjoseca.gov>

[External Email]

Hello,

I strongly urge you to name Japantown's new park "Heinlenville Park" instead of "Sakura Park."

The park is located where the former Heinlenville Chinatown existed from 1887 to 1931. San Joséans named this Chinatown after John Heinlen, a businessman who built a community for the former inhabitants of the Market Street Chinatown after arson destroyed it in 1887. Heinlen's actions directly countered anti-Chinese people, who believed in the "Yellow Peril."

The Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 denied naturalization and U.S. citizenship of the Chinese, legalizing discrimination against them and revealing our government's Sinophobia. The act was the first and only federal legislation to prohibit immigration for a specific race. In the midst of this blatant racism in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, many Chinese families were driven out of several West Coast cities, and Heinlenville became a home for them.

Besides the history behind the name "Heinlenville Park," the name "Sakura Park" intensifies stereotypical correlations between Japan and cherry blossoms. Japanese culture extends further than a pretty tree.

"Heinlenville Park" would serve as a tribute to the Chinatown, honor the humanitarian John Heinlen family and recognize the Asian American (Chinese, Japanese and Filipino) community's roots in history. I urge you to pick the name that commemorates Asian culture, not trivializes it.

Thank you,

Andrew Chang

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Naming Japantown's Newest Public Park

Andrew Hsieh <toohsieh@gmail.com>

Wed 8/12/2020 7:51 PM

To: Ross, Rebekah <rebekah.ross@sanjoseca.gov>; Mendez, Zacharias <Zacharias.Mendez@sanjoseca.gov>; Nguyen, Mindy <Mindy.Nguyen@sanjoseca.gov>

[External Email]

Dear Mayor Sam Liccardo, City Councilmembers, PRNS Staff, and Commissioners Daphna Woolfe, George Adas, Lawrence Ames, Trami Cron, Rudy Flores, Andre Morrow, and Kelly Snider:

We are responding with strong objection to the San Jose Parks and Recreation Commission's decision on March 4, 2020 to nominate "Sakura Park" as the name of Japantown's newest public park.

During the Mar. 4 meeting, the Commissioners overruled the recommendation by the city's Dept. of Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services (PRNS) that the park be named after John Heinlen or Heinlenville, choices that received the highest number of votes in four public, city-wide PRNS surveys. This usurps the consensus of the people. We believe Heinlenville/John Heinlen would have received even more votes if the greater community were aware of his contributions.

Please consider this decision carefully. The name should reflect the true history of the Heinlenville Chinatown, which is a significant part of San Jose Japantown history. It should reflect the important anti-racist role played by John Heinlen in opposing the anti-Chinese movement in San Jose.

Sincerely yours,

Andrew Hsieh

--



Andrew from [The Slant](#)

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Opposition to nomination of Sakura Park naming

Tony Santa Ana <santaanaanthony@fhda.edu>

Fri 7/24/2020 4:11 PM

To: Ross, Rebekah <rebekah.ross@sanjoseca.gov>; Mendez, Zacharias <Zacharias.Mendez@sanjoseca.gov>; Nguyen, Mindy <Mindy.Nguyen@sanjoseca.gov>

Cc: The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo <TheOfficeofMayorSamLiccardo@sanjoseca.gov>; District1 <district1@sanjoseca.gov>; District2 <District2@sanjoseca.gov>; District3 <district3@sanjoseca.gov>; District4 <District4@sanjoseca.gov>; District5 <District5@sanjoseca.gov>; District 6 <district6@sanjoseca.gov>; District7 <District7@sanjoseca.gov>; District8 <district8@sanjoseca.gov>; District9 <district9@sanjoseca.gov>; District 10 <District10@sanjoseca.gov>

[External Email]

Dear Mayor Sam Liccardo, City Councilmembers, PRNS Staff, and Commissioners Daphna Woolfe, George Adas, Lawrence Ames, Trami Cron, Rudy Flores, Andre Morrow, and Kelly Snider,

I am responding with **strong objection** to the San Jose Parks and Recreation Commission's decision on March 4, 2020 to **nominate "Sakura Park" as the name of Japantown's newest public park.**

During the Mar. 4 meeting, the Commissioners overruled the recommendation by the city's Dept. of Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services (PRNS) that the **park be named after John Heinlen or Heinlenville**, choices that received the highest number of votes in four public, city-wide PRNS surveys. This usurps the consensus of the people. I believe Heinlenville/John Heinlen would have received even more votes if the greater community were aware of his contributions.

As a Filipino American and a community advisor to the Hidden Histories of San Jose Japantown Project which documents the shared histories of Chinese, Japanese, and Filipino Americans in Japantown, I urge you to consider this decision carefully. The name should reflect the true history of the Heinlenville Chinatown, which is a significant part of San Jose's history and particularly that of its local Chinese, Japanese, and Filipino American communities.

It is critical to remember the role played by John Heinlen in opposing racism in the form of the anti-Chinese movement in San Jose, especially in this present moment when people of our city are clamoring against racism and for change. Names are important, history is important!

Sincerely yours,

Anthony Santa [Pronounce My Name](#)
[Hidden Histories San Jose Japantown Project](#) Advisor
Ethnic Studies Professor, De Anza College
Program Coordinator, **Office of Equity, Social Justice, and Multicultural Education**
[Ed.D Candidate at University of San Francisco](#)

21250 Stevens Creek Blvd., Cupertino, CA 95014

Office: 408-864-8887

Email: santaanaanthony@fhda.edu

Website: <http://www.deanza.edu/equityoffice/>

"If there is no struggle, there is no progress."

Fw: Naming Japantown's Newest Public Park

From: Ariel Rice <rice.ariel@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 12, 2020 9:56 PM
To: Ross, Rebekah <rebekah.ross@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: Naming Japantown's Newest Public Park

[External Email]

Dear Mayor Sam Liccardo, City Councilmembers, PRNS Staff, and Commissioners Daphna Woolfe, George Adas, Lawrence Ames, Trami Cron, Rudy Flores, Andre Morrow, and Kelly Snider: We are responding with strong objection to the San Jose Parks and Recreation Commission's decision on March 4, 2020 to nominate "Sakura Park" as the name of Japantown's newest public park. During the Mar. 4 meeting, the Commissioners overruled the recommendation by the city's Dept. of Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services (PRNS) that the park be named after John Heinlen or Heinlenville, choices that received the highest number of votes in four public, city-wide PRNS surveys. This usurps the consensus of the people. We believe Heinlenville/John Heinlen would have received even more votes if the greater community were aware of his contributions. Please honor the history of the area, don't help erase it. Please consider this decision carefully. The name should reflect the true history of the Heinlenville Chinatown, which is a significant part of San Jose Japantown history. It should reflect the important anti-racist role played by John Heinlen in opposing the anti-Chinese movement in San Jose. Sincerely yours, Ariel Rice
San Jose resident

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

nomination of "Heinlenville Park" for new public park in Japantown- Valuing History, Heritage and Community

Brenda Wong <bjhwong@yahoo.com>

Thu 8/13/2020 7:07 PM

Cc: Brenda Hee Wong <brenda.wong@chcp.org>

[External Email]

Hello San Jose City Council Member and Staff,

Thank you for the opportunity to share with you an action you can take to ensure that those whom you and I serve will know about San Jose's history and the people who, since San Jose's early days of incorporation, sacrificed, persevered, succeeded to empower themselves, their families and their community.

The naming of the new public park in District 3, Japantown, "Heinlenville Park" will be an opportunity to link heritage and history. The Asian American communities of Chinese, Japanese, and Filipino, have a long history in San Jose and are still to this day actively working to share its history and culture. You have been participants in this wonderful sharing as you have gone to their businesses, restaurants and festivals.

You can continue their stories of heritage and culture by naming the new public park in Japantown, "Heinlenville Park, a name of historic, humanitarian and cultural significance. You will feel proud at the park's dedication that you helped honor and recognize the Humanitarian John Heinlen and his family and the Asian American communities who did as the former Congressman John Lewis encouraged, "Never Give up, Never give in, Never give out, Keep the faith and keep your eyes on the prize." **More info about Heinlenville can be found on the CHCP website by [clicking here](#)** and when indoor museums can open again, I would be happy to meet you for a tour to learn even more.

With best regards,
Brenda Hee Wong

Brenda Hee Wong
Director and past President, 2013-2018
Chinese Historical & Cultural Project
408-946-4015

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Naming of Japantown's Newest Park

carole rast <bakamom@yahoo.com>

Fri 8/14/2020 2:37 PM

To: Ross, Rebekah <rebekah.ross@sanjoseca.gov>; Mendez, Zacharias <Zacharias.Mendez@sanjoseca.gov>; Nguyen, Mindy <Mindy.Nguyen@sanjoseca.gov>

Cc: The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo <TheOfficeofMayorSamLiccardo@sanjoseca.gov>; District1 <district1@sanjoseca.gov>; District2 <District2@sanjoseca.gov>; District3 <district3@sanjoseca.gov>; District4 <District4@sanjoseca.gov>; District5 <District5@sanjoseca.gov>; District 6 <district6@sanjoseca.gov>; District7 <District7@sanjoseca.gov>; District8 <district8@sanjoseca.gov>; District9 <district9@sanjoseca.gov>; District 10 <District10@sanjoseca.gov>

[External Email]

Dear Mayor Sam Liccardo, San Jose City Council, PRNS Staff, and Commissioners Daphna Woolfe, George Adas, Lawrence Ames, Rudy Flores, Andrew Morrow, Kelly Snider, and Trami Cron,

The San Jose Parks and Recreation Commission did not completely understand or properly consider Japantown's full history when selecting the name for our new park. The name they have selected, "Sakura Park", is for an ornamental cherry tree that Japan's gardens are known for, but are not indigenous to our valley. In fact, when Sakura trees were planted in our Japantown years ago, they failed so miserably that they left empty tree holes that we are still working to fill. Even our Japantown logo is not of a Sakura or lotus blossom, but depicts a plum blossom, a tree that our valley was once known for. Artist Pam Matsuoka selected the plum blossom to honor not only our valley's rich agricultural history, but to recognize those whose lives and hard work were sustained by it - including San Jose pioneers like my great-grandparents and grandparents.

With so many of San Jose's streets, schools, and statues named for men who used oppressive tactics and systematic racism to gain power and fame, the naming our park in honor of John Heinlen is simply the right thing to do, especially now. In 1887, after the Chinese were maliciously burned out of downtown, John Heinlen unselfishly offered his land to the Chinese. With high walls built to surround them, a safe community was established within for the Chinese to live, raise families, conduct businesses, worship freely, and celebrate their traditions. During the decades that followed, immigrants from the Philippines and Japan settled alongside the Chinese, and despite any cultural differences they may have had, they all became Americans together.

Even after John Heinlen's death, his family continued their support and relationships with the Chinese people, who affectionately called the block where our new park is to be placed, "Heinlenville". It was only after the Great Depression did the City of San Jose begin to claim, displace, and raze Heinlenville over unpaid taxes. A City truck maintenance yard was then unceremoniously built over land that was once home to generations of San Jose's Chinese.

In February 2019, the Japantown community held a Shinto purification blessing of the Heinlenville site right before construction was to begin. Together with members of the Chinese community and the developers themselves, we gave honor and thanks to the ancestors and all who once occupied the site,

wishing safety to all during its construction, and good wishes to the new development itself. As we now watch construction of the site, Heinlenville may be long gone, but it must not be forgotten or whitewashed away. The naming of the new park, the centerpiece of the project, needs to be properly recognized as “John Heinlen Park” or “Heinlenville Park”. It is not just a part of our neighborhood’s history, but of that of the entire city’s. One man, John Heinlen, who helped others, and whose legacy we appreciate today.

Respectfully yours,
Frank and Carole Rast
197 Jackson Street
San Jose, California 95112

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

name of newest park in SJ Japantown

Carolyn Kameya <carolynkameya@gmail.com>

Wed 8/5/2020 8:57 PM

To: The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo <TheOfficeofMayorSamLiccardo@sanjoseca.gov>; District 6 <district6@sanjoseca.gov>; District3 <district3@sanjoseca.gov>; District1 <district1@sanjoseca.gov>; District2 <District2@sanjoseca.gov>; District4 <District4@sanjoseca.gov>; District5 <District5@sanjoseca.gov>; District7 <District7@sanjoseca.gov>; District8 <district8@sanjoseca.gov>; District9 <district9@sanjoseca.gov>; District 10 <District10@sanjoseca.gov>; Ross, Rebekah <rebekah.ross@sanjoseca.gov>; Mendez, Zacharias <Zacharias.Mendez@sanjoseca.gov>; Nguyen, Mindy <Mindy.Nguyen@sanjoseca.gov>

[External Email]

City of San Jose
Mayor Sam Liccardo and City Council
Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Service (PRNS)
Parks & Recreation Commission
200 E. Santa Clara Street
San Jose, CA 95113

Re: Naming Japantown's Newest Public Park

Dear Mayor Sam Liccardo, City Councilmembers, PRNS Staff, and Commissioners Daphna Woolfe, George Adas, Lawrence Ames, Trami Cron, Rudy Flores, Andre Morrow, and Kelly Snider:

I am responding with strong objection to the San Jose Parks and Recreation Commission's decision on March 4, 2020 to nominate "Sakura Park" as the name of Japantown's newest public park.

During the Mar. 4 meeting, the Commissioners overruled the recommendation by the city's Dept. of Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services (PRNS) that the park be named after John Heinlen or Heinlenville, choices that received the highest number of votes in four public, city-wide PRNS surveys. This usurps the consensus of the people. We believe Heinlenville/John Heinlen would have received even more votes if the greater community were aware of his contributions.

I have been an active community member of San Jose's Japantown since the early 1980's when I began working on redress/reparations for the people who were forced into incarceration during WWII merely for being of Japanese ancestry. I think it is important for all of us to know & understand our histories so we have a better context for the present and can avoid mistakes of the past. I think that part of the Black Lives Matter movement is to get an accurate portrayal of history and better understand how we got to where we are today. For no one is an erasure of history appropriate, which is what 'Sakura' park would seem to do on these important historical grounds.

Please consider this decision carefully. The name should reflect the true history of the Heinlerville Chinatown, which is a significant part of San Jose Japantown history. It should reflect the important anti-racist role played by John Heinlen in opposing the anti-Chinese movement in San Jose.

Sincerely yours,

Carolyn Kameya
San Jose, CA 95126

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

To name the Japantown's new park "Heinlenville Park"

Catherine Wong <ccywwong@yahoo.com>

Thu 8/13/2020 1:01 PM

To: Mendez, Zacharias <Zacharias.Mendez@sanjoseca.gov>

[External Email]

>

>

>>

>> Dear Mr. Mendez, Parks Planner,

>>

>> Hope all is well with you. We are Harold and Catherine Wong who have lived here in San Jose for over 50 years. We are also members of Chinese Historical & Cultural Project (CHCP) where members continue to persevere, educate, and to positively impact the lives of the community. We are writing to have your ear about the last Chinatown of San Jose where our roots originated regarding the name of the Japantown's new park.

>>

>> We strongly urge you Mayor and the San Jose City Council together with the San Jose Park and Recreation Planner to name the park "Heinlenville Park" instead of "Sakura Park". The history of the former Heinlenville Chinatown was named after John Heinlenville who built a community for the former inhabitants after the Market Street Chinatown was destroyed by arson. Besides the history, the suggested name by Park and Recreation Department "Sakura Park" intensifies stereotypical correlations between Japan and cherry blossoms. Japan culture extends further than a pretty tree. The multi page recommendation letter was jointly signed by CHCP, Japantown Business Association, Japantown Community Congress and the Japantown Neighborhood Association for the nomination of the name "Heinlenville Park".

>>

>> The name would serve as a tribute to the Chinatown, honor the humanitarian John Heinlen family and recognize the Asian Americans (Chinese, Japanese, and Filipino) community's roots in history and culture, and not trivializes it for future generations. Thank you.

>>

>> Yours sincerely,

>>

>> Harold & Catherine Wong

>>

>>

>>

>> Sent from my iPad

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Naming Japantown's Newest Public Park

cknezevich4097 <cknezevich4097@gmail.com>

Fri 8/14/2020 8:35 AM

To: Ross, Rebekah <rebekah.ross@sanjoseca.gov>; Mendez, Zacharias <Zacharias.Mendez@sanjoseca.gov>; Nguyen, Mindy <Mindy.Nguyen@sanjoseca.gov>

[External Email]

Dear Mayor Sam Liccardo, City Councilmembers, PRNS Staff, and Commissioners Daphna Woolfe, George Adas, Lawrence Ames, Trami Cron, Rudy Flores, Andre Morrow, and Kelly Snider:

I am writing in support of 'Heinlenville Park' as the name for the new public park in San Jose's Japantown. Use of the name Heinlenville Park will recognize the history of the area. Furthermore, the park will be on the same land where the Heinlenville Chinatown was once located. Naming the new Japantown park, Heinlenville Park, would pay tribute to local history, the Heinlen family, and the Asian-American community.

Thank you for your consideration,

Chelsea Knezevich

Sent from my T-Mobile 4G LTE Device

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

(No subject)

Christian Jochim <christian.jochim@sjsu.edu>

Fri 7/17/2020 2:43 PM

To: Ross, Rebekah <rebekah.ross@sanjoseca.gov>; Mendez, Zacharias <Zacharias.Mendez@sanjoseca.gov>; Nguyen, Mindy <Mindy.Nguyen@sanjoseca.gov>

Cc: Brenda Hee Wong <brenda.wong@chcp.org>; Connie Yu <connieyoungyu@msn.com>

[External Email]

Dear Rebekah, Zacharias, and Mindy,

I am writing on behalf of the movement to use the name "Heinlein Park" for a new park in the Japantown area. I have served the Chinese Historical and Cultural Project for over 25 years, and I taught Asian Studies at SJSU for 35 years, retiring a few months ago. For my efforts to preserve and promote local Chinese American history and culture, a number of years ago I was awarded the Heinlein Award, given to non-Chinese whose efforts in this regard were considered outstanding. The first recipient of the reward was the Angel Island park ranger who saved the Angel Island barracks, including the priceless, poignant poems carved into the walls by Chinese detainees in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. Another recipient was Mike Honda, a long-term supporter of the Chinese Historical and Cultural Project, when he was State Assemblyman. In my view, having a Heinlein Park would send the same message as having a Heinlein Award. This is the message that people from various cultural and ethnic backgrounds need to stand together in opposition to bigotry and in favor of tolerance and mutual respect.

John Heinlein had experienced anti-German bigotry and, in part for this reason, was the only San Jose landowner in 1888 who would lease land to local Chinese so that they could rebuild their community. It had been destroyed by arson the previous year. Although, in some ways, it made life difficult for him and his descendants, he became so closely identified with the new Chinatown that it came to be called "Heinleinville." For the next 50 years, members of the Heinlein family continued to support local Chinese Americans, although this negatively affected their emotional and financial well being. Currently, members of multiple ethnic groups (Chinese American, Japanese American, and many others) have joined together in a movement to support the creation of "Heinlein Park."

Unfortunately, many streets and other public property in our area have been named for San Jose pioneers who did not share John Heinlein's spirit of tolerance and courage to support groups facing persecution. Isn't it time to honor a man and a family that dared to go against dominant trends, and who were ahead of their time in taking action against persecution and bigotry.

Chris Jochim

Secretary, Chinese Historical and Culture Project
Recipient of the Heinlein Award (for outstanding contribution to Chinese American cultural-historical preservation by a non-Chinese)
Past-President, SJSU Emeritus and Retired Faculty Association
Professor Emeritus, Humanities Department
San Jose State University
San Jose, CA 95192-0092

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Re: Heinlenville Park

Deborah Anderson <maraha@aol.com>

Thu 8/13/2020 1:32 PM

To: rebekah.ross@sanjoseca.gov <rebekah.ross@sanjoseca.gov> <rebekah.ross@sanjoseca.gov <rebekah.ross@sanjoseca.gov>; zacharias.mendez@sanjoseca.gov <zacharias.mendez@sanjoseca.gov> <zacharias.mendez@sanjoseca.gov <zacharias.mendez@sanjoseca.gov>; Nguyen@aol.com <Nguyen@aol.com>; Mindy <mindy.nguyen@sanjoseca.gov> <Mindy <mindy.nguyen@sanjoseca.gov>

[External Email]

I am writing regarding the naming of a park that was suggested by the SJ Parks and Recreation Commission. Sakura Park is not an appropriate name for this park and the residents of Japantown have requested it be named for Mr. Heinlen. Sakura means cherry blossom, which is fine, but the true story of Heinlenville is more important to be remembered. I taught this history to my fourth grade students in the San Jose public schools. They needed to know the history of California and the persecution of different people by those in power. Surely you should understand the devastation these people suffered at the hands of racists.

Mr. Heinlen rented land to the Chinese who were burned out of their homes in downtown San Jose in 1887 in one of the most flagrant examples of anti-immigrant persecution in the state. Heinlen should be honored for his courage.

In the words of the Chinese Historical and Cultural Project: Heinlenville, one of six Chinatowns in San Jose, was built in 1887. When an earlier Chinese settlement at the present site of the San Jose Fairmont Hotel was destroyed by a suspicious fire

in the 1887, John Heinlen, a local businessman, **braved death threats to lease property to the displaced Chinese**. This area near today's Japantown at Taylor and Sixth became known as Heinlenville.

Heinlenville was a center of Chinese-American business and cultural life through the early part of the 20th century. Despite their poverty, the people of Heinlenville donated their earnings from menial jobs to build their much revered [Ng Shing Gung](#), a community center and house of worship.

Please stop erasing history and honor a brave man who helped a group of people persecuted in the 19th century.

Sincerely,

Pete and Debbie Anderson
265 North 13th Street
San Jose, CA 95112

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Naming Japantown Park

wenel@comcast.net <wenel@comcast.net>

Fri 8/14/2020 9:39 AM

To: The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo <TheOfficeofMayorSamLiccardo@sanjoseca.gov>; Ross, Rebekah <rebekah.ross@sanjoseca.gov>; Nguyen, Mindy <Mindy.Nguyen@sanjoseca.gov>; Mendez, Zacharias <Zacharias.Mendez@sanjoseca.gov>; District1 <district1@sanjoseca.gov>; District2 <District2@sanjoseca.gov>; District3 <district3@sanjoseca.gov>; District4 <District4@sanjoseca.gov>; District5 <District5@sanjoseca.gov>; District 6 <district6@sanjoseca.gov>; District7 <District7@sanjoseca.gov>; District8 <district8@sanjoseca.gov>; District9 <district9@sanjoseca.gov>; District 10 <District10@sanjoseca.gov>

[External Email]

Hello,

I support naming the new public park in San Jose Japantown "Heinlerville Park". This name reflects the diverse history of San Jose. The name recognizes the contributions of a German immigrant and his family to an oppressed immigrant group (Chinese). Their generosity over the years offered opportunity and added a precious glimpse of the spirit of cooperation, support and caring which is what the City of San Jose strives to be - a thriving, vibrant, inclusive diverse community.

Unfortunately, if the park were named "Sakura Park", it would offer a very thin slice of Asian Culture which is not representative of the depth of culture of Asian communities in San Jose. The name "Sakura Park" disappears the rich diverse history of the City of San Jose.

Therefore, I urge you to name the new park "Heinlerville Park".

Respectfully,
Eleanor Sue

Sent from my iPhone

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Naming of Japantown's Newest Public Park

Emily Yue <busyem@me.com>

Fri 7/10/2020 9:38 PM

To: Ross, Rebekah <rebekah.ross@sanjoseca.gov>; Nguyen, Mindy <Mindy.Nguyen@sanjoseca.gov>; Mendez, Zacharias <Zacharias.Mendez@sanjoseca.gov>

Cc: connie Yu <connieyoungyu@msn.com>; Tamiko Rast <tamiko@rasteroids.com>; anita Kwock <awk418@gmail.com>

[External Email]

Dear Mayor Sam Liccardo and City Council members,

It came to my attention today that the San Jose Parks and Recreation Commission plans to nominate the name “Sakura Park” to Japantown’s newest public park. I object to this name and strongly recommend the name of *Heinlen* in recognition of John Heinlen and his children who leased their land to the Chinese and ultimately made Japantown possible.

Amid huge protests from the white community, John Heinlen helped the Chinese people settle on his property after they were burned out of the Market Street Chinatown May 4, 1887. Their homes and businesses could not be saved because the water tank was suspiciously empty. The fire was meant to drive the Chinese out of San Jose. Ironically, the only evidence that this large Chinatown ever existed is a small plaque on the wall of the Fairmont Hotel!

The new public park will be located at the site of San Jose's corporation yard which was Heinlenville Chinatown. It is only right to recognize John Heinlen and his family for their courage during the time of the Chinese Exclusion Law and when the City was demanding the “Chinese Must Go” and to the memory of the steadfast people who would not be driven out.

We do not need to be reminded that such racism is rearing its ugly head again!

Naming the new public park after the HEINLEN family will be a rare opportunity to educate future generations to a hidden chapter of American history. The hope is that it will bring awareness to and promote the understanding of racial equality for all. Education is the necessary key to overcome racial bigotry and social injustice. Sakura Park may evoke images of cherry blossoms and nothing else.
WE MUST NEVER WHITEWASH HISTORY!

Respectfully,
Emily Chin Yue

CHINESE HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL PROJECT, Founding Board Member
CHINESE AMERICAN WOMENS CLUB OF SANTA CLARA VALLEY, Past President
MONOPOLY IN THE PARK, Board member
SAN JOSE BEAUTIFUL, Board member
FRIENDS OF SAN JOSE, Board member
SJC AIRPORT/TEAM SAN JOSE volunteer

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Name for Japantown's New Park

Emmalynn W <galaxyemma41@gmail.com>

Thu 8/13/2020 11:45 PM

To: Ross, Rebekah <rebekah.ross@sanjoseca.gov>; Mendez, Zacharias <Zacharias.Mendez@sanjoseca.gov>; Nguyen, Mindy <Mindy.Nguyen@sanjoseca.gov>

[External Email]

Dear Mayor Sam Liccardo and City Councilmembers,

I strongly recommend that you name Japantown's new park "Heinlenville Park". I object to the name "Sakura Park" for the new park at Taylor Street and Sixth Street. This is the same land where the former Heinlenville Chinatown stood from 1887 to 1931.

After San Jose's Market Street Chinatown was burned down by arson in 1887, John Heinlen, an immigrant himself, recognized the plight of the Chinese-Americans and leased this plot of land to them. He empowered the Chinese-Americans to build a safe community to live in. He and his family stood up for the Chinese people, and disregarded the harsh racist criticisms and the anti-Chinese sentiment. The Chinese-Americans named the Chinatown "Heinlenville" to show their appreciation and respect for John Heinlen.

When the Japanese immigrants began to arrive in the 1890s, they sought shelter in the protective community of Heinlenville Chinatown. John Heinlen leased nearby land to the Japanese, and thus helped establish Japantown. Japantown could not have existed without the Heinlenville Chinatown.

The name "Sakura Park" does not evoke this dynamic local history. Instead, it stereotypically assigns the Japanese community to a mere "cherry blossom". Our diverse history and culture cannot be summed up with a pretty flower, and we must recognize the hardships that the Asian-American community faced during the era of the Chinese Exclusion Act.

"Heinlenville Park" would bring more awareness to San Jose's local history. It honors the Heinlen family and the Asian-American community. I urge you to choose the name "Heinlenville Park", as it embraces how San Jose came to be the diverse city it is today.

Sincerely,

Emmalynn Walker

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Naming Heinlenvilles for the new park

Frances Ng <smilefran8@gmail.com>

Thu 8/6/2020 1:38 PM

To: Ross, Rebekah <rebekah.ross@sanjoseca.gov>; Mendez, Zacharias <Zacharias.Mendez@sanjoseca.gov>; Nguyen, Mindy <Mindy.Nguyen@sanjoseca.gov>

Cc: Pinki Fung <pinki.fung@chcp.org>; Frances Ng <smilefran8@gmail.com>

[External Email]

Dear Rebekah, Zacharias, and Mindy,

I would like to recommend the new park at San Jose Japantown as " Heinlenvilles park ". This is to show our appreciation of John Heinlen and his family for the support of Chinese people during the period of a very challenging hard time. In the past history, five Chinatowns had been burned down one by one. Chinese people were not welcomed in the area, even though they contributed greatly to the construction of the railroad and other businesses of the society. They worked hard and took in less pay but continued with the difficult labor in order to stay here. To name the new park as " Heinlenvilles park " makes the connection with the past history even though it is tragic but should not be forgotten.

" Sakura park " does not make that connection with the past history. Japantown already signifies the residents who live in that area. Naming the park " Sakura park " does not add to any more benefit for the history. Just as if we were naming it " Rose park " or " Golden Poppy flower park ".

As a Chinese American, I wish to thank John Heinlen and his family for their kindness and help for the Chinese in the area. Without their help, Chinese people would have a much tougher time then. We love the USA and chose to stay here and want to contribute what we can for the country. The best of our college students came here from Taiwan to build our dream. Some of them have high achievement in their special fields thanks to the free and prosperous environment in the USA. We are very grateful for the opportunities we got here.

Please consider naming the new park " Heinlinvilles park ". We thank you very much.

Frances

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

(No subject)

Fred Teng <fred.teng@hotmail.com>

Thu 8/13/2020 6:31 PM

To: Mendez, Zacharias <Zacharias.Mendez@sanjoseca.gov>

[External Email]

I strongly urge you to name Japantown's new park "Heinlerville Park" instead of "Sakura Park." "Heinlerville Park" would serve as a tribute to the Heinlerville Chinatown that used to exist there and honor the Asian American (Chinese, Japanese and Filipino) community's roots in local history.

Thank you

Fred Teng

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Japantown's New Park

gabrielle haryanto <gabrielle.haryanto@gmail.com>

Thu 8/13/2020 11:25 AM

To: Ross, Rebekah <rebekah.ross@sanjoseca.gov>; Mendez, Zacharias <Zacharias.Mendez@sanjoseca.gov>; Nguyen, Mindy <Mindy.Nguyen@sanjoseca.gov>

[External Email]

Dear Mayor Sam Liccardo, and City Councilmembers Charles Jones, Sergio Jimenez, Raul Peralez, Lan Diep, Magdalena Carrasco, Devora Davis, Maya Esparza, Sylvia Arenas, Pam Foley, and Johnny Khamis,

I am writing to express my support for San Jose Japantown's new public park between Taylor and Sixth Streets to be named "Heinlerville Park".

This new park will be on the exact same land that the Heinlerville Chinatown once stood. The establishment of San Jose's Japantown would not have been possible without the Heinlerville Chinatown, where Japanese immigrants sought a protective community. Japantown was formed adjacent to the Heinlerville Chinatown. I believe that naming the park, "Heinlerville Park", would best honor San Jose's local history and the local Asian-American community.

I hope to see Japantown's new public park be named "Heinlerville Park".

Sincerely,
Gabrielle Haryanto

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Renaming of Japantown's new park - "Voting - Heinlenville Park"

Gail Chong <gailchong1970@gmail.com>

Fri 8/14/2020 3:51 PM

[External Email]

Hello:

I strongly urge you to name Japantown's new park "Heinlenville Park" instead of "Sakura Park." The park is located where the former Heinlenville Chinatown existed from 1887 to 1931. San Joséans named this Chinatown after John Heinlen, a businessman who built a community for the former inhabitants of the Market Street Chinatown after arson destroyed it in 1887. Heinlen's actions directly countered anti-Chinese people, who believed in the "Yellow Peril." The Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 denied naturalization and U.S. citizenship of the Chinese, legalizing discrimination against them and revealing our government's Sinophobia. The act was the first and only federal legislation to prohibit immigration for a specific race. In the midst of this blatant racism in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, many Chinese families were driven out of several West Coast cities, and Heinlenville became a home for them. Besides the history behind the name "Heinlenville Park," the name "Sakura Park" intensifies stereotypical correlations between Japan and cherry blossoms. Japanese culture extends further than a pretty tree. "Heinlenville Park" would serve as a tribute to the Chinatown, honor the humanitarian John Heinlen family and recognize the Asian American (Chinese, Japanese and Filipino) community's roots in history. I urge you to pick the name that commemorates Asian culture, not trivializes it.

Gail Chong

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Naming SJ's Japantown's new park

George Chin <abe.asia@gmail.com>

Thu 8/13/2020 3:46 PM

To: Mendez, Zacharias <Zacharias.Mendez@sanjoseca.gov>

Cc: George Chin <abe.asia@gmail.com>

[External Email]

Hello,

I strongly urge you to name Japantown's new park "Heinlenville Park" instead of "Sakura Park." The park is located where the former Heinlenville Chinatown existed from 1887 to 1931.

San Joséans named this Chinatown after John Heinlen, a businessman who built a community for the former inhabitants of the Market Street Chinatown after arson destroyed it in 1887.

At a time when many Chinese families were driven out of several West Coast cities, Heinlen's actions provided a home for many Chinese Americans and directly countered anti-Chinese people, who believed in the "Yellow Peril."

"Heinlenville Park" would serve as a tribute to the Chinatown, the honorable Heinlen family and recognize the Asian American (Chinese, Japanese and Filipino) community's roots in history.

Thank you,
George Chin

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Name for the new Japantown park

Gregory Kimm <gregorycharleskimm@gmail.com>

Mon 8/17/2020 10:42 PM

To: Mendez, Zacharias <Zacharias.Mendez@sanjoseca.gov>

[External Email]

Dear Mr. Mendez:

I urge you to name the new Japantown park "Heinlerville Park." To do otherwise would be to waste an opportunity to honor the important history of the Chinese, Japanese, and Filipino communities in San Jose.

Thank you.

Rev. Gregory Kimm, Pastor
St. Joseph of Cupertino Church
Cupertino

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Valuing History, Heritage and Community: Advocate for Naming New Park "Heinlerville Park"

rsaturday@aol.com <rsaturday@aol.com>

Thu 8/13/2020 3:45 AM

To: Mendez, Zacharias <Zacharias.Mendez@sanjoseca.gov>

[External Email]

Hello Mr. Mendez,

I strongly urge you to name Japantown's new park "Heinlerville Park" instead of "Sakura Park." The park is located where the former Heinlerville Chinatown existed from 1887 to 1931. San Joséans named this Chinatown after John Heinlen, a businessman who built a community for the former inhabitants of the Market Street Chinatown after arson destroyed it in 1887. Heinlen's actions directly countered anti-Chinese people, who believed in the "Yellow Peril." The Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 denied naturalization and U.S. citizenship of the Chinese, legalizing discrimination against them and revealing our government's Sinophobia. The act was the first and only federal legislation to prohibit immigration for a specific race. In the midst of this blatant racism in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, many Chinese families were driven out of several West Coast cities, and Heinlerville became a home for them. Besides the history behind the name "Heinlerville Park," the name "Sakura Park" intensifies stereotypical correlations between Japan and cherry blossoms. Japanese culture extends further than a pretty tree. "Heinlerville Park" would serve as a tribute to the Chinatown, honor the humanitarian John Heinlen family and recognize the Asian American (Chinese, Japanese and Filipino) community's roots in history. I urge you to pick the name that commemorates Asian culture, not trivializes it.

With Gratitude,

Gerry Low-Sabado

- Chinese Historical and Cultural Project Advisory Board Member
- 5th Generation Chinese Fishing Village Descendant
- Community Preservationist
- <https://search.yahoo.com/search?fr=mcafee&type=E211US739G0&p=Gerry+Low-Sabado>
- Chinese History Project
<https://sites.google.com/view/wtmolhchinesehistoryproject/home>
- Chinese Bunkhouse Preservation Project
<https://sites.google.com/view/chinese-bunkhouse-preservation/home>
<https://www.facebook.com/Chinese.Bunkhouse.Project/>
- Cultural Advisor to the Monterey Bay Aquarium Multi-Media Summer Deck Program: "Turning the Tide: The Story of Monterey Bay"
- Recipient of the American Civil Liberties Union - Northern California, Monterey County Chapter 2016 "Ralph B. Atkinson Award for Civil Liberties"
- (510) 378-0999 cell

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Urge park to be named Heinlenville Park"

gerryewong@comcast.net <gerryewong@comcast.net>

Tue 8/11/2020 4:11 PM

To: Mendez, Zacharias <Zacharias.Mendez@sanjoseca.gov>

[External Email]

August 11, 2020

Dear San Jose Leader:

My name is Gerry Wong, and I was one of the co founders of the CHINESE HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL PROJECT (CHCP) which gifted to the City of San Jose the Museum of Chinese American History that is in History San Jose park from its opening in 1991 to the present.

The CHCP goal has been to preserve and present Chinese American history of Santa Clara valley to its citizens and for the past 30 years since the museum was erected and the group established, it has been doing just that.

So as the co founder and present trustee of **the CHINESE HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL PROJECT I STRONGLY URGE YOU TO NAME JAPANTOWN'S NEW PARK "HEINLENVILLE PARK" instead of Sakura Park.**

History books will attest that it was John Heinlen who saved the Chinese community in the turn of the century when its other Chinatowns had been burned down, and he offered his property to rebuild a new chinatown to the Chinatown survivors of that era. That Chinatown is where the park is to be located so it seems fitting that it be named in honor of Mr. Heinlen and his faith in helping the Chinese citizens rebuild their homes and a new community.

"Heinlenville Park" would serve as a tribute to the Chinatown and honor the humanitarian John Heinlen family and recognize the Asian American community's roots in history. Thank you for your wise decision in choosing the appropriate name.

Showing you my support,

Gerry Wong
Columnist – Dingdingtv.com
408 507 1042
1368 Bluebird Ct., Sunnyvale, CA
gerryewong@comcast.net

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Nominate Heinlenville Park

Ghary Won <geeharry88@gmail.com>

Fri 8/14/2020 1:00 PM

To: Ross, Rebekah <rebekah.ross@sanjoseca.gov>; Mendez, Zacharias <Zacharias.Mendez@sanjoseca.gov>; Nguyen, Mindy <Mindy.Nguyen@sanjoseca.gov>

[External Email]

I nominate Heinlenville Park as the name

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

FW: Plea!!!

tungtung238 <tungtung238@gmail.com>

Tue 7/28/2020 4:32 PM

To: Mendez, Zacharias <Zacharias.Mendez@sanjoseca.gov>; Nguyen, Mindy <Mindy.Nguyen@sanjoseca.gov>

[External Email]

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S7 edge, an AT&T 4G LTE smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: tungtung238 <tungtung238@gmail.com>

Date: 7/28/20 4:27 PM (GMT-08:00)

To: rebekah.ross@sanjoseCA.gov, zacharias.mendez@sanjoseCA.org, mindy.nguyen@sanjoseCA.org

Subject: Plea!!!

I am a long time resident of Santa Clara county.

I am writing this letter to request the use of the name "Heinlenville park" for the new public park in San Jose Japantown.

When we apply this name to the park, it recognizes the history of the area, and pays tribute to the Heinlen family, and the Asian American community.

It is very important to preserve the local history and also install a plaque with different languages informing people of the history of the area.

We can also have a contest and ask residents to translate the park into different languages.

We are now in a difficult time combating with the COVID -19 pandemic. We need to have some good news.

Please kindly approve the use of Heinlenville Park.

Sincerely
Ingrid Shu

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S7 edge, an AT&T 4G LTE smartphone

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Objection to Proposed Naming of Japantown's New Public Park

Jane Kawasaki <jjkawasaki@yahoo.com>

Wed 7/22/2020 8:53 PM

To: Ross, Rebekah <rebekah.ross@sanjoseca.gov>; Mendez, Zacharias <Zacharias.Mendez@sanjoseca.gov>; Nguyen, Mindy <Mindy.Nguyen@sanjoseca.gov>; The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo <TheOfficeofMayorSamLiccardo@sanjoseca.gov>; District1 <district1@sanjoseca.gov>; District2 <District2@sanjoseca.gov>; District3 <district3@sanjoseca.gov>; District4 <District4@sanjoseca.gov>; District5 <District5@sanjoseca.gov>; District 6 <district6@sanjoseca.gov>; District7 <District7@sanjoseca.gov>; District8 <district8@sanjoseca.gov>; District9 <district9@sanjoseca.gov>; District 10 <District10@sanjoseca.gov>

[External Email]

City of San Jose
Mayor Sam Liccardo and City Council
Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Service (PRNS)
Parks & Recreation Commission
200 E. Santa Clara Street
San Jose, CA 95113

Re: Naming Japantown's Newest Public Park

Dear Mayor Sam Liccardo, City Councilmembers, PRNS Staff, and Commissioners Daphna Woolfe, George Adas, Lawrence Ames, Trami Cron, Rudy Flores, Andre Morrow, and Kelly Snider:

I am responding with strong objection to the San Jose Parks and Recreation Commission's decision on March 4, 2020 to nominate "Sakura Park" as the name of Japantown's newest public park.

During the Mar. 4 meeting, the Commissioners overruled the recommendation by the city's Dept. of Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services (PRNS) that the park be named after John Heinlen or Heinlenville, choices that received the highest number of votes in four public, city-wide PRNS surveys. This usurps the consensus of the people. We believe Heinlenville/John Heinlen would have received even more votes if the greater community were aware of his contributions.

As a long-time volunteer and board member of the Yu-Ai Kai Senior Center in Japantown, I have heard from long-time residents about John Heinlen's courageous anti-racist actions that enabled the Chinese-American community, and as a result other Asian-American (Japanese-American and Filipino-American) communities to survive and thrive in San Jose. This represents to me the best of humanity, and deserves recognition as a significant part of San Jose Japantown's history.

Sincerely yours,

Jane Kawasaki

We want Heinlenville Park!

Jeannie Young <toy4jy@yahoo.com>

Fri 8/14/2020 3:12 PM

To: Mendez, Zacharias <Zacharias.Mendez@sanjoseca.gov>

[External Email]

Hello Zacharias

I strongly urge you to name Japantown's new park "Heinlenville Park" instead of "Sakura Park."

The park is located where the former Heinlenville Chinatown existed from 1887 to 1931. San Joséans named this Chinatown after John Heinlen, a businessman who built a community for the former inhabitants of the Market Street Chinatown after arson destroyed it in 1887.

At a time when many Chinese families were driven out of several West Coast cities, Heinlen's actions provided a home for many Chinese Americans and directly countered anti-Chinese people, who believed in the "Yellow Peril."

"Heinlenville Park" would serve as a tribute to the Chinatown, the honorable Heinlen family and recognize the Asian American (Chinese, Japanese and Filipino) community's roots in history.

Thank you,

Jeannie Young

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Heinlenville Park / Sakura Park

Jeff Wallace <itacudman@earthlink.net>

Fri 8/14/2020 2:04 AM

To: The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo <TheOfficeofMayorSamLiccardo@sanjoseca.gov>; District1 <district1@sanjoseca.gov>; District2 <District2@sanjoseca.gov>; District4 <District4@sanjoseca.gov>; District5 <District5@sanjoseca.gov>; District 6 <district6@sanjoseca.gov>; District7 <District7@sanjoseca.gov>; District8 <district8@sanjoseca.gov>; District9 <district9@sanjoseca.gov>; District 10 <District10@sanjoseca.gov>

Cc: Ross, Rebekah <rebekah.ross@sanjoseca.gov>; Nguyen, Mindy <Mindy.Nguyen@sanjoseca.gov>; Mendez, Zacharias <Zacharias.Mendez@sanjoseca.gov>; pinki.fung@chcp.org <pinki.fung@chcp.org>; brenda.wong@chcp.org <brenda.wong@chcp.org>

[External Email]

Greetings,

I am reaching out, in sincere request, that you strongly support naming Japantown's new park "Heinlenville Park" instead of "Sakura Park."

The park is located where the former Heinlenville Chinatown existed from 1887 to 1931. San Joséans named this Chinatown after John Heinlen, a businessman who built a community for the former inhabitants of the Market Street Chinatown after arson destroyed it in 1887.

At a time when many Chinese families were driven out of several West Coast cities, Heinlen's actions provided a home for many Chinese Americans and directly countered anti-Chinese people, who believed in the "Yellow Peril."

"Heinlenville Park" would serve as a tribute to the Chinatown, the honorable Heinlen family and recognize the Asian American (Chinese, Japanese and Filipino) community's roots in history.

Thank you for your respected and valued consideration,

Jeff Wallace

itacudman@earthlink.net

415-652-7552

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Naming for new park in San Jose Japantown

Jesse Wong <sjccwong@yahoo.com>

Tue 8/18/2020 1:27 PM

To: District3 <district3@sanjoseca.gov>; District1 <district1@sanjoseca.gov>; District2 <District2@sanjoseca.gov>; District4 <District4@sanjoseca.gov>; District5 <District5@sanjoseca.gov>; District 6 <district6@sanjoseca.gov>; District7 <District7@sanjoseca.gov>; District8 <district8@sanjoseca.gov>; District9 <district9@sanjoseca.gov>; District 10 <District10@sanjoseca.gov>; The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo <TheOfficeofMayorSamLiccardo@sanjoseca.gov>; Mendez, Zacharias <Zacharias.Mendez@sanjoseca.gov>; Ross, Rebekah <rebekah.ross@sanjoseca.gov>; brenda.wong@chcp.org <brenda.wong@chcp.org>

[External Email]

Dear Mayor Sam Liccardo, and City Councilmembers Charles Jones, Sergio Jimenez, Raul Peralez, Lan Diep, Magdalena Carrasco, Devora Davis, Maya Esparza: Sylvia Arenas, Pam Foley, and Johnny Khamis,

I am writing to express my support for "Heinlerville Park" to be the name for San Jose Japantown's new public park between Taylor and Sixth Streets.

This new park will be on the exact same land that the Heinlerville Chinatown once stood. The establishment of San Jose's Japantown would not have been possible without the Heinlerville Chinatown, where Japanese immigrants sought a protective community. Japantown was formed adjacent to the Heinlerville Chinatown. I believe that "Heinlerville Park" would best honor San Jose's local history and the local Asian-American community.

I hope to see Japantown's new public park be named "Heinlerville Park".

Sincerely,

Ben Ng and family

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Naming the San Jose new public park in Japantown

jim chiao <jim_chiao@yahoo.com>

Mon 8/3/2020 9:45 PM

To: Ross, Rebekah <rebekah.ross@sanjoseca.gov>; Mendez, Zacharias <Zacharias.Mendez@sanjoseca.gov>; Nguyen, Mindy <Mindy.Nguyen@sanjoseca.gov>

[External Email]

Dear Sir, Madame:

I recognition of history of the Heilenville Chinatown, I support the campaign to use "Heinlenville Park" as the name for the new public park in San Jose's Japantown.

James

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Heinlerville Park

Joseph Yoshino Jr <yoshlau@comcast.net>

Fri 8/14/2020 1:00 PM

To: Ross, Rebekah <rebekah.ross@sanjoseca.gov>; Mendez, Zacharias <Zacharias.Mendez@sanjoseca.gov>; Nguyen, Mindy <Mindy.Nguyen@sanjoseca.gov>

[External Email]

Hello,

I strongly urge you to name Japantown's new park "Heinlerville Park" instead of "Sakura Park." The park is located where the former Heinlerville Chinatown existed from 1887 to 1931. San Joséans named this Chinatown after John Heinlen, a businessman who built a community for the former inhabitants of the Market Street Chinatown after arson destroyed it in 1887.

At a time when many Chinese families were driven out of several West Coast cities, Heinlen's actions provided a home for many Chinese Americans and directly countered anti-Chinese people, who believed in the "Yellow Peril."

The name "Heinlerville Park" would serve as a tribute to the Chinatown, the honorable Heinlen family and recognize the Asian American (Chinese, Japanese and Filipino) community's roots in history in our area.

Especially now, during this time of tremendous change in our country to step up to tell our stories and recognize our collective histories.

Thank you,
Joe Yoshino

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

"Heinlenville Park" as Japantown's Newest Public Park name

Joshua Zhang <joshuazhang73@gmail.com>

Fri 8/14/2020 1:04 AM

To: 3@sanjoseca.gov <3@sanjoseca.gov>; District1 <district1@sanjoseca.gov>; District2 <District2@sanjoseca.gov>; District4 <District4@sanjoseca.gov>; District5 <District5@sanjoseca.gov>; District 6 <district6@sanjoseca.gov>; District7 <District7@sanjoseca.gov>; District8 <district8@sanjoseca.gov>; District9 <district9@sanjoseca.gov>; District 10 <District10@sanjoseca.gov>; The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo <TheOfficeofMayorSamLiccardo@sanjoseca.gov>; Mendez, Zacharias <Zacharias.Mendez@sanjoseca.gov>; Ross, Rebekah <rebekah.ross@sanjoseca.gov>; Nguyen, Mindy <Mindy.Nguyen@sanjoseca.gov>
Cc: Brenda Wong <brenda.wong@chcp.org>; Brenda Wong <bjhwong@yahoo.com>

[External Email]

Dear San Jose City Council,

As a Chinese American student who grew up in the Santa Clara Valley, I add my voice to advocate for the local Asian American community in support of "Heinlenville" as Japantown's new park instead of "Sakura Park".

Chinese Americans faced racism and discrimination since the 1850s when they immigrated to the U.S. in search of a better life. They worked in small businesses, farms, gold mines, and to build our nation's Transcontinental Railroad. Chinese immigrants faced hard working conditions, received lower pay, and worked long hours. The Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 denied Chinese immigrants naturalization and U.S. citizenship. In San Jose, many Chinese found work in small businesses and on farms. For many decades, the Chinese people did not have a safe and welcoming place to call home.

It was this park's location that provided a haven for the Chinese community when they were driven out of many West Coast cities. The park's location was once the site of the former Heinlenville Chinatown, which existed from 1887 to 1931. San Joséans named this Chinatown after John Heinlen, a businessman who built a community for the former inhabitants of the Market Street Chinatown after arson destroyed it in 1887.

John Heinlen demonstrated bravery, courage, and leadership through his actions. He created a home for the Chinese people even though people were against it. He set an example for his family and the people of San Jose by taking the initiative to help the Chinese community when others were not willing to. His family followed his footsteps to continue to take care of the Chinese. Heinlen's actions were faced with opposition from the anti-Chinese community, who believed in the "Yellow Peril".

Many people are unfamiliar with who John Heinlen is and his legacy that he has left on for the Asian American community. As a resident of Santa Clara County, I have not heard of the San Jose Chinatowns nor about John Heinlen.

Today, there are no physical remains of the San Jose Chinatowns. As a result, the history of Chinese Americans in San Jose has been lost and unknown to many people. Even though I grew up living in San Jose, I did not know about the six San Jose Chinatowns, the Ng Shing Gung temple, or the Chinese American community. Many of my peers, friends, neighbors, and family members have not heard about the history of the Chinese people in San Jose.

Currently, other than the Chinese American Historical Museum (CAHM) in History Park San Jose, a replica of the Ng Shing Gung temple, and a sign on the Fairmont Hotel in Market Street, there are little to no remains of the early San Jose Chinese community. Without any physical buildings or public place naming reference to an important person, this part of history will be unknown. If it were not for me to visit and volunteer at the Chinese American Historical Museum (CAHM), I would not have known about this part in history. To have a park named after John Heinlen at the historical site of the Heinlenville Chinatown would provide visitors the story of Heinlen's work and the history of the Chinese people.

It is important to preserve the history of the Chinese and the Asian American people of San Jose for future generations. If we do not save this part of history, then it will be lost to future generations, who will not know about John Heinlen's contributions and the Chinese American people. It is the Chinese American's struggles and hard work that make the Santa Clara Valley a flourishing community what it is today. The untold stories of the Chinese immigrants' hardships and hard work are important to help us understand the past and how we, as a society, can move on from the past to embrace the cultural diversity of San Jose for today and the future. The legacy and history of the early Chinese communities in San Jose should be preserved for the current and future generations.

Besides the history behind the name "Heinlenville Park", the name "Sakura Park" represents a stereotype that the Japanese culture involves only cherry blossoms. Many of the early Japanese Americans in San Jose worked to produce a variety of fruits, such as apricots, strawberries, and peaches. Cherry blossoms do not fully illustrate the Japanese culture and history. There is more to the Japanese culture than a pretty tree.

"Heinlenville Park" would serve as a tribute to the Heinlenville Chinatown, honor the humanitarian efforts of John Heinlen and his family, and recognize the historical roots of San Jose's Asian American (Chinese, Japanese, and Filipino) community.

I hope you will consider picking the name of the park that commemorates the Asian culture.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Thank you,
Joshua Zhang

[Joshua Zhang - "Heinlenville Park" Name Letter](#)

Naming of Japantown's Newest Public Park

Judy Higuchi <judy-higuchi@earthlink.net>

Fri 8/7/2020 5:17 PM

To: The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo <TheOfficeofMayorSamLiccardo@sanjoseca.gov>; District1 <district1@sanjoseca.gov>; District2 <District2@sanjoseca.gov>; District3 <district3@sanjoseca.gov>; District4 <District4@sanjoseca.gov>; District5 <District5@sanjoseca.gov>; District 6 <district6@sanjoseca.gov>; District7 <District7@sanjoseca.gov>; District8 <district8@sanjoseca.gov>; District9 <district9@sanjoseca.gov>; District 10 <District10@sanjoseca.gov>; Ross, Rebekah <rebekah.ross@sanjoseca.gov>; Mendez, Zacharias <Zacharias.Mendez@sanjoseca.gov>; Nguyen, Mindy <Mindy.Nguyen@sanjoseca.gov>

[External Email]

2605 Heritage Park Circle
San Jose, CA 95132
August 7, 2020

City of San Jose
Mayor Sam Liccardo and City Council
200 E. Santa Clara Street
San Jose, CA 95113

Re: Naming of Japantown's Newest Public Park

Dear Mayor Liccardo, Vice Mayor Charles "Chappie" Jones, Councilmember Sergio Jimenez, Councilmember Raul Peralez, Councilmember Lan Diep, Councilmember Magdalena Carrasco, Councilmember Dev Davis, Councilmember Maya Esparza, Councilmember Sylvia Arenas, Councilmember Pam Foley, Councilmember Johnny Khamis:

As a resident of San Jose with ties to the Japantown community, I am writing to object to the City of San Jose Parks and Recreation Commission's decision to recommend the name "Sakura Park" for the future public park to be located in the Japantown Square Development Project.

At the commission meeting on March 4, 2020, the commissioners unanimously voted to overrule a recommendation by the city's Department of Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services (PRNS) that the park be named after John Heinlen and called "Heinlenville Park" or "John Heinlen Park." It is my understanding that this recommendation was based on four public, city-wide PRNS surveys in which those two names received the highest number of votes.

As a third-generation Japanese American living in San Jose, I am proud of all the efforts that have kept San Jose's Japantown one of the last three authentic Japantowns remaining in the United States for over 100 years. Three generations of my family have lived in San Jose before and after World War II at different times, and it is important that the history of Japantown continues to be visible as much as possible. Because of John Heinlen's courage in rebuilding Chinatown after the first one was burned in 1887 in an effort to drive the Chinese out of San Jose, Chinese and Japanese immigrants were able to find a safe place to live at a time when anti-Asian sentiment was rampant. Naming the park after John Heinlen not only honors this man's beliefs and actions but also opens a conversation for San Jose's residents and visitors alike about the significant roots of Japantown in Heinlenville Chinatown.

Conversely, the name "Sakura Park" provides no historical context and actually promotes a stereotypical image that does nothing to enrich an understanding of this unique place in San Jose. At a time when discussions about and— even more importantly—actions against racism are so critical, San Jose can take a positive step by naming one of its parks after a man who stood up against racism.

I strongly urge you to reconsider the commission's decision and name the park after John Heinlen. This will then recognize the public consensus by the city's own PRNS surveys and demonstrate San Jose's commitment to highlighting accurate history and one of its citizens.

Sincerely,

Judy Higuchi

Japantown's new park

Justine Wong <justinewong2000@gmail.com>

Fri 8/7/2020 5:23 PM

To: Mendez, Zacharias <Zacharias.Mendez@sanjoseca.gov>

[External Email]

Hello,

I strongly urge you to name Japantown's new park "Heinlenville Park" not "Sakura Park."

The park is located where the former Heinlenville Chinatown existed from 1887 to 1931. San Joséans named this Chinatown after John Heinlen, a businessman who built a community for the former inhabitants of the Market Street Chinatown after arson destroyed it in 1887.

At a time when many Chinese families were driven out of several West Coast cities, Heinlen's actions provided a home for many Chinese Americans and directly countered anti-Chinese people, who believed in the "Yellow Peril."

"Heinlenville Park" would serve as a tribute to Chinatown, the Heinlen family and recognize the Asian American (Chinese, Japanese and Filipino) community's roots in history.

Thank you,

Justine Wong

Justine

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

I urge you to name the park in Japantown, San Jose to be "Heinlenville Park. "

Pinki <pinkii@gmail.com>

Mon 8/10/2020 2:25 PM

To: Ross, Rebekah <rebekah.ross@sanjoseca.gov>; Nguyen, Mindy <Mindy.Nguyen@sanjoseca.gov>; Mendez, Zacharias <Zacharias.Mendez@sanjoseca.gov>

Cc: Brenda Wong <brenda.wong@chcp.org>; Pinki Fung <pinkii.fung@chcp.org>

[External Email]

Hello,

I strongly urge you to name Japantown's new park "Heinlenville Park" instead of "Sakura Park."

The park is located where the former Heinlenville Chinatown existed from 1887 to 1931. San Joséans named this Chinatown after John Heinlen, a businessman who built a community for the former inhabitants of the Market Street Chinatown after arson destroyed it in 1887. Heinlen's actions directly countered anti-Chinese people, who believed in the "Yellow Peril." The Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 denied naturalization and U.S. citizenship of the Chinese, legalizing discrimination against them and revealing our government's Sinophobia. The act was the first and only federal legislation to prohibit immigration for a specific race. In the midst of this blatant racism in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, many Chinese families were driven out of several West Coast cities, and Heinlenville became a home for them. Besides the history behind the name "Heinlenville Park," the name "Sakura Park" intensifies stereotypical correlations between Japan and cherry blossoms. Japanese culture extends further than a pretty tree. "Heinlenville Park" would serve as a tribute to the Chinatown, honor the humanitarian John Heinlen family and recognize the Asian American (Chinese, Japanese and Filipino) community's roots in history. This is very important for our unique culture, history, community in San Jose and also important for our future generations.

I urge you to pick the name that commemorates Asian culture, not trivializes it. Thank you,

Kai Ying Fung

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

[I strongly urge you to name Japantown's new park "Heinlerville Park"]

Kam Ping Ng <kampingng669@gmail.com>

Mon 8/10/2020 4:25 PM

To: Ross, Rebekah <rebekah.ross@sanjoseca.gov>; Nguyen, Mindy <Mindy.Nguyen@sanjoseca.gov>; Mendez, Zacharias <Zacharias.Mendez@sanjoseca.gov>**Cc:** brenda.wong@chcp.org <brenda.wong@chcp.org>; pinki.fung@chcp.org <pinki.fung@chcp.org>

[External Email]

Hello,

This is important to me, my family, my community and our generations.

I strongly urge you to name Japantown's new park "Heinlerville Park" instead of "Sakura Park." The park is located where the former Heinlerville Chinatown existed from 1887 to 1931. San Joséans named this Chinatown after John Heinlen, a businessman who built a community for the former inhabitants of the Market Street Chinatown after arson destroyed it in 1887. Heinlen's actions directly countered anti-Chinese people, who believed in the "Yellow Peril." The Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 denied naturalization and U.S. citizenship of the Chinese, legalizing discrimination against them and revealing our government's Sinophobia. The act was the first and only federal legislation to prohibit immigration for a specific race. In the midst of this blatant racism in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, many Chinese families were driven out of several West Coast cities, and Heinlerville became a home for them. Besides the history behind the name "Heinlerville Park," the name "Sakura Park" intensifies stereotypical correlations between Japan and cherry blossoms. Japanese culture extends further than a pretty tree. "Heinlerville Park" would serve as a tribute to the Chinatown, honor the humanitarian John Heinlen family and recognize the Asian American (Chinese, Japanese and Filipino) community's roots in history. I urge you to pick the name that commemorates Asian culture, not trivializes it. Thank you,

Kam Ng

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Japantown Park Name

KC W <verycoolkc@gmail.com>

Fri 8/14/2020 10:22 AM

To: District3 <district3@sanjoseca.gov>; District1 <district1@sanjoseca.gov>; District2 <District2@sanjoseca.gov>; District4 <District4@sanjoseca.gov>; District5 <District5@sanjoseca.gov>; District 6 <district6@sanjoseca.gov>; District7 <District7@sanjoseca.gov>; District8 <district8@sanjoseca.gov>; District9 <district9@sanjoseca.gov>; District 10 <District10@sanjoseca.gov>; The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo <TheOfficeofMayorSamLiccardo@sanjoseca.gov>; Mendez, Zacharias <Zacharias.Mendez@sanjoseca.gov>; Ross, Rebekah <rebekah.ross@sanjoseca.gov>

[External Email]

Hello,

I strongly urge you to name Japantown's new park "Heinlenville Park" instead of "Sakura Park."

"Heinlenville Park" would be a very suitable name because this park will be located where the former Heinlenville Chinatown existed from 1887 to 1931.

"Heinlenville Park" would commemorate one of many San Jose's former Chinatowns which no longer exist, and pay tribute to the Heinlen family. It would also recognize the Asian Ar

Thank you,

Kasey

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Naming Japantown's Newest Public Park

Kathy Higuchi <kathy.higuchi@gmail.com>

Mon 8/3/2020 11:29 PM

To: Ross, Rebekah <rebekah.ross@sanjoseca.gov>; Mendez, Zacharias <Zacharias.Mendez@sanjoseca.gov>; Nguyen, Mindy <Mindy.Nguyen@sanjoseca.gov>; The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo <TheOfficeofMayorSamLiccardo@sanjoseca.gov>; District1 <district1@sanjoseca.gov>; District2 <District2@sanjoseca.gov>; District3 <district3@sanjoseca.gov>; District4 <District4@sanjoseca.gov>; District5 <District5@sanjoseca.gov>; District 6 <district6@sanjoseca.gov>; District7 <District7@sanjoseca.gov>; District8 <district8@sanjoseca.gov>; District9 <district9@sanjoseca.gov>; District 10 <District10@sanjoseca.gov>

[External Email]

City of San Jose
Mayor Sam Liccardo and City Council
Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Service (PRNS)
Parks & Recreation Commission
200 E. Santa Clara Street
San Jose, CA 95113

Re: Naming Japantown's Newest Public Park

Dear Mayor Sam Liccardo, City Councilmembers, PRNS Staff, and Commissioners Daphna Woolfe, George Adas, Lawrence Ames, Trami Cron, Rudy Flores, Andre Morrow, and Kelly Snider:

I am a third-generation, Japanese-American resident of Santa Clara County with strong ties to the San Jose Japantown community (specifically San Jose Nikkei Resisters, Yu-Ai Kai and Wesley United Methodist Church). I am writing to voice my opposition to the San Jose Parks and Recreation Commission's decision on March 4, 2020 to nominate "Sakura Park" as the name of Japantown's newest public park.

During the Mar. 4 meeting, the Commissioners overruled the recommendation by the city's Dept. of Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services (PRNS) that the park be named after John Heinlen or Heinlenville, choices that received the highest number of votes in four public, city-wide PRNS surveys. This usurps the consensus of the people. I believe Heinlenville/John Heinlen would have received even more votes if the greater community were aware of his contributions.

During these divisive times, when symbols of racism and white supremacy are finally being torn down, you have a unique opportunity to honor a man who faced rampant anti-Chinese sentiment in this community to do the right thing. Please don't waste the naming of this park on a meaningless stereotype.

The name should reflect the true history of the Heinlenville Chinatown, which is a significant part of San Jose Japantown history. It should reflect the important anti-racist role played by John Heinlen in opposing the anti-Chinese movement in San Jose.

Sincerely yours,

Kathy Higuchi
Sunnyvale, CA
[Kathy.higuchi@gmail.com](mailto:kathy.higuchi@gmail.com)

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Naming for new park in San Jose Japantown

Ken Kwan <kwankk@hotmail.com>

Tue 8/18/2020 11:43 AM

To: Ross, Rebekah <rebekah.ross@sanjoseca.gov>; Mendez, Zacharias <Zacharias.Mendez@sanjoseca.gov>;
mindy.nguygen@sanjoseca.gov <mindy.nguygen@sanjoseca.gov>

[External Email]

Dear Mayor Sam Liccardo, and City Councilmembers Charles Jones, Sergio Jimenez, Raul Peralez, Lan Diep, Magdalena Carrasco, Devora Davis, Maya Esparza: Sylvia Arenas, Pam Foley, and Johnny Khamis,

I am writing to express my support for "Heinlerville Park" to be the name for San Jose Japantown's new public park between Taylor and Sixth Streets.

This new park will be on the exact same land that the Heinlerville Chinatown once stood. The establishment of San Jose's Japantown would not have been possible without the Heinlerville Chinatown, where Japanese immigrants sought a protective community. Japantown was formed adjacent to the Heinlerville Chinatown. I believe that "Heinlerville Park" would best honor San Jose's local history and the local Asian-American community.

I hope to see Japantown's new public park be named "Heinlerville Park".

Sincerely,
Ken

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Naming Japantown's Newest Public Park

Koichiro J. Yagi <kjyagi@hotmail.com>

Sat 8/15/2020 6:30 PM

To: Ross, Rebekah <rebekah.ross@sanjoseca.gov>; Mendez, Zacharias <Zacharias.Mendez@sanjoseca.gov>; Nguyen, Mindy <Mindy.Nguyen@sanjoseca.gov>

[External Email]

Dear Mayor Sam Liccardo, City Councilmembers, PRNS Staff, and Commissioners Daphna Woolfe, George Adas, Lawrence Ames, Trami Cron, Rudy Flores, Andre Morrow, and Kelly Snider:

I am writing in support of 'Heinlenville Park' as the name for the new public park in San Jose's Japantown. Use of the name Heinlenville Park will recognize the history of the area. Furthermore, the park will be on the same land where the Heinlenville Chinatown was once located. Naming the new Japantown park, Heinlenville Park, would pay tribute to local history, the Heinlen family, and the Asian-American community.

Are you planning to plant Japanese Sakura Cherry Blossoms trees there ?

Thank you for your consideration,

Koichiro Yagi

Sent from Samsung tablet.

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

August 13, 2020

The Honorable Sam Liccardo, Mayor of San José
and Members of the City Council
200 E. Santa Clara St.
San José, CA 95113
sent via email

re: naming a new park in Japantown "Sakura"

Dear Mayor and Councilmembers,

I write to give my personal thoughts regarding the naming of the new park in Japantown. While I am a member of the Parks and Rec. Commission (PRC), I am writing this letter as an individual to discuss my personal comments and actions at the March 2020 meeting.

I appreciate that you on the City Council make the final decisions and that the PRC is just advisory. Nonetheless, I take my part in naming a park quite seriously: it is one of the most enduring actions to take. Budgets change each year and playgrounds are periodically rebuilt, but the name of a park can last for decades or even centuries. I personally found the park-naming process to be most professional, with useful information provided beforehand for review and with an informed and enlightened discussion at the Commission meeting. I feel that "Sakura" is an excellent choice for the name of the new park in Japantown.

Sometime afterwards, I was copied on multiple letters that favor of the name "Heinlenville Park". If these comments had been sent earlier, I could have considered them in my thought process.

Nonetheless, I stand by the motion I made to recommend the name "Sakura."

As I said at the time, I was already somewhat aware of the story of John Heinlen and how he helped the Chinese community during San José's anti-immigrant past. I appreciate how "Heinlenville" invoked San José's multicultural history: German, Chinese, and Japanese -- just as I am proud of how the predominantly European city of San José could later look past its ethnic divisions and elect a Japanese mayor, and how it now honors him with the name of our airport. But I also felt that a park name is more than a history lesson for the few, and so I recommended a name that I thought would better honor the entire community.

I appreciate the detailed report that Staff provided the Commission and the public. Looking it up in the records, I see that dozens of names were offered.

- Yujo Park was the top vote-getter (69 votes), but the Staff memo noted that the word "carries connotations that are potentially inappropriate";
- Japantown Park was 2nd with 56 votes, but that to me somehow seemed too prosaic -- I felt it lacked "pizazz";
- Sakura, meaning "cherry blossom," came in a close 3rd with 54 votes;
- Tokio Ishikawa had 43;
- Heinlenville was 5th with 41.

It was pointed out that if you add in the 37 votes for 6th-place "John Heinlen Park", you'd get a winner; it was also noted that if you added Sakura and Japantown, that would be larger still.

Also, it is worth noting that the public vote is guidance but it is not binding: there had not been a rigorous and thorough voting process, and so the count can be skewed, for example, by developers from a nearby project. And sometimes the naming process can be overrun by silliness: remember the public process in England to name a new ship, only to be inundated with votes for “Boaty McBoatface.”

In making my motion, I also considered the various public comments provided, and I was influenced by them:

- There was a request to not name the park after yet another European. “Please use something that is meaningful to the community;” and
- “Sakura is the Japanese national flower. The Japanese enjoy Sakura in Ohanami which is the cherry blossoms festival in spring time. In floral language it has the meaning of ‘Accomplishment’ and ‘Beauty of heart’.”

And I noted that streets in Japantown are lined with banners depicting the cherry blossoms. To me, it seems a perfect fit.

But, as I noted above, the final decision will be made by you on the City Council. Good luck!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Larry Ames". The signature is written in black ink and has a fluid, connected style.

~Larry Ames, longtime park and historic advocate.

cc: City Clerk; City Manager; PRNS Director & Staff; Parks & Rec Cmsn.

Fwd: Heinlenville Park for New park naming

Leeliuchin <leeliuchin@aol.com>

Fri 8/14/2020 1:47 PM

To: Mendez, Zacharias <Zacharias.Mendez@sanjoseca.gov>**Cc:** LeeLiuChin@aol.com <leeliuchin@aol.com>

[External Email]

Hello Mr. Mendez,

In reference to the subject matter, I strongly urge you to name Japantown's new park "Heinlenville Park" instead of "Sakura Park."

The park is located where the former Heinlenville Chinatown existed from 1887 to 1931. San Joséans named this Chinatown after John Heinlen, a businessman who built a community for the former inhabitants of the Market Street Chinatown after arson destroyed it in 1887. At a time when many Chinese families were driven out of several West Coast cities, Heinlen's actions provided a home for many Chinese Americans and directly countered anti-Chinese people, who believed in the "Yellow Peril."

"Heinlenville Park" would serve as a tribute to the Chinatown, the honorable Heinlen family and recognize the Asian American (Chinese, Japanese and Filipino) community's roots in history.

Thank you,
Lee Liu Chin
1089 Dewberry Place #402, San Jose, CA 95131

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

August 7, 2020

Mayor Liccardo, City Councilmembers, Parks and Recreation Commissioners

To our distinguished San Jose leadership:

I am herewith submitting this letter of protest to the March 4, 2020 Parks and Recreation Commission decision on their Agenda Item VII A – Nomination to Name a New Public Park: Heinlenville Park. I understand that they voted to overturn the staff and community recommendation of Heinlenville Park to instead use the name Sakura Park. I would like to comment but would first like to give you a short background of my history with both the City of San Jose and Japantown community.

I am a 3rd generation Japanese American Sansei and San Jose native son born in San Jose Hospital. I worked for the City of San Jose/Redevelopment Agency for 30-years. My City/Agency Planner/Development Officer duties included serving as the Historic Preservation Officer and staff to the Historic Landmarks Commission; Neighborhood Business District Coordinator starting the Japantown Business and Professional Association including the area's Master Plan of economic and physical development strategies; staff coordination of the Jackson-Taylor Redevelopment Area and Plan creation; and serving on numerous neighborhood planning committees. From a community standpoint, I have served on the San Jose Japanese American Citizens League Board of Directors in Japantown for over 40-years, 8 of which as its President; and participated as a member of the Japantown Community Congress during its master planning processes for Japantown. Over the years, I have tried to act as a bridge between the community and the City and feel that I have valuable insights towards how to best serve both. But before delving into added details, I would just like to say that my intentions are to foster understanding, awareness and perhaps a different perspective by offering these viewpoints.

On the surface, the renaming of the proposed park seems like a fairly benign action when taken in the spirit of the Commissioners having good intentions. However, I believe that the renaming using "Sakura" is a mistake, for three major reasons including: the loss of an opportunity to impart valuable local history, the risk of damaging community trust and ongoing partnership, and the potential for committing a social justice faux pas during a time where we can ill afford to err.

First, though "Sakura Park" may have been conceived as an appreciative nod towards a well-known symbol of Japanese culture as a whole, its use here would do a major disservice to the specific community it is meant to honor. The people of San Jose Japantown have expressed their desire to root the name of this park in local history in order to highlight the struggle that formed Japantown in the first place. To use a generic Japanese word as a name would forfeit a chance to publicly tell the story of a damn good man who stood up to racism during a climate frighteningly similar to that which we experience today. John Heinlen supported the Chinese/Japanese/Filipino community through heroic actions in giving the ostracized Chinese a place to land after they were burned out of their downtown block. San Jose is the home to one of only three remaining Japantowns in the United States and its story includes one of support for the oppressed, of which there are woefully few, and this makes the story of Mr. John Heinlen invaluable to the local

community as well as to our nation as a whole. It is critical that this story be brought into the light rather than buried beneath a shallow facade of cherry blossoms. Please help our community enlighten those who have yet to learn the story.

The second reason is the public partnership that local government has with its community members. The Japantown community takes pride in the ongoing partnership that it endeavors to enhance with our government leaders. After WWII, Japantown community leaders strove to ensure that JA faces were seen and voices were heard. A bond of communication and trust was established that continues to this day. Robust participation by community members in all aspects of process and governance is enjoyed. Should governing bodies discount the established cooperative relationship and dismiss valid community input, we tend to question “why” and then do what we can to remedy the situation as partners in governance. We should always embrace the value added through observing due process. Staff held four public meetings vetting the proposed park names and the results should not be dismissed lightly.

Which leads to the final concern regarding the use of "Sakura Park" and that is, with all due respect to the Parks and Recreation Commissioners, the fact that their self-assured hubris in overturning a historically significant and community vetted name is unconscionable. This is particularly true in a time when the public is out en masse crying for America to open its eyes to unilateral decisions and actions being taken that disregard their tangible impacts. Using the “Sakura Park” name could be seen as a blatant attempt by the Commission to bury the ugly history of racism carried out against the Chinese by the white city leadership and the extended community that burned down Chinatown and then attempted to prohibit their resettlement in San Jose. The renaming action may be seen as a modern-day whitewash of history and a slap in the face to the community that wants its story shared through the name of one of its heroes. Recent events have made it abundantly clear that people of color should not, can not, and will not be ignored. Rather than doing so, we should instead be taking every opportunity possible to promote positive social justice messaging and give the general public exposure to stories like that of John Heinlen.

Thank you for your kind attention and for considering the points herein that are important to me and the Japantown community, and I hope also captures the sentiments of the greater community as a whole. Today’s political climate mandates an awareness and sensitivity that is being held to a higher standard. The portrayal of history in its many forms must be dealt with openly and honestly without any shirking of responsibility or obscuring of facts. As our current City leadership and our partners, please listen to us and do our community’s history and integrity justice by supporting the “Heinlenville Park” name. This being a prime opportunity to stand on the right side of history, and to help our community tell its story, not just for the sake of the immediate community, but for the enrichment of San Jose and more.

With appreciation,

Leon Kimura

Heinlerville Park

Leona Lau <l2abacus88@comcast.net>

Fri 8/14/2020 12:48 PM

To: Ross, Rebekah <rebekah.ross@sanjoseca.gov>; Mendez, Zacharias <Zacharias.Mendez@sanjoseca.gov>; Nguyen, Mindy <Mindy.Nguyen@sanjoseca.gov>

[External Email]

Hello,

I strongly urge you to name Japantown's new park "Heinlerville Park" instead of "Sakura Park." The park is located where the former Heinlerville Chinatown existed from 1887 to 1931. San Joséans named this Chinatown after John Heinlen, a businessman who built a community for the former inhabitants of the Market Street Chinatown after arson destroyed it in 1887.

At a time when many Chinese families were driven out of several West Coast cities, Heinlen's actions provided a home for many Chinese Americans and directly countered anti-Chinese people, who believed in the "Yellow Peril."

The name "Heinlerville Park" would serve as a tribute to the Chinatown, the honorable Heinlen family and recognize the Asian American (Chinese, Japanese and Filipino) community's roots in history in our area. Especially now, during this time of tremendous change in our country to step up to tell our stories and recognize our collective histories.

Thank you,
Leona Lau

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Naming Japantown's Newest Public Park

Lih Chiang <lih.chiang@gmail.com>

Thu 8/13/2020 12:10 AM

To: Ross, Rebekah <rebekah.ross@sanjoseca.gov>; Mendez, Zacharias <Zacharias.Mendez@sanjoseca.gov>; Nguyen, Mindy <Mindy.Nguyen@sanjoseca.gov>

[External Email]

To Mayor Sam Liccardo, City Councilmembers, PRNS Staff, and Commissioners Daphna Woolfe, George Adas, Lawrence Ames, Trami Cron, Rudy Flores, Andre Morrow, and Kelly Snider:

We are responding with strong objection to the San Jose Parks and Recreation Commission's decision on March 4, 2020 to nominate "Sakura Park" as the name of Japantown's newest public park.

During the Mar. 4 meeting, the Commissioners overruled the recommendation by the city's Dept. of Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services (PRNS) that the park be named after John Heinlen or Heinlenville, choices that received the highest number of votes in four public, city-wide PRNS surveys. This usurps the consensus of the people. We believe Heinlenville/John Heinlen would have received even more votes if the greater community were aware of his contributions.

Sakura Park is an insipid and uninspiring name.

Please consider this decision carefully. The name should reflect the true history of the Heinlenville Chinatown, which is a significant part of San Jose Japantown history. It should reflect the important anti-racist role played by John Heinlen in opposing the anti-Chinese movement in San Jose.

Sincerely yours,
Lih Chiang, Japantown resident

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

August 16, 2020

Dear San Jose City Council Members,

I am writing this letter to you as a proud resident of San Jose for 45 years and an active member of the Asian American Community as well as the San Jose Community. This Letter is to urge you to consider the naming “Heinlenville Park” as the name for the new public park in the San Jose’s Japantown. “Heinlenville Park” will recognize the history of the area. The location of this new public park is on the same land where Heinlenville Chinatown was once located and thus would pay tribute to local history, the Heinlen family and the Asian American Community.

Again, I urge you as city council members to consider naming the new public park in the Japantown as “Heinlenville Park.”

Thank you for your consideration.

Warmest Regards,

Liz Fong Chew

Retired Teacher, Orchard School Elementary School District

Coach for San Jose/Pal Jr. Giants Challenger League

Director, CHCP (Chinese Historical Cultural Project)

Former Berryessa Union School District Board of Trustee (1994-2002)

Lchew2464@gmail.com 408-712-2464

PLEASE READ: I strongly urge you to name Japantown's new park "Heinlerville Park"**Man Hin Fung** <manhin6@gmail.com>

Mon 8/10/2020 4:20 PM

To: Ross, Rebekah <rebekah.ross@sanjoseca.gov>; Nguyen, Mindy <Mindy.Nguyen@sanjoseca.gov>; Mendez, Zacharias <Zacharias.Mendez@sanjoseca.gov>**Cc:** pinki.fung@chcp.org <pinki.fung@chcp.org>; brenda.wong@chcp.org <brenda.wong@chcp.org>

[External Email]

Hello,

I strongly urge you to name Japantown's new park "Heinlerville Park" instead of "Sakura Park." The park is located where the former Heinlerville Chinatown existed from 1887 to 1931. San Joséans named this Chinatown after John Heinlen, a businessman who built a community for the former inhabitants of the Market Street Chinatown after arson destroyed it in 1887. Heinlen's actions directly countered anti-Chinese people, who believed in the "Yellow Peril." The Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 denied naturalization and U.S. citizenship of the Chinese, legalizing discrimination against them and revealing our government's Sinophobia. The act was the first and only federal legislation to prohibit immigration for a specific race. In the midst of this blatant racism in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, many Chinese families were driven out of several West Coast cities, and Heinlerville became a home for them. Besides the history behind the name "Heinlerville Park," the name "Sakura Park" intensifies stereotypical correlations between Japan and cherry blossoms. Japanese culture extends further than a pretty tree. "Heinlerville Park" would serve as a tribute to the Chinatown, honor the humanitarian John Heinlen family and recognize the Asian American (Chinese, Japanese and Filipino) community's roots in history. I urge you to pick the name that commemorates Asian culture, not trivializes it.

Thank you for your time,

Man Fung

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Heinlenville Park

María <mariamhennessy@hotmail.com>

Thu 8/13/2020 1:31 AM

To: Ross, Rebekah <rebekah.ross@sanjoseca.gov>; Mendez, Zacharias <Zacharias.Mendez@sanjoseca.gov>; Nguyen, Mindy <Mindy.Nguyen@sanjoseca.gov>

[External Email]

I am writing regarding the naming of a park that was suggested by the SJ Parks and Recreation Commission. Sakura Park is not an appropriate name for this park and the residents of Japantown have requested it be named for Mr. Heinlen. Sakura means cherry blossom, which is fine, but the true story of Heinlenville is more important to be remembered. I taught this history to my fourth grade students in the San Jose public schools. They needed to know the history of California and the persecution of different people by those in power. Surely you should understand the devastation these people suffered at the hands of racists.

Mr. Heinlen rented land to the Chinese who were burned out of their homes in downtown San Jose in 1887 in one of the most flagrant examples of anti-immigrant persecution in the state. Heinlen should be honored for his courage.

In the words of the Chinese Historical and Cultural Project:

Heinlenville, one of [six Chinatowns in San Jose](#), was built in 1887. When an earlier Chinese settlement at the present site of the San Jose Fairmont Hotel was destroyed by a suspicious fire in the 1887, John Heinlen, a local businessman, **braved death threats to lease property to the displaced Chinese**. This area near today's Japantown at Taylor and Sixth became known as Heinlenville.

Heinlenville was a center of Chinese-American business and cultural life through the early part of the 20th century. Despite their poverty, the people of Heinlenville donated their earnings from menial jobs to build their much revered [Ng Shing Gung](#), a community center and house of worship.

Please stop erasing history and honor a brave man who helped a group of people persecuted in the 19th century.

Sincerely,

Maria Hennessy

August 12, 2020

Dear Zacharias Mendez, and Mindy Nguyen:

We have lived in this area since the mid-1980s. Over the years, Japantown has become one of our favorite destinations to visit, walk, and share a good meal with friends. We learned that this wonderful community is one of only three Japantowns that still exist in the U.S. While we are not of Japanese descent, we found that fact exciting, and we are proud that here in Santa Clara County, this treasured community managed to stay vibrant, thriving, and with its history intact.

However, what we didn't know until we visited a museum in San Jose is what is inspiring me to write this letter.

Located within the San Jose History Park is a museum called "The Chinese American Historical Museum". Exhibits within this small, charming building tell the history of the Chinese Americans in Silicon Valley. In this facility, we learned the history of the building (named Ng Shing Gung) and how the bold and brave actions of John Heinlen made a huge difference to the Chinese in this area during a time period of hate and animosity.

We learned that the building was modeled after the original building located within Heinlenville, a land area owned by John Heinlen, leased to the Chinese at very low rates. John Heinlen stepped up to help the Chinese with rebuilding their lives following a mysterious fire which burnt to the ground the Market Street Chinatown. The exhibits explain the importance of Heinlenville and this building to the Chinese American community as not only a safe haven, but also a community center, hostel, and place of worship.

We found the history fascinating and very hopeful. The Heinlen family, through their actions, are examples to all of us today. Naming the new Japantown park "Heinlenville Park" would honor the Heinlen family for their contributions and actions which made a huge difference to the Chinese Americans in the area. Also, the name "Heinlenville" and Heinlen's story will serve as a reminder to all of us of the importance of making a difference in other people's lives, regardless of race, culture, or background. We are all in this together and these days, it seems we need to be reminded of that more than ever.

Please consider naming the new public park in San Jose's Japantown "Heinlenville Park".

Sincerely,

Maria Lu and Po-Kang Wang

Japantown Park Name

M Lee <mlee28889@gmail.com>

Fri 8/14/2020 9:57 AM

To: District3 <district3@sanjoseca.gov>; District1 <district1@sanjoseca.gov>; District2 <District2@sanjoseca.gov>; District4 <District4@sanjoseca.gov>; District5 <District5@sanjoseca.gov>; District 6 <district6@sanjoseca.gov>; District7 <District7@sanjoseca.gov>; District8 <district8@sanjoseca.gov>; District9 <district9@sanjoseca.gov>; District 10 <District10@sanjoseca.gov>; The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo <TheOfficeofMayorSamLiccardo@sanjoseca.gov>; Mendez, Zacharias <Zacharias.Mendez@sanjoseca.gov>; Ross, Rebekah <rebekah.ross@sanjoseca.gov>

[External Email]

Hello,

I strongly urge you to name Japantown's new park "Heinlenville Park" instead of "Sakura Park."

"Heinlenville Park" would serve as a tribute to one of San Jose's former Chinatowns and the honorable Heinlen family. It would also recognize the Asian American (Chinese, Japanese and Filipino) community's roots as part of San Jose local history.

Furthermore, this park will be located where the former Heinlenville Chinatown existed from 1887 to 1931. Therefore, "Heinlenville Park" would be a very suitable name.

Thank you,
May Lee

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

"Heinlenville Park" for the name of the new public park in San Jose's Japantown!

From: Mel Young <melyoung88@earthlink.net>

Sent: Friday, August 14, 2020 2:51 PM

To: Ross, Rebekah <rebekah.ross@sanjoseca.gov>

Subject: "Heinlenville Park" for the name of the new public park in San Jose's Japantown!

[External Email]

Friday, 8/14/20

Dear Ms. Ross,

I am writing to you to nominate "Heinlenville Park" as the name for the new public park in San Jose's Japantown.

I feel that "Heinlenville Park" is the BEST and MOST APPROPRIATE name for the land that was once occupied by Heinlenville Chinatown. It befittingly honors the Asian-American community and the indisputable contributions of the Heinlen family.

I urge you to select "Heinlenville Park" as the name for the new park. It is the right choice to make! Thanks so much for your support!

Sincerely,

Mel Young in NYC

Melyoung88@earthlink.net

(646) 872-9674

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Naming Japantown's Newest Public Park

mv <m.velasquez@mail.com>

Wed 8/12/2020 2:45 PM

To: Ross, Rebekah <rebekah.ross@sanjoseca.gov>; Mendez, Zacharias <Zacharias.Mendez@sanjoseca.gov>; Nguyen, Mindy <Mindy.Nguyen@sanjoseca.gov>

[External Email]

Dear Mayor Sam Liccardo, City Councilmembers, PRNS Staff, and Commissioners Daphna Woolfe, George Adas, Lawrence Ames, Trami Cron, Rudy Flores, Andre Morrow, and Kelly Snider:

We are responding with strong objection to the San Jose Parks and Recreation Commission's decision on March 4, 2020 to nominate "Sakura Park" as the name of Japantown's newest public park.

During the Mar. 4 meeting, the Commissioners overruled the recommendation by the city's Dept. of Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services (PRNS) that the park be named after John Heinlen or Heinlenville, choices that received the highest number of votes in four public, city-wide PRNS surveys. This usurps the consensus of the people. We believe Heinlenville/John Heinlen would have received even more votes if the greater community were aware of his contributions.

Keep san jose history alive!

Please consider this decision carefully. The name should reflect the true history of the Heinlenville Chinatown, which is a significant part of San Jose Japantown history. It should reflect the important anti-racist role played by John Heinlen in opposing the anti-Chinese movement in San Jose.

Sincerely yours,

Melvin Velasquez

--

Sent from my Android phone with [mail.com](mailto:mvelasquez@mail.com) Mail. Please excuse my brevity.

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Asian Americans Objects to "Sakura" as Name of the New Park

Michael Chang <michaelchang@apali.org>

Fri 8/14/2020 11:24 AM

To: The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo <TheOfficeofMayorSamLiccardo@sanjoseca.gov>; District1 <district1@sanjoseca.gov>; Mendez, Zacharias <Zacharias.Mendez@sanjoseca.gov>; District2 <District2@sanjoseca.gov>; District3 <district3@sanjoseca.gov>; District4 <District4@sanjoseca.gov>; District5 <District5@sanjoseca.gov>; District 6 <district6@sanjoseca.gov>; District7 <District7@sanjoseca.gov>; District8 <district8@sanjoseca.gov>; District9 <district9@sanjoseca.gov>; District 10 <District10@sanjoseca.gov>; Ross, Rebekah <rebekah.ross@sanjoseca.gov>; Nguyen, Mindy <Mindy.Nguyen@sanjoseca.gov>; Cc: Mae Lee <leemae@fhda.edu>; Hien Do <hien.do@sjsu.edu>; Michael Chang <changmichael@fhda.edu>; Susan Doi <sdoi@pbsutah.org>; shayase@onemain.com <shayase@onemain.com>; Tom Izu <izutom@fhda.edu>

[External Email]

Dear Mayor Liccardo and San Jose City Councilmembers,

I am writing to strongly object to naming San Jose Japantown's newest public park as "Sakura Park". The Park and Recreation Commission's decision to overrule the recommendation of the city's Department of Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services that the park be named "Heinlerville" or "John Heinlen" which received the highest number of votes in four public city-wide surveys by the Department.

The Commission's behavior is insensitive and erases San Jose's anti-Asian history. It also belittles the present efforts of Asian Americans to reclaim their rightful history. In 1870 and again in 1877, San Jose City Council's anti-Chinese ordinances and fanning of anti-Chinese hate were linked to the arson burning of San Jose's downtown Chinatown not once but twice. John Heinlen, at great risk to himself and his family, offered the Chinese community to relocate and rebuild on his property. This was the "Heinlerville Chinatown" that thrived for over a half century. The present San Jose City Council should take responsibility to correct the century-long anti-Asian racism of previous city councils.

Michael
Michael Chang, Ph.D.
Founder Executive Director, Asian Pacific American Leadership Institute
Former Mayor of Cupertino

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Naming Heinlenville's New Park

Ralph Pearce <ralph.m.pearce@gmail.com>

Sun 8/9/2020 11:15 PM

To: Mendez, Zacharias <Zacharias.Mendez@sanjoseca.gov>

[External Email]

Dear Mr. Mendez,

During research for my co-authored book on San Jose Japantown, I learned one fact about our Japantown that stands above the rest: it is the last genuine Japantown in the United States. While two other remaining Japantowns have been greatly altered over time, ours is still recognizable from its pre-war years, despite the City's demolition of its Chinese "Heinlenville" section.

And now, the City has returned the Heinlenville section to the community, and yet is considering imposing the name "Sakura" on its new park. Surely our historic Japantown deserves more respectful consideration of its park name than a generic, touristy name that ignores a powerful story that took place at that very location.

It is the story of an immigrant who stood up to racism and created the Chinatown that blossomed into the home of our Chinese, Japanese, and Filipino communities that we now refer to as San Jose Japantown.

Please join members of the Japantown community and its historians in the vision of honoring the generosity and courage of John Heinlen.

With gratitude for your thoughtful consideration,

Ralph M. Pearce
Local history author
King Library's California Room Staff

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

I urge you to name the park in Japantown, San Jose to be "Heinlenville Park. "

ROGER CHOW <roger_chow@mac.com>

Thu 8/6/2020 10:42 PM

To: Ross, Rebekah <rebekah.ross@sanjoseca.gov>; Mendez, Zacharias <Zacharias.Mendez@sanjoseca.gov>; Nguyen, Mindy <Mindy.Nguyen@sanjoseca.gov>

Cc: Roger Chow MSW <roger_chow@mac.com>; Brenda Hee Wong <brenda.wong@chcp.org>; Pinki Fung <pfung@avenidas.org>; Liccardo, Sam <sam.liccardo@sanjoseca.gov>; cindy.chavez@sanjoseca.gov <cindy.chavez@sanjoseca.gov>; Ken Yeager <kyeager@aol.com>; Evan Low <low.evan@gmail.com>; Paul Fong <paulfong@gmail.com>; District4 <District4@sanjoseca.gov>; michele@healthtrust.org <michele@healthtrust.org>; david.mineta@momentum.com <david.mineta@momentum.com>; Sarita Kohli <Sarita.Kohli@aaci.org>

[External Email]

4576 Temescal Ct.
Antioch, CA. 94531

„95 Hobson Street, Unit 2B
San Jose, CA. 95110..

August 7, 2020

Rebekah Ross,
Zacharias Mendez
Mindy Nguyen

Parks Recreation and Natural Services
City of San Jose
200 East Santa Clara Street
San Jose, CA. 95113

Dear Commissioners Ross, Mendez and Nguyen,

As a fourth generation American Born Chinese (In the 1850's, my maternal great grandfather came from the Shunde District (currently under administrative oversight by Foshan City, Guangdong Province, China). My father came to the states in 1919, as an "undocumented alien" from our ancestral village of LuZhou located in Shunde District. He later became a naturalized citizen under a national "amnesty/forgiveness program." He had a small business in San Francisco's Chinatown for over forty years.

I am interested in the naming of the new Park in San Jose's Japantown.

I lived in the Jefferson Forest HOA on Hobson Street (between San Pedro and North First Streets) for over twenty five years; I have been told that this was formerly the site of the elementary school where the honorable Norman Mineta attended. I recently moved to Antioch, CA, but have kept ownership of my condo unit in Jefferson Square. My daughter currently lives there with her daughter, my granddaughter.

I returned to California after graduate school at the University of Michigan's School of Social Work and working for twenty years in Michigan and Virginia. I have worked and lived in San Jose for over thirty two years--for AACI<Asian Americans for Community Involvement> (twice), the Department of Social Services of the Santa Clara County Department of Human Services <once>, and Family Court Services of the Superior

Court housed in Santa Clara County <San Jose>, I retired from Family Court Services on January 29, 2005 after two rotations working for them.

The park is located where the former Heinlenville Chinatown existed from 1887 to 1931. San Jose named this "Chinatown" after John Heinlen, a businessman who built a community for the former inhabitants of the Market Street Chinatown, after arson destroyed it in 1887.

I contributed to a plaque commemorating the burning down of "Market Street Chinatown which was placed at a corner of the Fairmont Hotel near the front entry on Market Street. Facing the hotel's entrance the Fairmont, the plaque is barely noticeable, unless you know where to look for it.

At a time when many Chinese families were driven out of several West Coast cities, Heinlen's actions provided a home for many Chinese Americans **and** directly opposed people who believed in the myth of "The Yellow Peril."

"Heinlenville Park" would serve as a tribute to and remembrance of a courageous and forward looking citizen and family of San Jose. This would also recognize the historical roots and contributions of many Asian Americans such as the early Chinese, Filipino and Japanese communities in our midst,

I strongly urge you to name Japantown's park, "Heinlenville Park" instead of "Sakura Park.

Thank you for your thoughtful reflection and reading of this letter. I look forward to the possible naming of this park as "Heinlenville Park."

Sincerely,

/s/ Roger Fung Chow

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Re: Naming of Heinlen Park for Japantown's new park

Yen, Sara <21SaraY@students.harker.org>

Fri 7/24/2020 11:02 PM

To: Ross, Rebekah <rebekah.ross@sanjoseca.gov>; Mendez, Zacharias <Zacharias.Mendez@sanjoseca.gov>; Nguyen, Mindy <Mindy.Nguyen@sanjoseca.gov>

[External Email]

I'm sorry for the confusion — I actually meant to say "Heinlenville Park" as the preferred name so that the Heinlenville Chinatown community is the greater focus.

Thank you,
Sara Yen

On Fri, Jul 24, 2020 at 5:53 PM Yen, Sara <21SaraY@students.harker.org> wrote:

Hello,

I strongly urge you to name Japantown's new park "Heinlen Park" instead of "Sakura Park."

The park is located where the former Heinlenville Chinatown existed from 1887 to 1931. San Joséans named this Chinatown after John Heinlen, a businessman who built a community for the former inhabitants of the Market Street Chinatown after arson destroyed it in 1887. Heinlen's actions directly countered anti-Chinese sentiment, also deemed the Yellow Peril.

The Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 denied naturalization and U.S. citizenship of the Chinese, legalizing discrimination against them and revealing our government's Sinophobia. The act was the first and only federal legislation to prohibit immigration for a specific race. In the midst of this blatant racism in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, many Chinese families were driven out of several West Coast cities, and Heinlenville became a home for them.

Besides the history behind the name "Heinlen Park," the name "Sakura Park" intensifies stereotypical correlations between Japan and cherry blossoms. Japanese culture extends further and deeper than a pretty tree.

"Heinlen Park" would serve as a tribute to Heinlen and honor his accomplishments for the Asian community. I urge you to pick the name that commemorates Asian culture, not trivializes it.

Thank you,
Sara Yen

Sara Yen
Editor-in-Chief
The Winged Post

Harker Journalism
The Harker School
Adviser: Ellen Austin
510-364-2748
harkeraquila.com
twitter.com/HarkerAquila
facebook.com/HarkerAquila
21saray@students.harker.org

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Naming Japantown Park

Stephen Fugita <ssfugita@yahoo.com>

Tue 7/21/2020 8:48 PM

To: The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo <TheOfficeofMayorSamLiccardo@sanjoseca.gov>; District1 <district1@sanjoseca.gov>; District2 <District2@sanjoseca.gov>; District3 <district3@sanjoseca.gov>; District4 <District4@sanjoseca.gov>; District5 <District5@sanjoseca.gov>; District 6 <district6@sanjoseca.gov>; District7 <District7@sanjoseca.gov>; District8 <district8@sanjoseca.gov>; District9 <district9@sanjoseca.gov>; District 10 <District10@sanjoseca.gov>; Ross, Rebekah <rebekah.ross@sanjoseca.gov>; Mendez, Zacharias <Zacharias.Mendez@sanjoseca.gov>; Nguyen, Mindy <Mindy.Nguyen@sanjoseca.gov>

[External Email]

City of San Jose
Mayor Sam Liccardo and City Council
Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Service (PRNS)
Parks & Recreation Commission
200 E. Santa Clara Street
San Jose, CA 95113

Re: Naming Japantown's New Public Park

Dear Mayor Liccardo, City Councilmembers, PRNS Staff, and Commissioners Woolfe, Adas, Ames, Cron, Flores, Morrow, and Snider:

I would like to express my objection to the Parks and Recreation Commission's decision on March 4th to name Japantown's new park "Sakura Park". I do this as a frequent participant in Japantown activities and as a grateful San Jose resident who is appreciative of the significance of having one of the only remaining Japantowns in the country in our City.

Even though the Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services recommended that the park be named after John Heinlen or Heinlenville, the Commissioners overruled this recommendation. Significantly, the latter names received the highest number of votes in four public, city-wide PRNS surveys.

The name "Sakura" is generic and insipid and ignores the very important historical events that took place on this site. Against the very strong anti-Asian sentiment of the late 19th century, John Heinlen, a German immigrant, made this land available to the Chinese who were burned out of their homes near what is now the Fairmont Hotel. It would be much more meaningful to remember this courageous and generous act, particularly in these times. It would make available an important element of San Jose's rich and important history.

Thank you for your consideration..

Sincerely yours,

Stephen S. Fugita

Heinlenview Park represents the historic past and future of San Jose.

Steven Doi <doibooks@comcast.net>

Fri 8/14/2020 9:16 AM

To: The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo <TheOfficeofMayorSamLiccardo@sanjoseca.gov>; District1 <district1@sanjoseca.gov>; Mendez, Zacharias <Zacharias.Mendez@sanjoseca.gov>; District2 <District2@sanjoseca.gov>; District3 <district3@sanjoseca.gov>; District4 <District4@sanjoseca.gov>; District5 <District5@sanjoseca.gov>; District 6 <district6@sanjoseca.gov>; District7 <District7@sanjoseca.gov>; District8 <district8@sanjoseca.gov>; District9 <district9@sanjoseca.gov>; District 10 <District10@sanjoseca.gov>; Ross, Rebekah <rebekah.ross@sanjoseca.gov>; Nguyen, Mindy <Mindy.Nguyen@sanjoseca.gov>
Cc: Mae Lee <leemae@fhda.edu>; Hien Do <hien.do@sjsu.edu>; Michael Chang <changmichael@fhda.edu>; Susan Doi <sdoi@pbsutah.org>; shayase@onemain.com <shayase@onemain.com>; Tom Izu <izutom@fhda.edu>

[External Email]

I am responding with strong objection to the San Jose Parks and Recreation Commission's decision on March 4, 2020 to nominate "Sakura Park" as the name of Japantown's newest public park. This generic name for a location of San Jose's old Chinatown and the present Japantown is an insult to the to the Asian American community. "Sakura Park" has nothing to do with the struggles and contributions of the many Asian American groups in San Jose.

During the March 4 meeting, the Commissioners overruled the recommendation by the city's Dept. of Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services (PRNS) that the park be named after John Heinlen or Heinlenville, choices that received the highest number of votes in four public, city-wide PRNS surveys. This usurps the consensus of the people. We believe Heinlenville/John Heinlen would have received even more votes if the greater community were aware of his contributions.

For future generations of San Jose Asian Americans, the present City Council members that support using the name Heinienville and will have the support of those communities in the future. The names of the Parks and Recreation Commissioners will be long forgotten and will be a sore point if any of them ever even think about future public positions. No doubt this will be an issue brought up in the various Asian American history courses at San Jose State University in the new Ethnic Studies requirements.

Please consider this decision carefully. The name should reflect the true history of the Heinlenville Chinatown, which is a significant part of San Jose Japantown history. It should reflect the important anti-racist role played by John Heinlen in opposing the anti-Chinese movement in San Jose.

Sincerely yours,

Steven Doi
Historian Japanese American Museum of San Jose
SJSU Emeritus

Naming Japantown's Newest Public Park

Fillmore Sue <fandtsue@sbcglobal.net>

Wed 7/22/2020 12:34 PM

To: Mendez, Zacharias <Zacharias.Mendez@sanjoseca.gov>

Cc: Brenda Wong <bjhwong@yahoo.com>; Fillmore Sue <fandtsue@sbcglobal.net>

[External Email]

Dear Mr. Mendez:

As a resident of this Santa Clara Valley, I add my voice to many local Asian American residents to ask that the name of the new Japantown park be called 'Heinlen Park'.

Heinlenville is an important local landmark in San Jose. It was here before there was a Japantown. Heinlen Park would remind residents and visitors that the site was the birthplace of today's Japantown and commemorates the memory of John Heinlen who dared defy public majority disapproval by allowing Chinese families and businesses to safely live on his land. He was a hero in every sense of the word.

It was John Heinlen's legacy that both Chinese and Japanese cultures could and can continue to thrive in this Santa Clara Valley. Please honor this historic site of Heinlenville and provide the park's visitors with the real story of this local hero and his immense sacrifice to protect a vulnerable ethnic Asian population.

This is your opportunity to give honor to a man who put his honor, livelihood, and reputation on the line. Let the San Jose Parks and Recreation Commission be seen as champions of men like John Heinlen who was critically important to the success of today's City of San Jose and our Santa Clara Valley.

Thank you and with best wishes,

Theodora Sue

1180 Paula Drive
Campbell, CA 95008

(408) 832-0953 Cell

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Naming new Park in Japantown

Sunny L Toy <toywithwine@gmail.com>

Thu 8/13/2020 11:58 PM

To: Mendez, Zacharias <Zacharias.Mendez@sanjoseca.gov>

[External Email]

Dear Mr. Mendez,

I strongly urge you to name Japantown's new park "Heinlenville Park" instead of "Sakura Park." The park is located where the former Heinlenville Chinatown existed from 1887 to 1931. San Joséans named this Chinatown after John Heinlen, a businessman who built a community for the former inhabitants of the Market Street Chinatown after arson destroyed it in 1887.

At a time when many Chinese families were driven out of several West Coast cities, Heinlen's actions provided a home for many Chinese Americans and directly countered anti-Chinese people, who believed in the "Yellow Peril."

"Heinlenville Park" would serve as a tribute to the Chinatown, the honorable Heinlen family and recognize the Asian American (Chinese, Japanese and Filipino) community's roots in history. Years ago there was an exhibit at Stanford on the historical Chinatown which I had no idea existed. This would be a great reminder of an earlier time.

Thank you for your service.

Sincerely,

Sunny Toy

Sent from my iPhone

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Susan Hayase

241 N. 17th Street, San Jose, CA 95112
408 292-6938

Dear Mayor Liccardo, San Jose City Council Members, City Parks and Recreation Commissioners, and City PRNS staff,

I am writing to express my strong opinion on the naming of the new city park in the block bounded by N6th/N7th Streets and Jackson/Taylor.

I have lived in San Jose since 1981 when I moved here from the Stanford area to work as an engineer in Silicon Valley and as a Japanese American community activist in Japantown. In 1987, my husband and I bought a house on North 17th Street and raised our family. One son works for the County of Santa Clara and one works for AMR as a 911 EMT for the county.

During my 41 years of grassroots activism in the San Jose Japanese American community, I have worked with the Nihonmachi Outreach Committee (NOC) and the National Coalition for Redress/Reparations (NCRR.) I performed for ten years, from 1980 – 1990, with the San Jose Taiko group, and am a volunteer with Yu Ai Kai Senior Center and with the Japanese American Museum of San Jose (JAMsj.) I was appointed the vice-chairperson of the Civil Liberties Public Education Fund by President Clinton, and served from 1995 – 1998. I am a co-founder (in 2018) of a new multi-generational grassroots community organization called San Jose Nikkei Resisters, and a co-director of a JAMsj project called Hidden Histories of San Jose Japantown.

I understand that city PRNS staff, with input from community leaders and community historians, proposed that the new city park be named after John Heinlen, who built and leased what became known as the Heinlenville Chinatown to the hundreds of Chinese immigrant workers and merchants who were made homeless by the deliberate arson of the Market Street Chinatown on the current site of the Fairmont Hotel. The Market Street Chinatown was the largest of five San Jose Chinatowns and when it was burned to the ground in 1887, it was a victim to virulent anti-Chinese political movements that were active among the elites and the general population in places like San Jose across the West and which had led to the passing of the Chinese Exclusion Act and to many pogroms and what we would today call hate crimes.

John Heinlen was a German American immigrant who stood up to considerable social, political, and economic pressure by powerful people when he built the Chinatown bordered by N6th/N7th and Jackson/Taylor. What he also did was to create the circumstances that allowed the Chinese immigrant community to survive and then thrive, which in turn became a place where Japanese immigrant laborers could buy necessary goods and food on credit to establish their own community in the 1890s, which later led to the ability of the Filipino immigrant community to establish itself on 6th Street in an area we now call “Pinoytown.”

The real history of the Heinlenville Chinatown is meaningful to the Chinese American, the Japanese American, and the Filipino American communities – who all came together into a real Asian

Susan Hayase

241 N. 17th Street, San Jose, CA 95112
408 292-6938

American community on the site of today's San Jose Japantown. This is a hidden history that community historians and activists have been making public for a number of years now.

I was informed that the San Jose Parks and Recreation Commission rejected the recommendation by the PRNS staff and opted instead to propose the name "Sakura Park," reportedly to avoid naming something after "another dead white guy" and presumably to "honor" Japantown with a soporific choice representing a marketing approach that is willfully ignorant of the area's history and imbued instead with some vague sense of Japanese aesthetics. I wouldn't be surprised if "Sushi Park" or "Ramen Park" weren't in the running, too, narrowly edging out "Pokemon Park."

You and your staff may be unaware that many cities with Asian American communities have enacted many policies over many decades to wipe out those communities or alter them beyond recognition without any consideration for the long-time residents or merchants or workers, often under programs called "urban renewal" or "redevelopment." You may also be unaware that the erasure of the history of such communities is both common and one of the cruel and inhumane characteristics of systemic racism.

The new city park should be named in such a way as to honor the true history of that very historic place. John Heinlen and his family had a warm relationship with the Chinese people inside the block that defined the Heinlenville Chinatown and with the Japanese merchants and families who rented property from him adjacent to Chinatown.

John Heinlen and his family stood up against violent racism during a time that it was easier and more politically correct to be silent or join in. Isn't that principled choice something that we want young people in San Jose and the surrounding area to learn about and to emulate? Today we're decades past the historic Civil Rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s that sought to eradicate de jure segregation and open white supremacy, yet with the Black Lives Matter protests across the nation in recent weeks it could be said that we may have finally achieved enough momentum to make the dreams of Dr. King real in our lifetimes. Yet we still need people, young and old, to decide to weigh in against racism, against the erasure of the true history and stories of people of color communities today.

Please consider rejecting any park name that does not represent the true history of the Heinlenville Chinatown or of the role that that Chinatown played in nurturing the San Jose Japantown and Pinoytown communities. "Heinlenville Park," or "Heinlenville Chinatown Park" would be appropriate names that convey this true history.

Yours sincerely,



Susan Hayase

Naming Japantown's Newest Public Park

Susan Yuen <susan.kanagawa@gmail.com>

Wed 8/12/2020 11:56 AM

To: Ross, Rebekah <rebekah.ross@sanjoseca.gov>; Nguyen, Mindy <Mindy.Nguyen@sanjoseca.gov>; Mendez, Zacharias <Zacharias.Mendez@sanjoseca.gov>; The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo <TheOfficeofMayorSamLiccardo@sanjoseca.gov>; District 6 <district6@sanjoseca.gov>

[External Email]

Dear Mayor Sam Liccardo, City Councilmembers, PRNS Staff, and Commissioners Daphna Woolfe, George Adas, Lawrence Ames, Trami Cron, Rudy Flores, Andre Morrow, and Kelly Snider:

I stand in strong objection to the San Jose Parks and Recreation Commission's decision on March 4, 2020 to nominate "Sakura Park" as the name of Japantown's newest public park.

During the Mar. 4 meeting, the Commissioners overruled the recommendation by the city's Dept. of Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services (PRNS) that the park be named after John Heinlen or Heinlenville, choices that received the highest number of votes in four public, city-wide PRNS surveys. This usurps the consensus of the people. I believe Heinlenville/John Heinlen would have received even more votes if the greater community were aware of his contributions.

I am a resident of District 6 and currently employed by the Japanese American Museum of San Jose to work on a project called "Hidden Histories of San Jose Japantown." This project, funded by the Knight Foundation, will use AR technology to engage the public with art inspired by the events and stories that have been a part of San Jose Japantown. Throughout its more than 130 year history, San Jose Japantown has developed from an extension of San Jose Chinatown (Heinlenville) to a thriving neighborhood that became the home to several immigrant communities including the Japanese, Chinese, and Filipino. With a changing Japantown of the 21st century, many of the stories, images, and sounds of the hard work, play, family life, struggle, and conflict—the life pulse of the community—are often buried, hidden. The decision to name the park "Sakura Park" further buries our local history.

With AR technology, we have the potential to bring the history back to life, and naming the park in honor of John Heinlen would be very fitting. We could potentially even place AR art pieces in the park itself. I hope that the leaders of San Jose will support the preservation of our local history.

Sincerely yours,
Susan Kanagawa Yuen
Project Manager, Hidden Histories of San Jose Japantown

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Fw: Heinlenville Park

Ross, Rebekah <rebekah.ross@sanjoseca.gov>

Thu 7/23/2020 3:23 PM

To: Mendez, Zacharias <Zacharias.Mendez@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Susan Nakamura <smn1991@yahoo.com>

Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2020 8:25 AM

To: Ross, Rebekah <rebekah.ross@sanjoseca.gov>

Subject: Heinlenville Park

[External Email]

City of San Jose
Mayor Sam Liccardo and City Council
Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Service (PRNS)
Parks & Recreation Commission
200 E. Santa Clara Street
San Jose, CA 95113

Re: Naming Japantown's Newest Public Park

Dear Mayor Sam Liccardo, City Councilmembers, PRNS Staff, and Commissioners Daphna Woolfe, George Adas, Lawrence Ames, Trami Cron, Rudy Flores, Andre Morrow, and Kelly Snider:

We are responding with strong objection to the San Jose Parks and Recreation Commission's decision on March 4, 2020 to nominate "Sakura Park" as the name of Japantown's newest public park.

During the March 4 meeting, the Commissioners overruled the recommendation by the city's Dept. of Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services (PRNS) that the park be named after John Heinlen or Heinlenville, choices that received the highest number of votes in four public, city-wide PRNS surveys. This usurps the consensus of the people. We believe Heinlenville/John Heinlen would have received even more votes if the greater community were aware of his contributions.

Naming the new Japantown public park, Heinlenville Park, will appropriately memorialize the history of this portion of 6th Street. The name should reflect the true history of the Heinlenville Chinatown, which is a significant part of San Jose Japantown history. It should reflect the important anti-racist role played by John Heinlen in opposing the anti-Chinese movement in San Jose.

Sincerely yours,

Susan Nakamura

Heinlenville Park

Suzanne Morrone <gowithdog@icloud.com>

Thu 8/13/2020 2:00 PM

To: Nguyen, Mindy <Mindy.Nguyen@sanjoseca.gov>; Ross, Rebekah <rebekah.ross@sanjoseca.gov>; Mendez, Zacharias <Zacharias.Mendez@sanjoseca.gov>; Peralez, Raul <Raul.Peralez@sanjoseca.gov>

Cc: María <mariamhennesy@hotmail.com>

[External Email]

I see an unfortunate trend towards moving away from our rich and sometimes troubled history, and encourage The City Council to NOT name the park in Japantown Sakura Park but to acknowledge a man who stepped up to defend the rights and safety of the early Chinese Immigrants.

Please stop erasing history and honor a brave man who helped a group of people persecuted in the 19th century.

Thank you,
Suzanne Morrone

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Tom Izu
241 N. 17th Street
San Jose, CA 95112
izutom@fhda.edu

August 12, 2020

Dear Mayor Liccardo, San Jose City Council Members, City Parks and Recreation Commissioners, and City PRNS staff,

I strongly object to the San Jose Parks and Recreation Commission's decision to nominate "Sakura Park" as the proposed name of the park to be built at the former site of Heinlenville Chinatown in the Japantown. I urge you to instead, name San Jose's newest park in memory of John Heinlen and "Heinlenville".

I am the immediate past Executive Director of the California History Center at De Anza College and currently a Co-Director of the Hidden Histories of San Jose Japantown Project which explores the little-known stories of the Chinese, Japanese, and Filipino American communities whose shared histories created what we now know as Japantown.

"Sakura Park" is not an appropriate name and comes across as an empty gesture to try and sound "ethnic" without recognizing the actual historical origins of this very special place. In fact, it erases the memory of an entire community, while burying a chapter of the City's history – one when hate, fear, and racism ruled, leading to the burning down by arson of the Market Street Chinatown in 1887 in an effort to force the Chinese out of San Jose.

John Heinlen needs to be remembered because he was willing to face this hatred and build a new Chinatown - "Heinlenville Chinatown" - so the Chinese seeking refuge and safety after the destruction of their community could build a new "home base" and not be driven out of San Jose. His name, while connected to this terrible incident, is also linked to an act of courage - of someone who refused to allow this community to be forced out by hate, even though he endured death threats and social ostracization.

If Heinlenville Chinatown was never built, it is arguable that Japantown itself, would never have arisen where it is today since the first Japanese immigrants to the area sought security and support from Heinlenville, one of the only places in the city they could build their future community next to, given the open hostility the rest of the city showed towards Asian immigrants during that time period. This also applied to the Filipino immigrants who built a vibrant community next to Heinlenville and Japantown during the 1930s, and the spirit of which

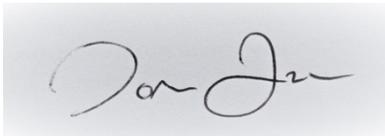
still continues to this day in the form of community organizations and businesses, generations later.

As a third generation Japanese American who has been involved for many years in the life of Japantown, and whose family has roots in this region, the story of Heinlerville has deep meaning to me personally since it is part of my community's history and its very origins.

We have a chance to make the name of the park meaningful, engaging, and instructive rather than an empty obfuscation. Please take this opportunity to allow the people of our city a chance to learn lessons from local history. We need the story of Heinlerville, especially now as our society struggles to overcome white supremacy and hatred, and find a path towards unity built upon respect and understanding.

I urge you to reject the commission's recommendation. History is important and the names that help tell that history are just as important.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light gray background. The signature is cursive and appears to read "Tom Izu".

Tom Izu

August 13, 2020

The Honorable Sam Liccardo, Mayor of San Jose
And Members of the City Council
200 E. Santa Clara Street
San Jose, CA 95113

Re: Naming of a new park in Japantown

Dear Mayor and Councilmembers,

I am writing as an individual who is no longer on the Parks and Recreation Commission as of July 2020 to share with you my comments and decisions at the March 2020 PRNS Commission meeting.

I would like to address the inaccuracy of the letter(s) generated by those connected to the project **Hidden Histories of San Jose Japantown** and **Robert Ragsac** indicating: “During the Mar. 4 meeting, the Commissioners overruled the recommendation by the city's Dept. of Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services (PRNS) that the park be named after John Heinlen or Heinlenville, choices that received the highest number of votes in four public, city-wide PRNS surveys. This usurps the consensus of the people. We believe Heinlenville/John Heinlen would have received even more votes if the greater community were aware of his contributions.”

When I served on the PRNS commission, representing the community is of utmost priority for me. I followed the policies and procedures set forth to make decisions based on community input.

Here are the numbers presented to the commission regarding the naming of the park.

- Yujo Park (69 votes) - Double meaning with a bad connotation
- Japantown (56 votes) - Uninspiring name
- Sakura (54 votes) – Is the translation for “cherry blossom.” It also means “beauty of heart,” and “accomplishment.”
- Tokio Ishikawa (43 votes)
- Heinlenville (41 votes)
- John Heinlen Park (37 votes)
- Nihonmachi Park (37 votes)
- James Benjamin Peckman (14 votes)

Based on these numbers, the majority of the community (259 vs 78) wanted a “Japanese-referenced” name, not Heinlenville. Additionally, a note from a community member that was included said, “Please do not name a park after a Caucasian. Please use something that is meaningful to the community” was included in the report.

Based on these numbers, I felt strongly that I (we) voted for what the community wanted a name that referenced the Japanese culture and community. My decision was based on the majority of votes. I did go with the highest number of votes and NOT against it as indicated by Hidden Histories of San Jose Japantown and Robert Ragsac.

When serving on the commission, I put my heart and reputation on the line daily and do not appreciate the misuse of inaccurate information to make me and my colleagues look bad just to get their points across.

In the end, it is still up to the Council to make the final decision that is best for the community. The commission is simply an advisory board; however, I felt the need to write this letter to clarify how my decision was made and to call out false information disseminated by the aforementioned organization and individual to stake their case.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Trami', with a stylized, flowing script.

Trami Cron

Cc:

City Clerk's Office

Dave Sykes, City Manager

Jon Cicirelli, Director of PRNS

Teresa Meyer-Cavert, PRNS staff to CC PRNS Commissioners

Daphna Wolfe, PRNS Commission Chair

George Adas, PRNS Commission Vice Chair

Rebekah Ross, PRNS Staff

Heinlerville's Chinatown History

Valerie Kohl <valmkohl@gmail.com>

Thu 8/6/2020 12:50 PM

To: Ross, Rebekah <rebekah.ross@sanjoseca.gov>; Mendez, Zacharias <Zacharias.Mendez@sanjoseca.gov>; Nguyen, Mindy <Mindy.Nguyen@sanjoseca.gov>

[External Email]

Hello, I strongly urge you to name Japantown's new park "Heinlerville Park" instead of "Sakura Park." "Heinlerville Park" would serve as a tribute to the Heinlerville Chinatown that used to exist there and honor the Asian American (Chinese, Japanese and Filipino) community's roots in local history.

Thank you,
Valerie Kohl

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Naming the new public park in San Jose's Japantown

Verna Wong <vrnwng2@gmail.com>

Fri 8/14/2020 4:42 PM

To: rebekkah.ross@sanjoseca.gov <rebekkah.ross@sanjoseca.gov>; Mendez, Zacharias <Zacharias.Mendez@sanjoseca.gov>;
Nguyen, Mindy <Mindy.Nguyen@sanjoseca.gov>

[External Email]

Dear San Jose, CA city dignitaries:

I would like to propose that the new public park in San Jose's Japantown be named "Heinlerville Park." The new park will be located where the Heinlerville Chinatown was once located. The name will also honor the memory of John Heinlen, who braved death threats to lease his property to the displaced Chinese when a Chinese settlement located where today's Fairmont stands mysteriously burned to the ground.

Sincerely,

Verna Wong

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Please name Japantown's new park "Heinlerville Park"

Vicki Young <vickisoyoung@gmail.com>

Sat 8/8/2020 1:47 PM

To: Ross, Rebekah <rebekah.ross@sanjoseca.gov>; Mendez, Zacharias <Zacharias.Mendez@sanjoseca.gov>; Nguyen, Mindy <Mindy.Nguyen@sanjoseca.gov>

[External Email]

Hello,

I strongly urge you to name Japantown's new park "Heinlerville Park" instead of "Sakura Park." "Heinlerville Park" would serve as a tribute to the Heinlerville Chinatown that used to exist there and honor the Asian American (Chinese, Japanese and Filipino) community's roots in local.

Thank you,
Vicki Young

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Naming Japantown's Newest Public Park

Vicky Leung <lvickywk@gmail.com>

Wed 8/12/2020 10:26 PM

To: Ross, Rebekah <rebekah.ross@sanjoseca.gov>; Mendez, Zacharias <Zacharias.Mendez@sanjoseca.gov>; Nguyen, Mindy <Mindy.Nguyen@sanjoseca.gov>

[External Email]

Dear Mayor Sam Liccardo, City Councilmembers, PRNS Staff, and Commissioners Daphna Woolfe, George Adas, Lawrence Ames, Trami Cron, Rudy Flores, Andre Morrow, and Kelly Snider:

We are responding with strong objection to the San Jose Parks and Recreation Commission's decision on March 4, 2020 to nominate "Sakura Park" as the name of Japantown's newest public park.

During the Mar. 4 meeting, the Commissioners overruled the recommendation by the city's Dept. of Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services (PRNS) that the park be named after John Heinlen or Heinlenville, choices that received the highest number of votes in four public, city-wide PRNS surveys. This usurps the consensus of the people.

We believe Heinlenville/John Heinlen would have received even more votes if the greater community were aware of his contributions. Especially during this time of racial inequality, we need to highlight the heros who stood up for those discriminated upon.

Please consider this decision carefully. The name should reflect the true history of the Heinlenville Chinatown, which is a significant part of San Jose Japantown history. It should reflect the important anti-racist role played by John Heinlen in opposing the anti-Chinese movement in San Jose.

Sincerely yours,
Vicky Leung
San Jose Japantown homeowner

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Heinlenville Park

Low family < lows5@comcast.net >

Wed 8/12/2020 11:08 PM

To: Mendez, Zacharias < Zacharias.Mendez@sanjoseca.gov >

[External Email]

I strongly urge you to name Japantown's new park "Heinlenville Park" instead of "Sakura Park" which is in direct opposition to a multipage recommendation letter jointly signed by CHCP, Japantown Business Association, Japantown Community Congress and the Japantown Neighborhood Association for the **nomination of the name "Heinlenville Park"**

The park is located where the former Heinlenville Chinatown existed from 1887 to 1931. San Joséans named this Chinatown after John Heinlen, a businessman who built a community for the former inhabitants of the Market Street Chinatown after arson destroyed it in 1887. Heinlen's actions directly countered anti-Chinese people, who believed in the "Yellow Peril."

The Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 denied naturalization and U.S. citizenship of the Chinese, legalizing discrimination against them and revealing our government's Sinophobia. The act was the first and only federal legislation to prohibit immigration for a specific race. In the midst of this blatant racism in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, many Chinese families were driven out of several West Coast cities, and Heinlenville became a home for them.

Besides the history behind the name "Heinlenville Park," the name "Sakura Park" intensifies stereotypical correlations between Japan and cherry blossoms. Japanese culture extends further than a pretty tree.

I am a Chinese American citizen whose father served in the US Army while the Chinese Exclusion Act was in force. People like John Heinlen respected his service to America. "Heinlenville Park" would serve as a tribute to the Chinatown, honor the humanitarian John Heinlen family and recognize the Asian American (Chinese, Japanese and Filipino) community's roots in history. I urge you to pick the name that commemorates Asian culture, not trivializes it.

Thank you,

Vivian Low

Resident of Santa Clara County

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Proposal to name San Jose's newest park "Heinlenville Park"

Vivian Tsang <vivianjtsang@gmail.com>

Sun 8/9/2020 1:57 AM

To: Ross, Rebekah <rebekah.ross@sanjoseca.gov>; Mendez, Zacharias <Zacharias.Mendez@sanjoseca.gov>; Nguyen, Mindy <Mindy.Nguyen@sanjoseca.gov>

Cc: Brenda Hee Wong <brenda.wong@chcp.org>

[External Email]

Dear San Jose City Council,

I am writing to nominate "Heinlenville Park" as the official name for the new public park in San Jose's Japantown. John Heinlen was a local businessman who braved death threats to lease property to Chinese citizens who were displaced during a suspicious fire in 1887. Upon their first arrival in the California during the Gold Rush, the Chinese faced immense discrimination and hostility all while being exploited for cheap labor. In fact, the park will be on the same land where the Heinlenville Chinatown was once located. Usage of the name "Heinlenville Park," one of San Jose's most long-lived Chinatowns, recognizes the area's rich history and significant impact on the Asian-American community. We hope to preserve and continue embracing the history of Heinlenville and would greatly appreciate your consideration of this proposal.

Thank you,
Vivian Tsang

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Naming New Park (Japantown)

Willy Wong <willyw798@gmail.com>

Fri 8/14/2020 6:57 PM

To: District1 <district1@sanjoseca.gov>; District2 <District2@sanjoseca.gov>; District3 <district3@sanjoseca.gov>; Mendez, Zacharias <Zacharias.Mendez@sanjoseca.gov>; District4 <District4@sanjoseca.gov>; District5 <District5@sanjoseca.gov>; District 6 <district6@sanjoseca.gov>; District7 <District7@sanjoseca.gov>; District8 <district8@sanjoseca.gov>; District9 <district9@sanjoseca.gov>; District 10 <District10@sanjoseca.gov>; The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo <TheOfficeofMayorSamLiccardo@sanjoseca.gov>

[External Email]

Whoever is going to name the proposed new park on the historic ground has to understand the history behind this property. This new proposed park was formerly the fifth Chinatown of San Jose after many misfortunate fires destroyed other locations. John Heinlen was the owner of this property and saw that the Chinese were in need of a community to stay. He offered the land to the Chinese, which subsequently was turned into Chinatown. Japanese and Filipino communities soon followed; many Chinese and Filipinos left and the surrounding area is currently San Jose's Japantown.

Naming the proposed park "Sakura" does not do justice to this property since it has no strong ties with any Japanese history. I am requesting your consideration to name the park in honor of the person who once owned this property and contributed to the Asian communities. Please consider naming the park "Heinlenville Park."

Willy Wong

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

August 3, 2020

City of San Jose
Mayor Sam Liccardo and City Council
Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Service (PRNS)
Parks & Recreation Commission
200 E. Santa Clara Street
San Jose, CA 95113

Re: Naming Japantown's Newest Public Park

Dear Mayor Sam Liccardo, City Councilmembers, PRNS Staff, and Commissioners Daphna Woolfe, George Adas, Lawrence Ames, Trami Cron, Rudy Flores, Andre Morrow, and Kelly Snider:

I am a third-generation, Japanese-American resident of Santa Clara County with strong ties to the San Jose Japantown community (specifically San Jose Nikkei Resisters, Yu-Ai Kai and Wesley United Methodist Church). I am writing to voice my opposition to the San Jose Parks and Recreation Commission's decision on March 4, 2020 to nominate "Sakura Park" as the name of Japantown's newest public park.

During the Mar. 4 meeting, the Commissioners overruled the recommendation by the city's Dept. of Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services (PRNS) that the park be named after John Heinlen or Heinlenville, choices that received the highest number of votes in four public, city-wide PRNS surveys. This usurps the consensus of the people. I believe Heinlenville/John Heinlen would have received even more votes if the greater community were aware of his contributions.

During these divisive times, when symbols of racism and white supremacy are finally being torn down, you have a unique opportunity to honor a man who faced rampant anti-Chinese sentiment in his community to do the right thing. Please don't waste the naming of this park on a meaningless stereotype.

The name should reflect the true history of the Heinlenville Chinatown, which is a significant part of San Jose Japantown history. It should reflect the important anti-racist role played by John Heinlen in opposing the anti-Chinese movement in San Jose.

Sincerely yours,



Kathy Higuchi
Sunnyvale, CA
Kathy.higuchi@gmail.com

Hunter, Cassie

Subject: FW: Japantown Plaza Park Naming
Attachments: Japantown Plaza Park Naming.docx

From: CHARLES POWERS <jpowers495@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, August 27, 2020 5:41 AM
To: Cicirelli, Jon <Jon.Cicirelli@sanjoseca.gov>
Cc: Ross, Rebekah <rebekah.ross@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: Japantown Plaza Park Naming

[External Email]

Jo on Cicirelli, Director [Jon.Cicirelli@sanjoseca.gov]
c/o Rebekah Ross [rebekah.ross@sanjoseca.gov]
Department of Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services
City of San Jose
200 E. Santa Clara Street
San José, CA 95113

RE: Japantown Plaza Park Naming

Dear Mr. Cicirelli,

I urge everyone involved in this process to consider naming Japantown Plaza Park for John Heinlen or Heinlenville. “John Heinlen” and “Heinlenville” invoke memories of a history which is true, rich in meaning, and memorable (for children as well as adults). The story is an inclusive one, conveying the indispensable lesson that the history of one group is always deeply intertwined with stories of other groups. Finally, this is an uplifting story of a person actually made a positive difference reverberating on lives for several generations; all because John Heinlen demonstrated the courage to act with empathy and human compassion at a time when many people discouraged him from doing so. This speaks to the very essence of what San Jose is.

I urge you to name Japantown’s Plaza Part for John Heinlen or Heinlenville.

Sincerely,

Charles Powers, resident of the immediate neighborhood
August 27, 2020

attachment: this letter in a word file

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Hunter, Cassie

Subject: FW: Hello! A question about the Japantown Park naming...

From: Kathy Sakamoto <sjokayama1957@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, August 27, 2020 10:16 AM

To: Ross, Rebekah <rebekah.ross@sanjoseca.gov>

Subject: Hello! A question about the Japantown Park naming...

[External Email]

Hello Rebekah,

As a former member of the Japantown Community Congress (JCCsj) Board of Directors, the Executive Director of the Japantown Business Association and current President of San Jose-Okayama Sister Cities, I am hoping that some of the experience of writing the official report that was included in the Senate Bill 307 final report of the three Japantowns in the State of California will be helpful. This report, which was required to be sent to the CA Legislature to be housed in the CA State Library, had to be completed and sent before all the subsequent books on Japantown San Jose were written.

Also, the landmarks and all work, aside from the remaining concrete benches that were to be placed in the "Corporation Yard" site were managed through the JCCsj and the City of San Jose by the SJ Redevelopment Agency as the representative agency of the City of San Jose. This relationship was established by Senate Bill 307 to enable smooth processing of community and government, regulatory and creative, individual and group conversation and wishes.

As the last 'open' land in Japantown and a place of irreplaceable historical context in the legacy of the existence of multi-cultural, multi-ethnic relationships in San Jose and Santa Clara County. The naming of the public space is incredibly important, especially in this age of disrupted dreams and stuttering governance throughout the USA and even the world.

Doing 'the right thing' would be to dedicate the space to the history of people who built so much in the economy, culture and framework of this area.

My question is this: Why name this place something so irrelevant to San Jose and its history as "Sakura Park" or something of that nature?

Points to consider:

- "Sakura" are not able to thrive in San Jose except where water and humidity are abundant. Not in Japantown. It's been tried multiple times and the poor trees fail every time.
- The Japantown logo which is actually the Japantown Business Association logo for which it was created and paid for, is of a plum blossom, not a cherry blossom. The plum was selected to honor the orchards of the Santa Clara Valley.
- Without the intervention of the Heinlen family, the Chinese would've been driven away once again and there would not have been the familiarity of foodstuff and ancient history to encourage the Japanese immigrant population to settle (which, obviously, was the intent of some of the population or society of San Jose and Santa Clara County at the time)

So my question is just again, why is "Sakura Park" a suggestion from PRNS?

Thank you for any reasoning or clarification!

Best Regards,
Stay Safe,

Kathy Sakamoto

(p.s.-San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin on 5th Street in Japantown is my home church..The head minister is my husband.
We've been involved in Japantown for 34 years)

--

San Jose-Okayama Sister Cities, a 501c(3) non-profit organization, officially representing the relationship between the City of San Jose & the City of Okayama, Japan. Tax ID upon request.

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Hunter, Cassie

Subject: FW: naming of Japantown's newest public park

From: Alice Hikido <hikidoa@aol.com>

Sent: Wednesday, August 26, 2020 10:15 PM

To: Cicirelli, Jon <Jon.Cicirelli@sanjoseca.gov>

Cc: Ross, Rebekah <rebekah.ross@sanjoseca.gov>

Subject: naming of Japantown's newest public park

[External Email]

Dear Mr. Cicirelli,

Since learning that the naming of Japantown's newest public park has been postponed to September 1st, we wanted to add our comments and opinions as you and others deliberate further on this subject.

We have been active members of Wesley United Methodist Church located at 566 N. 5th Street (a primarily Japanese American congregation) for over fifty years and are very much aware of the history of this area and of John Heinlen's support and friendship to the Chinese immigrant community in the early years when racial discrimination was the norm. This led to the formation of Chinatown in this area. Later as Japanese immigrants arrived and sought refuge in Santa Clara county, John Heinlen leased land adjacent to Chinatown and that was the beginning of Japantown. Again he did this when discrimination against Japanese immigrants was prevalent.

Those of us in the Japanese community are mindful of those courageous persons like Mr. Heinlen who extended hospitality to those Japanese that came before us. He helped them believe in the American dream. We ask that you give consideration to naming the park after John Heinlen, a friend to Asian Americans. An interpretive sign explaining the reason behind this decision can be installed so that future generations can be aware of the valuable lesson of tolerance and hospitality.....perhaps you can even consider naming the park, The Heinlen Friendship Park!

Thank you for listening to our appeal and bringing it to the attention of the commissioners.....we know that many in our congregation at Wesley Methodist Church also want to honor John Heinlen in this meaningful way.....we add their voices to ours.

Sincerely,
Katsumi Hikido (member of the 442nd Infantry Unit of WW II)
Alice Hikido

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.