



August 11, 2020

Dear Ms. Hernandez and Ms. Sinsky-Crosby:

Pacific Beach Democratic Club represents members throughout Pacific Beach, Mission Beach, Bay Ho, Bay Park, Crown Point, and Mission Bay. While democratic clubs across the County typically focus on elections and promoting democratic candidates, this Club views the work of creating a more equal and harmonious community that supports and celebrates diversity as an equally important responsibility.

We recognize Pacific Beach's history of discrimination towards non-white people and that beach communities throughout San Diego hold a shameful history of redlining neighborhoods, making home-ownership impossible for non-white people, and effectively enforcing segregation throughout the County. We also recognize the important work we have ahead of us as a community of correcting this history.

As part of this work, Pacific Beach Democratic Club supports renaming the Pacific Beach Middle Joint Use Field (Pacific Beach Community Park) as the "Fannie and William Payne Community Park."

The story of the Paynes is one that should be remembered and memorialized. William B. Payne was hired in 1945 to teach at Pacific Beach Junior High, and white parents fought his employment immediately. They gathered over 1,900 signatures requesting the removal of Payne, simply because they believed he did not belong at a beach community school due to the color of his skin. When School Superintendent William Crawford declined to terminate Payne's employment, the parents appealed to the California Board of Education, and fortunately, the State stood with the Superintendent. Payne continued on to teach in Pacific Beach and at San Diego High for 23 years, as well as working at San Diego City College and SDSU.

His wife, Fannie J. Payne, also worked as an educator in San Diego for over four decades. In addition to working as a teacher, in-school counselor, district resource teacher for Special Education, district counselor, and vice principal, she also achieved advanced degrees and post-graduate training from NYU, USC, UCLA, and SDSU. She went on to join the Board of Directors of Goodwill Industries and was one of the four original Board members of St. Paul's Senior Homes and Services.

In order for our beautiful community to move forward from this ugly history of racial discrimination and exclusion, we must make conscious efforts to remember and celebrate leaders like the Paynes, who gave so much back to a community that fought them. It is very suiting that the park next to the middle school in which Payne taught carry that name and legacy.

Our Club members and Executive Board would also like to thank and recognize community leaders Paige Hernandez and Regina H. Sinsky-Crosby for leading this effort and pushing local community groups to take actions that will strengthen diversity and inclusion in Pacific Beach.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christie Davis". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Christie Davis
President, Pacific Beach Democratic Club

Pacific Beach Democratic Club

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Meetings: 1st Thursdays, 6:00 P.M.