

From: [John Holic](#)
To: [Kelly Michaels](#)
Cc: [Citizen Advisory Board](#); [Mikey Pachota](#); [Bob Vedder](#); [Board and Council Messages](#)
Subject: Park naming, renaming - addendum #2
Date: Friday, January 3, 2025 6:40:24 AM

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Good Morning Kelly,

Happy New Year and I hope all is well with you.

I am suggesting two additional parks for the CAB consideration in naming a park in honor of Bob and Sue Vedder. I have received very reliable information about Centennial Park that should be shared with the CAB. I did not include Centennial Park for renaming as the City is approaching its Centennial and I thought the park might have name significance for that event. However, I have been told that the downtown Centennial Park was suggested by the Venice Historical Commission to council in June of 1988. The recommendation was based on the post office centennial celebration that occurred in 1988. This is another example of inadequate and readily available information on why our parks are named the way they are not being publicly displayed. If this information is accurate it should be obvious that the post office did not consider this as an important event as there is no known plaque commemorating this event and I would be willing to bet that not a single person at the post office knows anything about this naming.

The other park that could be considered is the Michael Biehl Park. The park description states it was named after Michael Biehl who donated money to the Sarasota Coonservation Fund for the purchase of the park. The park sits on land that was formerly a restaurant, and I think the dedication plaque states additional donors for the purchase of the land. I have no information on Michael Biehl and do not know if he was a Venice Resident or if he participated in any other areas of the city.

Since the last meeting of the CAB, I have informed Bob Vedder of the presentation we made to that board, so this project is no longer a surprise. Please let me know if the CAB is going to discuss this topic at their next meeting as I have notified Mr. Vedder of the posted date and time of the meeting in the event they have questions for him.

I have taken the liberty to include the CAB in this addendum and realize they will not reply to me due to Sunshine Law restrictions, however, I wanted them to have any information that they may find helpful with recommendations to City Council on this project.

Thank you for your help.

Sincerely,

John Holic