

Mission Manor Park Renaming Process – Public Feedback Briefing

Purpose

This briefing summarizes public feedback received through the Mission Manor Park public feedback period. The intent is to provide a neutral, factual overview of participation levels, response distribution, and key themes expressed by respondents.

Participation Overview

- **Total survey responses:** 1525
- **Support renaming (Yes):** 382 - 25 % of respondents
- **Do not support renaming (No):** 1,143 – 75% of respondents

Overall Response

Public comments reflected both strong opposition and strong community engagement with a range of perspectives. Feedback generally fell into two positions: support for honoring Raúl Grijalva through renaming, and opposition centered on preserving the existing park name due to historical, neighborhood, and process-related concerns.

Summary of Feedback Themes

Responses Supporting Renaming - 382 - 25 % of respondents

General Sentiment

Supporters with written comments view the renaming as a **positive and respectful acknowledgment** of Congressman Raúl Grijalva's life, service, and impact on the Tucson community.

Key Themes in Support

- **Recognition of Public Service:**
Many commenters cited Grijalva's long career in public service, advocacy for the community, and dedication to social, environmental, and civil rights issues.
- **Appropriate Tribute:**
Supporters described the renaming as a meaningful and lasting way to honor his legacy.
- **Community Impact:**
Comments frequently referenced his influence on Tucson and the broader region, noting that the honor is well deserved.

- **No Objection to Change:**
Several respondents indicated they had no issue with changing the park’s name and viewed it as a respectful update.
- **Pride and Appreciation:**
Some expressed pride in seeing a local park carry the name of a respected community leader.

Overall Framing

Supporters largely framed the renaming as **honorific, symbolic, and aligned with community values**.

Responses Opposed to Renaming - 1,143 – 75% of respondents

General Sentiment

Opposition written comments were more numerous and tended to focus on **place-based identity, process concerns, and preservation of the existing name** rather than personal criticism.

Key Themes in Opposition

- **Historical and Neighborhood Identity:**
Many commenters emphasized the long-standing history of the name “Mission Manor Park” and its importance to neighborhood identity and continuity.
- **Attachment to the Existing Name:**
Residents expressed personal and generational connections to the park’s current name, noting it has been in use for decades.
- **Precedent and Frequency of Name Changes:**
Some raised concerns about setting a precedent for renaming parks and cited fatigue with frequent or repeated name changes.
- **Alternative Recognition Already Exists:**
A common point was that Grijalva is already honored elsewhere (e.g., other parks or schools), suggesting additional renaming is unnecessary.
- **Process and Representation:**
Several commenters questioned whether the renaming reflects the wishes of immediate neighborhood residents or felt the local community was not adequately prioritized.
- **Preference for Additive Recognition:**
Some opposed the name change but supported alternative ways to honor Grijalva, such as plaques, monuments, or programming, without removing the existing name.

Overall Framing

Opponents generally framed their position as **protective rather than oppositional**, focusing on community history, stability, and local voice.

Key Takeaways Across Both Positions

- **Shared Respect:**
Even many opposed comments acknowledged Raúl Grijalva's service and contributions, indicating the disagreement is largely about **naming and process**, not the individual.
- **Tension Between Legacy and Place:**
The feedback reflects a broader tension between honoring influential leaders and preserving established neighborhood identity.
- **Process Sensitivity:**
Both sides implicitly highlight the importance of transparent, inclusive decision-making when it comes to place names.
- **Opportunity for Compromise:**
Several comments suggest space for alternative or supplemental forms of recognition that do not require renaming.