



City of Hermosa Beach

Civic Center, 1315 Valley Drive, Hermosa Beach, CA 90254-3885

MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 1, 2025

TO: Parks, Recreation and Community Resources Advisory Commission (Commission) and Mayor and Members of the City Council

FROM: Commissioners Ellman and Horowitz, Councilmember Deto and Mayor Pro Team Saemann

SUBJECT: Greenbelt Pedestrian Trail and South Park Accessible Playground Renaming Subcommittee (Subcommittee)

The joint Commission and City Council sub-committee met on November 6, 2024 to consider renaming of the Greenbelt Pedestrian Trail in honor of accessibility advocates. At its January 14, 2025 meeting, Council approved expanding the Subcommittee's scope to consider renaming the accessible playground at South Park in honor of Casey Rohrer. The Subcommittee met again on February 5, 2025 and April 1, 2025 to discuss the renaming of both facilities. In accordance with the Municipal Naming, Monument, and Sponsorship and Policy Guide, the Subcommittee provides the following detailed analysis and recommendations regarding the renaming of each facility.

Proposed Renaming for the Greenbelt Pedestrian Trail

The Subcommittee recommends City Council adopt a resolution renaming the Greenbelt Pedestrian Trail to the Greenbelt Accessible Trail to further convey how this specific portion of the Greenbelt is inclusive, providing equal access for all its users.

Proposed Bench for the Greenbelt Pedestrian Trail

The Subcommittee recommends installing a bench on the Greenbelt Pedestrian Trail dedicated to the Access Hermosa Working Group and in memoriam of accessibility advocates associated with the group, Geoff Hirsch and Casey Rohrer.

In 2016, per the direction of the City Council, the City Manager created the **Access Hermosa Working Group** to advise and support the City in improving ADA accessibility throughout the City.

Geoff Hirsch served the Hermosa Beach community in many ways. He was a member of Leadership Hermosa Beach, the Pacific Coast Highway and Aviation Improvement Committee, and the South Bay Bicycle Coalition. He served as a coach for Hermosa Beach Little League and as a Parks, Recreation, and Community Resources Advisory Commissioner. As a result of a stroke, Geoff began using a wheelchair and devoted his time advocating for the beach cities to become more accessible for all. Geoff served as a leading voice and member of the City's Access Hermosa Working Group, which was created to advise and support the City in improving ADA accessibility throughout the City.

Improving accessibility to the Greenbelt was one of the group's top goals and was one of the top projects Geoff advocated for.

Casey Rohrer was born with cerebral palsy and used a wheelchair. Cerebral Palsy also impacted Casey's voice. When Casey was in second grade, he received a machine that enabled him to talk. Casey used his voice to serve as an activist for people with disabilities and to bring awareness of their experiences and the importance of equal access for all through speeches locally and across the country. In addition, Casey strongly supported his mother Beth's work on the Access Hermosa Working Group and the group's advocacy to improve accessibility to the Greenbelt.

If approved, the City would install the bench on the east side of the trail with the plaque reading:

*Greenbelt Accessible Trail, Pier Avenue to 8th Street
Dedicated to the Access Hermosa Working Group &
In Memoriam of Geoff Hirsch and Casey Rohrer*

The location of the bench is indicated in the picture below.



Proposed Honoree for the South Park Accessible Playground

Casey Rohrer wished for a park that was accessible to all children. Casey's mother, Beth served alongside a group of volunteers advocating for the renovation of South Park. Casey was involved in designing a universally accessible playground that would ultimately be part of the renovation completed in 2017. During the South Park Ribbon Cutting Ceremony to celebrate the park's renovation, Casey shared "(..) this playground is great because all kids can play together now."

Proposed Renaming of the South Park Accessible Playground

The City would install a plaque on an existing bench overlooking the accessible playground that would read, "The Casey Rohrer Accessible Playground is named in honor of Hermosa Beach resident Casey Rohrer who wished for a park that was accessible to all children and served as an inspiration for the 2016 renovation that provided the accessible playground."

Following the description would be a quote by Casey provided at the South Park Ribbon Cutting Ceremony to celebrate the park's renovation, "This playground is great because all kids can play together now."

The bench is shown in the picture below and sits east of the accessible playground.





Estimated Costs

2 x Plaque = \$700 (\$350 per plaque)

1 x Bench = \$1,800

Shipping = \$500

Tax = \$250

Labor for crew to install bench and plaques: \$1,600

Concrete pad on Greenbelt (built) = \$1,320

Concrete pad at South Park (to be built) = \$1,680

Total Cost = \$7,850