



Travis County Commissioners Court Agenda Request

Meeting Date: October 9, 2012

Prepared By/Phone Number: Melissa Velasquez, Judge's Office, x49555

Elected/Appointed Official/Dept. Head: Samuel T. Biscoe, County Judge

Commissioners Court Sponsor: Samuel T. Biscoe, County Judge

AGENDA LANGUAGE:

CONSIDER AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION ON REQUEST FROM THE U.S. BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES TO COMPLETE RECOMMENDATION FORM REGARDING THE NAME CHANGE OF TOWN LAKE TO LADY BIRD LAKE.

BACKGROUND/SUMMARY OF REQUEST AND ATTACHMENTS:

Our office received a request from the United States Board on Geographic Names to complete a recommendation form on the renaming of Town Lake to Lady Bird Lake. The Board is seeking recommendations because "local acceptance of any name is very important to the Board, and because the recommendation of your office would be of interest to the Board, we would like your opinion."

They are requesting that Travis County respond by November 30, 2012.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

Recommendation to submit a recommendation.

ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES:

None.

FISCAL IMPACT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING:

None.

REQUIRED AUTHORIZATIONS:

None.

AGENDA REQUEST DEADLINE: All agenda requests and supporting materials must be submitted as a pdf to Cheryl Aker in the County Judge's office, Cheryl.Aker@co.travis.tx.us by Tuesdays at 5:00 p.m. for the next week's meeting.



UNITED STATES BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES

In reply please use this address:
U. S. Geological Survey
523 National Center
Reston, Virginia 20192-0523

September 19, 2012

Judge Samuel T. Biscoe
Travis County Court
PO Box 1748
Austin, Texas 78767

Dear Judge Biscoe:

The U. S. Board on Geographic Names is responsible by law for adjudicating decisions regarding geographic names for use by the departments and agencies of the Federal government. The Board has received a proposal to make official for Federal use a name change that was made the City of Austin, to change the name of Town Lake, a reservoir in the City of Austin, to Lady Bird Lake. Because local acceptance of any name is very important to the Board, and because the recommendation of your office would be of interest to the Board, we would like your opinion. We are also contacting the Texas State Names Authority and the Lyndon Baines Johnson Foundation for their opinions on the proposal.

As you are likely aware, in 2007, the City of Austin passed a resolution in honor of Lady Bird Johnson that changed the name of Town Lake to Lady Bird Lake. Although we were made aware of the name change in 2007, the Commemorative Names Policy of the U.S. Board requires a five year waiting period following the death of the intended honoree. The proposal was made to the U.S. Board in 2012.

We have enclosed for your review a copy of the proposal and a Geographic Name Proposal Recommendation form to facilitate a response from your office. In order for the Board to review all responses and vote on this issue in a timely manner, we ask that if possible you respond with an opinion by November 30, 2012, or let us know if you need additional time to consider the proposal.

If you have any questions or to submit your recommendation, we may be contacted by mail at the address above; by telephone at (703) 648-4552; by fax at (703) 648-4549; or by e-mail at <BGNEXEC@usgs.gov>.

Sincerely yours,

Jennifer E. Runyon

for
Lou Yost
Executive Secretary
Domestic Names Committee
U.S. Board on Geographic Names

Enclosures

FILED
COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE
12 SEP 26 PM 3:08



U.S. BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES

GEOGRAPHIC NAME PROPOSAL RECOMMENDATION

Proposed Geographic Name Lady Bird Lake

This is to notify the U.S. Board on Geographic Names that:

Travis County Court _____
(Name of government entity, organization, or individual)

Recommends that the U. S. Board on Geographic Names:

- Approve the Proposed Name**
- Reject the Proposed Name**
- Take Action as Specified Below**
- Render a Decision Without Our Recommendation**

Comments (the following factors contributed to this recommendation; attach supporting documentation if appropriate):

(Name)

(Title)

(Address)

(Telephone)

(City, State, ZIP Code)

(E-mail)

(Signature)

(Date)

Return to: U.S. Board on Geographic Names
U.S. Geological Survey
523 National Center
Reston VA 20192-0523
Telephone: (703) 648-4552
Fax: (703) 648-4549
E-mail: BGNEEXEC@usgs.gov

Approved

Promulgation authorized
Executive Secretary
Domestic Geographic Names

UNITED STATES
BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES

CASE BRIEF (Domestic)

Lady Bird Lake: reservoir; 468 acres; in the City of Austin along the Colorado River between Longhorn Dam and Tom Miller Dam; named in honor of Claudia Alta “Lady Bird” Taylor Johnson (1912-2007), First Lady of the United States from 1963 to 1969; Travis County, Texas; 30°15’50”N, 97°45’03”W; USGS map – Austin West 1:24,000. Not: Town Lake.
http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglemap?p_lat=30.2637947&p_longi=-97.7508441&fid=1376484

Proposal: name change to recognize local usage

Map: USGS Auburn 1:24,000

Proponent: Jennifer Wilson; Austin, TX

Administrative area: None

Previous BGN Action: None

Names associated with feature:

GNIS: Town Lake (1376484)

Local Usage: Lady Bird Lake (local residents, Austin City Council Resolution, 2007), Town Lake (local residents)

Published: Lady Bird Lake (City of Austin, 2007; Texas Parks & Wildlife, 2012;

AustinExplorer.com; Google Maps), Town Lake (USGS maps since 1966, local residents)

Case Summary: This proposal is to change the name of Town Lake, a reservoir in the City of Austin in Travis County, to Lady Bird Lake. The change would recognize the name that was made official for local use in a resolution passed in 2007 by the Austin City Council. The name honors former Lady Bird Johnson, First Lady of the U.S. from 1963 to 1969. Mrs. Johnson died in 2007, but the name change could not be submitted to the BGN until the five-year commemorative names waiting period was satisfied. The proposal was submitted by a hydrologist with the USGS Texas Water Science Center, which has a need to refer to the reservoir in many of its reports.

The reservoir was created in 1960 with the construction of Longhorn Dam (formerly Town Lake Dam). The name Town Lake first appeared on USGS topographic maps in 1966. The majority of city and agencies already use the name Lady Bird Lake, and Google Maps also labels the body of water as such. The 7.2-mile-long Town Lake Hike and Bike Trail, which follows the shoreline along both sides of the reservoir, is often referred to as the Lady Bird Lake Bike and Hike Trail or The Trail at Lady Bird Lake, although the official name was changed by the City to the Ann and Roy Butler Hike and Bike Trail at Lady Bird Lake. News accounts of the renaming by the City in 2007 (two weeks and a day after the death of Mrs. Johnson) report that she consistently declined the honor, saying she “wouldn’t feel right doing that.” However, her daughter told the City Council that her mother “would have accepted the posthumous renaming, but that she wanted the hike and bike trail to be made fully wheelchair accessible.”

Claudia Alta “Lady Bird” Taylor Johnson is remembered for her dedication to conservation and beautification efforts, including her support for The Beautification Act of 1965, which encouraged scenic development along Federal highways. Among many projects, she founded the Society for a More Beautiful National Capitol and solicited private donations to plant azaleas and dogwood trees in Washington D.C. After her tenure in the White House, she focused her efforts

on wildflower preservation in Texas. The Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center at the University of Texas-Austin, was founded by her donation.

According to GNIS, there are six other features in Texas with "Lady Bird Johnson" in their names. Lady Bird Johnson Park Reservoir is located 80 miles west of Austin, in Gillespie County.

Proposed by: Jennifer Wilson; Austin, TX

Submitted by: same

Prepared by: G.Winters

Case ID: 3771

Reviewed by: J.Runyon

Date: 8/16/12

Date: same

Date: 9/4/12

Quarterly Review List: 411

Date: 9/14/12

U.S. Board On Geographic Names (BGN)

Domestic Geographic Name Proposal Summary

Propose New or Change Name

Name Proposal ID:	7833
Date Created:	16-AUG-12
Date Submitted:	16-AUG-12
Proposed Name:	Lady Bird Lake
Action Requested:	Change an existing name
Existing Name:	Town Lake
Unnamed Evidence:	-
Locally Used:	Yes
Locally Used Years:	5
Local Conflict:	No
Local Conflict Detail:	-
Additional Details:	On July 26, 2007, the Austin City Council passed a resolution authorizing the renaming of the reservoir from Town Lake to Lady Bird Lake in honor of Lady Bird Johnson, the former First Lady of the United States and a long-time resident of the Austin area who had died earlier that month. (reference: http://www.chron.com/news/article/Austin-changes-Town-Lake-name-to-Lady-Bird-Lake-1794350.php)

Feature Information

GNIS Feature ID:	1376484
Feature class:	RESERVOIR
Descriptive information:	Formed in 1960 by the construction of Longhorn Dam; located on the Colorado River in downtown Austin.
Meaning or significance:	On July 26, 2007, the Austin City Council passed a resolution authorizing the renaming of the reservoir from Town Lake to Lady Bird Lake in honor of Lady Bird Johnson, the former First Lady of the United States and a long-time resident of the Austin area who had died earlier that month. Johnson had declined the honor of having the lake renamed for her. In renaming the lake, the City Council recognized Johnson for her dedication to beautifying the lake and her efforts to create a recreational trail system around the lake's shoreline.
Commemorative:	Yes
Biographical information:	Claudia Alta "Lady Bird" Taylor Johnson (December 22, 1912 – July 11, 2007) was First Lady of the United States (1963-69) during the presidency of her husband Lyndon B. Johnson.

Supporting Materials

No information entered.

States and Counties

State Name	County Name
Texas	Travis

Geographic Coordinates

Obtained From	Describe Other	Lat Deg	Min	Sec	Long Deg	Min	Sec	Decimal Lat	Decimal Long	Details
Other	GNIS Feature Detail Report for: Town Lake	-	-	-	-	-	-	30.2637947	-97.7508441	Map name Austin West
Other	GNIS Feature Detail Report for: Town Lake	-	-	-	-	-	-	30.2640398	-97.7487528	Map name Austin East
Other	GNIS Feature Detail Report for: Town Lake	-	-	-	-	-	-	30.2497874	-97.7319017	Map name Montopolis

Administrative Areas

Admin Area Type	Admin Details	Details
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Town	-	Austin
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Maps and Documents with Name

Source Type	Details	Source Date
Web Site	http://www.chron.com/news/article/Austin-changes-Town-Lake-name-to-Lady-Bird-Lake-1794350.php	2007

Other (Variant) Names and Their Source

no data found

Authorities

Last Name	First Name	Phone	Email Address	Physical Address	City	State	Zip	Occupation	Years
Leffingwell	Lee	5129742250	lee.leffingwell@ci.austin.tx.us	301 West 2nd Street, 2nd Floor	Austin	Texas	78701	Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office	3

Submitters and/or Preparers

Role	Last Name	First Name	Phone	Email Address	Physical Address	City	State	Zip	Company	Title
BOTH	Wilson	Jennifer	5129273527	jenwilso@usgs.gov	1505 Ferguson Lane	Austin	Texas	78723	U.S. Geological Survey, Texas Water Science Center	Hydrologist



Map Satellite

0 0.5 1 1.5 2 Miles

0 0.5 1 1.5 2 Kilometers

0 0.5 1 1.5 2 Miles

0 0.5 1 1.5 2 Kilometers

0 0.5 1 1.5 2 Miles

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