



April 6, 2023

Renaming of the “Braddock Neighborhood Interim Open Space”

Mr. Mayor, Ms. Vice-Mayor and City Council:

We write this letter in support of the application to change the name of the “Braddock Neighborhood Interim Open Space” at 600 North Henry Street to the “Judy Guse Noritake Braddock Park.”

Judy was a mentor, a colleague and a friend to many in the neighborhood and the City at large. She had an outsize impact on bringing together people with common interests to conspire in ways that bettered our city.

Judy was a founder of the Braddock Metro Citizens' Coalition, and under Judy's leadership, the BMCC became a voice for public and affordable housing and frequently sponsored events in the park, including movie night, for families and children of all incomes living in the area. If you stop by the park and take a look at the grass and the trees, they are healthy and thriving in part because of the many days Judy spent watering when the park first opened. She'd often let the neighborhood kids know when the sprinkler would be out, inviting them to play and cool off on a hot summer day. Every Halloween, you'd see Judy with a knife through her head handing out candy at the Braddock Lofts candy table on N. Fayette street. She was famously popular with the neighborhood kids, and the adults for that matter!

Her values and influence always considered the needs of the community at all income levels including ensuring that all residents had access to the City's green space. She also saw our city rec centers for the community hubs they are and was a constant advocate for the hard-working staff, as well as for the variety and scope of programming they were able to offer.

If there was a cause that advanced the long-term interest of our community, Judy was not only behind it, she was its most eloquent champion. She embodied the advocacy principle that so much is possible when you stop worrying about who gets the credit. She knew that simply having good arguments was not enough. You needed to also have people want to join your team.

Today, all around our City, Judy leaves a rich legacy of what is possible when you work to bring people together around good ideas. That legacy of parks, good design, diverse neighborhoods and sustainable communities is one that will benefit generations. We can think of no better name for our neighborhood park as the “Judy Guse Noritake Braddock Park.”

Braddock Metro Citizens Coalition Board

(Rawley Vaughan | Anh Tran | Salena Zellers | Abbey Oklak)

Cc: James Spengler, Jack Browand