



Alderman Jim Kaplan, Alderman Raymond DeHahn and the members of the Affirmative Action Human Relations Commission (Olivia Alcorta, Cornelius Gordon, Atty. Adrienne Moore, and Ron Thomas) would like to recommend the renaming of Marquette Street Park to William Dyess Park.

William Dyess the City of Racine, WI first Affirmative Action officer served the City of Racine for 31 years before retiring in 1999. Mr. Dyess passed in December 2011. Mr. Dyess was a champion for creating opportunities for all of Racine's citizens. Mr. Dyess challenged the status quo by taking the first steps to ensure that the City of Racine's workforce reflected its most valuable resource, its citizens. William Dyess was an honest and ethical person that could be counted on to take on the challenges of creating racial equality within the City of Racine's workforce.

He served on many boards and held various positions. His involvement in these organizations not only enhanced his career allowing him to better serve the City of Racine Employees and the Community as a whole.

Dyess participated in demonstrations, meetings and sit-ins in the 1960s to create community centers in central Racine instead of just on the city's outskirts where mostly whites had access.

"He believed in strong families and education and he promoted very vigorously recreation programs for all the youth in the city to have somewhere to go after school. Dyess' efforts helped create the King Center, 1134 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, the Bryant Center, 601 21st St., and the Tyler-Domer Center, 2301 12th St. Dyess later served as Director of the Washington Park Community as well as the director of the Tyler-Domer Center. In those roles he helped better the surrounding neighborhood, reducing crime, improving housing and taking residents' issues to the mayor or City Council

Dyess served as a member of the City of Racine Parks and Recreation Commission, Catholic Social Services Board, and Boy Scouts of America Board of Directors. Bill was an accomplished golfer. He was a founding member of the Racine Pin-Hi Golf League and a member of the Racine Blues baseball team. Bill refereed high school and college basketball and was the first African-American official in Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association (WIAA) state basketball tournament history.

His efforts have made Racine a better place to live for all of its citizens.