



PUBLIC HEARING OF THE CITY COUNCIL, HYATTSVILLE MD MONDAY, APRIL 5, 2021 6:00 PM

Kevin Ward, W1, Interim Mayor
Bart Lawrence, W1
Robert Croslin, W2
Danny Schaible, W2
Ben Simasek, W3
Edouard Haba, W4 (*arrived at 6:05 p.m.*)
Daniel Peabody, W4
Joseph A. Solomon, W5
Erica Spell Wolf, W5 (*arrived at 6:10 p.m.*)

Absent: Carrianna Suiter, W3, Council Vice President

Also present were the following City staff members:
Tracey Douglas, City Administrator
Laura Reams, City Clerk

Notice of Public Hearing

The City of Hyattsville Mayor and Council will conduct a Public Hearing on Monday, April 5, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. (prior to the City Council Meeting). The purpose of the Public Hearing is to allow residents to comment on the renaming of Magruder Park.

The Mayor and Council will announce their decision to approve, approve with modifications, or deny the requested name change within fifteen (15) days of the close of the hearing, unless, due to extraordinary circumstances, the time limit is extended by a majority vote of the City Council. The public will be notified of the decision of the Mayor and City Council by the City Clerk and the decision will be published in the Hyattsville Public Hearing Minutes.

The Public Hearing will be held virtually and can be accessed through the following link:
https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_15a9Y7r2QcCG4m2hjsgisg

1. Call to Order

Interim Mayor Kevin Ward called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

2. Discussion

2.a) Magruder Park Renaming - Public Hearing

[HCC-276-FY21](#)

Sponsor: At the Request for the City Administrator

Co-Sponsor(s): N/A

[Park Name Slides](#)

[Recommendations Memo Renaming Magruder Park updated 2 11 21](#)

For Discussion

3. Public Comment



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City Clerk Laura Reams read the public comments submitted electronically.

Ward 5 resident Ruth Ann Frazier addressed the Mayor and Council expressing support for naming the park "Inspiration Park"

Nathan Santry addressed the Mayor and Council expressing support for "David Driskell Community Park".

Victoria Moss and Fawn Williams addressed the Mayor and Council expressing support for "David C Driskell Community Park" and "Nacotchtank Community Park" and expressed opposition to "Gateway Community Park", "Inspiration Park", and "Unity Community Park."

Sarah Weber addressed the Mayor and Council expressing support for naming the park "Nocotchtank Community Park".

Daniel Broder addressed the Mayor and Council expressing support for "David Driskell Community Park" and "Nacotchtank Community Park" and opposition to "Unity Community Park.", "Gateway Community Park", and "Inspiration Park".

Martha Shrader addressed the Mayor and Council in opposition to naming the park after an individual and inquired about the naming process. Ms. Shrader expressed support for "Unity" and "Nacotchtank".

Alexi Boado addressed the Mayor and Council in support of "Nacotchtak" stating that he'd like to honor the memory of the local native peoples.

Lisbeth Melendez addressed the Mayor and Council stating that she initially supported "Nacotchtank" but had since decided to support a name in its original language.

Jen Kerdock addressed the Mayor and Council relaying she and her family's time spent in the City of Hyattsville and expressing support for the name "The Park of Hyattsville".

Gloria Felix-Thompson addressed the Mayor and Council on behalf of the Hyattsville Preservation Association expressing support by the group for "David C. Driskell Community Park" noting Mr. Driskell's accomplishments and reputation.

Brian Henry addressed the Mayor and Council suggesting that the name of the park not be association with any particular person as more general options would not have a reflection on any certain view, belief, or action.

Helen Butt addressed the Mayor and Council expressing support for "Nacotchtank" stating that it would serve as a sign of honor and respect for the indigenous inhabitants.

Timothy Zork addressed the Mayor and Council expressing appreciation for the consideration given to the item by the Body and explained his position regarding the history of the area and



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rationale for supporting change. Mr. Zork expressed support for naming the park “Nacotchtank” and “Unity Community Park”.

Interim Mayor Ward welcomed public comment via the virtual meeting platform.

Sarah Harper addressed the Mayor and Council stating that she had been a resident of Hyattsville for 40 years and expressed support for “David Driskell” as it would be a sign of opposition of the racist history of the area.

Michael Brown addressed the Mayor and Council expressing support for “David Driskell” recalling the achievements of Mr. Driskell and the regular practice of honoring notable artists from the African American community.

Grandson of David C. Driskell, David Errick Driskell addressed the Mayor and Council on behalf of the Driskell family to express support for naming the park “David C. Driskell Park” and provided insight as to Mr. Driskell’s admiration for the City and opined that it would be a fitting name.

Nkosi Yearwood addressed the Mayor and Council expressing support for “David Driskell” explaining that he believed he was a great representation of the City. He communicated the importance of art and creativity.

Chris Currie addressed the Mayor and Council expressing support for “David Driskell” stating that he was one of the most prominent and well-respected members of the community. Mr. Currie proposed renaming Centennial Park after Mr. Driskell and having the decision made through a ballot referendum during the next election.

Jimmy McClellan addressed the Mayor and Council stating that “David C. Driskell” and “Nacotchtank Community Park” were the most relatable names for a City park. He relayed that he believed the name “Nacotchtank” would compel individuals to learn more about the pronunciation of the name, its origin, and its history. Mr. McClellan suggested honoring Mr. Driskell through his chosen trade of art in a more prominent way.

Stuart Eisenberg addressed the Mayor and Council recalling some of the history regarding the original naming of the park as William Pinkney Magruder Park and expressed support for “David C. Driskell Park”.

City Clerk Laura Reams read aloud a comment submitted via Q&A function of the virtual meeting from Ward 2 resident David Marshall in which he recalled the racist deed language of the land and expressed opposition for any name associated with an individual or group and disagreed with the renaming process.

Flawn Williams addressed the Mayor and Council opposing renaming Centennial Park and supporting renaming Magruder Park as “David C. Driskell Community Park”.



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Clerk Reams read the public comment submitted by Kathy Hahn which expressed gratitude for the Council and their legislative method. Ms. Hahn supported “Nacotchank” stating that the original inhabitants of the land should be remembered and honored.

Diane Waugh addressed the Mayor and Council in support of renaming the park after David Driskell explaining that the City should take the opportunity to name the park after such a prominent figure noting that it would be fitting in the Gateway Arts District.

4. Motion to Adjourn

RESULT:	APPROVED, AS AMENDED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Croslin
SECONDER:	Spell Wolf
AYES:	Ward, Lawrence, Croslin, Schaible, Simasek, Haba, Peabody, Solomon, Spell Wolf
ABSENT:	Suiter

The meeting adjourned at 6:34 p.m.

ATTEST:
May 19, 2021

Laura Reams, City Clerk

Sean Corcoran, Deputy City Clerk