



Legislation Text

File #: HCC-256-FY21, **Version:** 1

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Submitting Department: Community Services
Agenda Section: Presentation

Item Title:

Magruder Park Renaming - Presentation

Suggested Action:

Presentation

Summary Background:

The City Council passed a motion on March 18th, 2019 that:

- a) Authorized the City Attorney to investigate the feasibility of, and legal requirements for, changing the name of Magruder Park.
- b) Authorized the City Attorney to investigate the feasibility of, and legal requirements for, updating the deed to exclude the offensive language as defined in the motion summary background details and effectively remove any restrictions on use of the public amenity that would be considered discriminatory as defined by the Hyattsville Human Rights Act.
- c) Directed the City Administrator to assist the City Council by preparing recommendations, based on the tools available to the City of Hyattsville, to encourage a public engagement process.

The City Attorney worked with outside counsel to prepare and record in the land records a deed, and other required documentation, that removes the discriminatory language contained in the original Park conveyance.

With the completion of parts a) and b), the staff proceeded to engage the community in the process to select a name for the park that is welcoming, inclusive, and unifying. In Fall of 2020, City staff launched a campaign designed to collect suggestions for the renaming of Magruder Park. Over 800 submissions were received. The Race and Equity Task Force and Health, Wellness, and Recreation Advisory Committee met jointly to sort through the collection of submissions, discuss the options, and prepare a list of recommendations for Council discussion. Stacie Whitesides from the Race and Equity Task Force and Peter Reiniger from the Health, Wellness, and Recreation Advisory Committee will present the joint recommendations during the Council Meeting of March 15.

There will be time allotted on the discussion agenda for initial Council feedback.

Next Steps:

The City Council is scheduled to discuss the recommendations on March 15 and April 5 (after the Public Hearing). A Public Hearing will be scheduled for April 5, 2021 with action tentatively scheduled for April 19, 2021.

Fiscal Impact:

TBD, there will be costs associated with the park renaming related to legal fees, signage, and possibly an event to celebrate the renaming.

City Administrator Comments:

For presentation

Community Engagement:

A Public Hearing will be scheduled for April 5, 2021.

Strategic Goals:

Goal 5 - Strengthen the City's Identity as a Diverse, Creative, and Welcoming Community

Legal Review Required?

N/A