



Legislation Text

File #: HCC-276-FY21, **Version:** 1

Submitted by: Laura Reams
Submitting Department: City Clerk
Agenda Section: Discussion

Item Title:
Magruder Park Renaming - Public Hearing

Suggested Action:
For Discussion

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 presented the joint recommendations during the Council Meeting of March 15, 2021.

The proposed names are as follows:

- David C. Driskell Community Park
- Gateway Community Park
- Inspiration Park
- Nacotch tank Community Park
- Unity Community Park

An initial discussion was held on March 15, 2021 after the presentation of the proposed names by the Joint Committee. A public hearing on the proposed names is scheduled prior to the Council Meeting of April 5, 2021.

The public hearing is an opportunity for residents to submit comments to the City Council regarding the list of proposed names. If residents are unable to attend the virtual Public Hearing comments may be submitted to cityclerk@hyattsville.org

Next Steps:

Action on the recommendation to rename the Park is tentatively scheduled for April 19, 2021.

Fiscal Impact:

TBD - the City has incurred legal fees associated with the preparation and recording of a new deed. Additional costs related to signage and possibly an event to celebrate the renaming may be incurred.

City Administrator Comments:

For Discussion

Community Engagement:

A Public Hearing will be held on April 5, 2021 at 6 PM.

Strategic Goals:

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

Legal Review Required?

N/A