



**SAVANNAH-CHATHAM COUNTY HISTORIC SITE AND MONUMENT
COMMISSION
NAMING RECOMMENDATION**

PETITIONER: Alan Boulton, President
Paradise Park Oakhurst Neighborhood
Savannah, GA 31406

FILE No.: 20-006513-HM

LOCATION: 202 Chatham Street

DATE: June 4, 2020

NATURE OF REQUEST:

Requesting to name an unnamed park, located at 202 Chatham Street within the 4th District to “Harmon Creek Park”.

The proposed location for the park is within (10) contiguous lots, and their canal easements bordering Atwood Street, Chatham Street, and Kandlewood Street. These lots were purchased by the City of Savannah under FEMA grants due to historical flooding issues, and therefore can not be utilized for the construction of residences or other building types.

FINDINGS:

The following standards from the Historic Site and Monument Commission Guidelines for Markers, Monuments and Public Art apply:

Article E- Naming and Renaming of Public Property, Facilities and Streets.

General policy. As a general policy, the Mayor and Aldermen find that public property should be named after its principal function, location, or historical reference; however, significant community events, organizations or well-known persons with important contributions to the community, state or nation may deserve public recognition, which may occur by way of naming or renaming public rights-of-way or facilities.

Naming criteria and requirements.

Criteria. Naming or renaming of a public right-of-way or facility shall occur only when the proposed naming or renaming satisfied at least one of the following criteria:

It honors and commemorates a noteworthy person associated with the City of Savannah, Chatham County, the State of Georgia or the United States of America;

It commemorates local history, places, events or culture;

It will strengthen neighborhood identity; or

It recognizes native wildlife or natural geographical features.

The standards are met. The name of the park being “Harmon Creek Park” will strengthen the neighborhood identity and commemorate the place to which it is named after (the ‘canal’ that runs through the area of land is historically named ‘Harmon Creek’).

Considerations. Naming requests shall consider:

The number of residents and businesses directly affected;

Community diversity;

The historical significance of preexisting name or location;

The appropriateness and compatibility of the request in relation to the existing area;

The impact on emergency service delivery; and

Continuity and stability.

All considerations are met. The proper considerations were made.

Naming new facilities or public property.

Application requirements. All requests to name newly acquired, created or previously unnamed public property shall be made in writing and directed to the attention of the City Manager. Such requests shall include:

The precise location and description of the subject property;

A thorough discussion regarding the history of the property or surrounding area, as may be applicable;

The name address and contact information of the request; and

An endorsement by the current Mayor, an at-large alderman or the alderman representing the district in which the property is located.

Review Process. Upon receipt of a property naming request submitted pursuant to this section, the City Manager shall submit the request to the Historic Site and Monument Commission. The Commission shall consider the requirements of this Article and submit a recommendation to the City Manager for presentation to the Mayor and Aldermen no later than 120 days after receipt of the request. Recommendations are subject to approval by City Council.

The standards are met. The applicant met all application requirements and has followed the review process properly.

Renaming of public property facilities or streets. All requests to rename public property shall be made in writing and directed to the attention of the City Manager. Such requests shall include:

In the instance of a park, playground, trail, recreational area or space;

A supporting petition signed by not less than 51 percent of all property owners abutting the subject property;

The present official name of the property;

The proposed new name;

The specific location of the property;

The name address and telephone number of the person requesting the name change;

A statement of reasons supporting the renaming request;

A thorough discussion regarding the history of the property, including all prior names associated therewith; and

An endorsement by the current Mayor, an at-large alderman or the alderman representing the district in which the property is located.

The standards are met. The applicant followed proper procedure.

***Naming Dedication Ceremony.** An applicant may request a dedication ceremony at the time application is made to the City manager. The City manager, or his designee, shall be responsible for scheduling such ceremony.*

It is unknown to Staff whether such request was made.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of the request to name the park located at 202 Chatham Street “Harmon Creek Park” because the application meets all the standards.

LGM: raj