



MEMORANDUM

TO: Chatham- Savannah Historic Sites and Monuments Commission
FROM: Joe Shearouse Jr.
DATE: September 13th, 2018
SUBJECT: Naming Petition Request- Thomas Fulton Jr. Park

Proposed Name: Thomas Fulton Jr. Park
Location: Elder Court and Norwood Road, Savannah Georgia
Petitioner: City of Savannah
Staff contact: Joe Shearouse, jshearouse01@savannahga.gov, (912) 658-4092

Staff Recommendation

1. Recommend approval to name the unnamed park located at Elder Court and Norwood Road, Savannah Georgia to 'Thomas Fulton Jr. Park'.

Requirements for naming newly created, acquired, or unnamed property. (Sec.4-1102)

Criteria Requirement

- ✓ To honor and commemorate noteworthy persons associated with the City of Savannah, Chatham County, State of Georgia, or the United States of America.

Restrictions

- ✓ Persons that resided in the City of Savannah for less than 5 years, other than prominent national figures;
- ✓ Names assigned to existing public property within the City or unincorporated Chatham County where duplication of the name is likely to lead to confusion; and
- ✓ Except as set forth in Section 4-1106, commercial names where usage of such name would amount to advertising.

Considerations

- ✓ 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.

Natural Person Naming Request

- ✓ Absent extraordinary or extenuating circumstances, the proposed honoree for permanent naming shall be deceased.
- ✓ Contributions that beneficially changed the nature and characteristics of the community.

Attachments

1. Petition request
 - a. Official request and Alderman Thomas's endorsement
 - b. Map of location
 - c. Biography of Mr. Thomas Fulton Jr.
2. City Staff comments on request

September 13, 2018

City Manager's Office
City Hall
2 East Bay Street
Savannah, Georgia 31402

Re: Name Request- Thomas Fulton Jr. Park

To Whom It May Concern,

In accordance with the City of Savannah Code of Ordinances 'Section 4-1102' - Naming new facilities or public property', I am requesting that the land located between Elder Court and Norwood Road in the Windsor Forest Neighborhood be named Thomas Fulton Jr. Park.

This property is owned by the City of Savannah. The property serves as greenspace within the residential neighborhood of Windsor Forest.

Please accept this letter and my signature below as my official endorsement of this request and begin the naming process under the rules listed within Section 4-1102.

Thank you,

Alderman Tony Thomas

6th District





Thomas Fulton Jr. Biography

Thomas L. Fulton Jr. was born at St. Joseph's Hospital in Savannah, GA on October 26, 1922 and died at St. Joseph Hospital on November 28, 2011.

He attended Pape School kindergarten and Charles Ellis Elementary School. His father's business took his family to Macon, Georgia and Columbus Georgia where he graduated from Columbus High School, after which his family relocated back to Savannah. He entered Mercer College for his freshman year and transferred to Emory at Oxford when his father was told that the new dorm at Mercer was only for students enrolled in athletics.

While enrolled in Emory at Oxford, World War II began, and he volunteered in the Army Air Corps. While serving, the war ended but he was already being sent to the Marianna Islands and he had to go there before returning home to be honorably discharged.

He reenrolled at Emory University graduating in 1948. While at Emory, he was active in the Debate Club, editor of the Emory Wheel, the university's newspaper, and selected to DVS, a Senior Honor Society, whose duties are secretive, but students are selected for past accomplishments and challenges to do greater and better things as alumnae.

Upon graduating with a degree in Journalism, he worked briefly for the state of Georgia and AAA travel association. He received a letter from the military during the Korean crisis asking if he would consider returning and what rank he would accept? He humbly replied, yes, as a second lieutenant. (He often joked that he should have said Captain or Major.)

So that began a military life of 28 years retiring as LT. Colonel, serving honorably and receiving many accolades- the Bronze Star, and two Meritorious Service Medals being some of them.

Upon retirement he entered Armstrong State University (then College) receiving a Master's of History in Education with a teaching certification and taught history in Effingham County for eight years. He applied and was accepted in Effingham and Chatham Counties but Effingham called first so he went with them driving a car pool every day.

In the early 1990's we were invited to a meeting held at St. John's Episcopal Church hosted by Don Gardner, Mary Helen Ray and Barbara Victor. The meeting involved those interested in the park and trees in the Savannah area. We have always been interested in the communities in which we lived, and especially this one, as it was our home, so we attended. We completed questionnaires and they were impressed with Tom's answers.

From this meeting we were encouraged to form a Neighborhood Association. Being a Garden Club member, I contacted Jackie Haberman, the garden club president, and we held an informal meeting at our home with Virginia Mobley, a park and tree commissioner who was able to attend since the original three were unavailable. This meeting was well attended and from that nucleus the Windsor Forest Neighborhoods Association under Jackie Haberman's guidance was formed.

Tom and my concern was the removal of certain trees with no apparent reason. (A strip of trees on White Bluff by Whelans and a gas station in front of a housing development, a tree by Applebee's in the Home Depot- Lowe's area and one in front of the CVS on Abercorn- the last two which they promised to keep and did not.)

At this meeting we attended at St. John's, Don Gardiner was the director of Park and Tree Department and Mary Helen Ray, the chairman of the commission and Barbara Victor on it. Tom's interest got their attention and they wanted him on the commission. How he was first nominated, I don't remember, but he did serve and in 1999, was elected chairman of the Park and Tree Commission. I do know that he was appointed by Alderman Tony Thomas upon his election.

Tom served on the Park and Tree Commission from 1995-2005. His term ended January 2005. He was the Chairman of the Commission from 1999-2002.

During his tenure on the Commission, he called for trees to be planted along Largo and Windsor Drives. After all, the subdivision was called Windsor Forest, and he thought it should look like one. Also, the city had some extra trees, and members that desired could have one planted in their front yard just for the asking.

He and another commissioners walked the parks in the historic district taking pictures and recording the name. His interest was in the beautification of Savannah. He worked tirelessly in this effort until his health prevented, but he never stopped caring.

Joe Shearouse01

From: Gordon Denney
Sent: Monday, September 17, 2018 11:25 AM
To: Joe Shearouse01; Luciana Spracher
Subject: RE: Thomas Fulton Park

Joseph,

Good morning. I see no issue with this request.

Gordon D. Denney, PLA

Director
Greenscapes Division
City of Savannah

From: Joe Shearouse01
Sent: Monday, September 17, 2018 11:04 AM
To: Gordon Denney <GDenney@Savannahga.Gov>; Luciana Spracher <LSpracher@Savannahga.Gov>
Subject: Thomas Fulton Park

Please provide any feedback on the attached petition request for Thomas Fulton Jr. Park.

Timelines require this be submitted to MPC by Wednesday, September 19th.

Thank you

Joseph C. Shearouse Jr.
City of Savannah | Jshearouse01@savannahga.gov
Office 912.651.6401 | Cell 912. 429.4084
2 East Bay Street, 31401 | Mailing: P.O. Box 1027, 31402



Joe Shearouse01

From: Luciana Spracher
Sent: Tuesday, September 18, 2018 10:25 AM
To: Joe Shearouse01
Subject: RE: Thomas Fulton Park

Good morning, Joe,

A review of the City Council minutes for the period 1995-2005 confirms that Tom Fulton served on the Park and Tree Commission from 1995-2005:

- July 20, 1995: appointed by City Council for a two year term to the Park and Tree Commission, expiring December 31, 1997
- September 28, 1995: took the oath of office to the Park and Tree Commission
- April 9, 1998: reappointed by City Council to the Park and Tree Commission, through January 1, 2000
- February 8, 2001: reappointed by City Council to the Park and Tree Commission
- June 23, 2005: Ben Tucker appointed by City Council to the Park and Tree Commission to fill the unexpired term of Tom Fulton, expiring December 31, 2006

I have no objections to this request. Though I would ask that the source or author of the "Thomas Fulton Jr. Biography" be included on it for the final petition. It seems like it was written by a specific person who worked with him on the Commission, and I would have liked to have known who authored this.

Please let me know if you have any additional questions.

Luciana

Luciana M. Spracher, C.A.

Municipal Archives & Records Management Director | Acting Clerk of Council

Phone: (912) 651-6411 | Email: lspracher@savannahga.gov

Discover the Archives at: www.savannahga.gov/MunicipalArchives

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