

Joint meeting of the Race Equity Task Force and the Health, Wellness and Recreation Advisory
Committee

City of Hyattsville

25 January 2021

Committee Attendance:

RETF

Stacie Whitesides
Dre Dargin
Joanne Waszczak
Ashleigh Brown-Grier
Monica Sharma
Rodrigo Blanco
Malcolm Clarke

HWRAC

Sam Denes
Don Burger
Pete Reiniger
Willene Hare
Anita Shelton
Dyann Waugh

City Liaisons

Staff

Cheri Everhart
JanGuszynski
Cindy Zork

Council

Daniel Peabody
Carianna Suiter
Joseph Solomon

Public

Chuck P
David Marshall
Sophie Gorman Oriani

Quorum from both committees

Approval of the December Meeting minutes

Motion by Pete Reiniger

Seconded by Stacie Whitesides
Approved unanimously

Council member Solomon not present was going to provide background to the motion that began this work.

Liaison Guszynski reviewed deliverables to Council

- Reasonable list of names

- Each name should have rationale to support the selected names

- Committee can choose names not included in the list from public

- Name should be welcoming, inclusive, and resonate with the community

Discussion on name finalist recommendations

Jo brought up the article in the HLT discussing some background to the park name history as well as additional info provided by Stuart Eisenberg of Hyattsville CDC with the history

Cheri shared the excel spreadsheet with the list of names organized by number of submissions

Review of the list of the previous list:

- David C Driskell Park

- Anaquash Park

- Unity Park

Driskell Park

Because Driskell received so many submissions, multiple members suggested that we should continue to include that name.

Pete reviewed Driskell as a person, artist, educator, strong member of Hyattsville community.

Ashliegh Brown Grier reminded us that Driskell taught at multiple HBCUs and she became aware of him while at school in Alabama (Talladega)

Anaquash Park

Jo looked into whether it would be appropriate and respectful to actually name the park Anaquash. Was referred to multiple people and has been reaching out to Mr. Newman, a commission for Maryland Indian Affairs but has been unable to discuss with him. Will discuss with him and would like other committee members to participate

Dre said that if we decide not to name the park with some honor for the indigenous peoples, we should include some land acknowledgement in the form of a plaque or some informational display. Dyann likes this idea of a plaque

Pete suggested that whatever the name we can have it as the XXX Park on the Anacostia.

Anita - Making sure the acknowledgement is included is welcoming and important.

Discussion whether we need to do anything more for the land acknowledgement. It was supported unanimously in the previous meeting.

Unity Park

Dre supports this as there can be a bilingual translation for the name as well as the actual meaning of this name.

Discussion of other submissions

Jo brought up Adam Francis Plummer. He had kept a detailed diary and was able to get his family back together. He would have been enslaved by the Calverts at the Riversdale Plantation. But he wasn't actually in Hyattsville.

Pete suggested that naming after a person that Driskell resonates more

Rodrigo agreed

Monica Sharma suggested we open up to community members that are present. AND unless someone has strong feelings we can be ok with fewer recommendations

Stacie agreed.

Pete suggested the Gateway Park as this is the Gateway Arts District.

Mr Marshall suggested that this park should not be named after a person or ethnic group. We shouldn't be giving in to the numbers or newspaper "game"

Committee asked for his suggestions. He does not have a preferred name. His reason for not naming after a person is that there are too many issues with naming after a person. Native Americans were slave owners after emancipation.

Naming after a concept would prevent the issues of people being judged by future morals or with additional information.

Jo suggested including our thinking and rationale so that they don't have to rehash the conversations that we have.

Park names suggestions

Driskell Park

Unity

Anaquash

Don pointed out that we can suggest Dr Driskell Park but that we can point out that there may be issues. Don supports the naming to be a concept.

Anita thinks there can be problems with concept names like Unity; as it feels like a bad joke in the current environment.

Questions about if we discussed other concepts or Parks related to Hyattsville.

Jo brought up a number of other concept names: Friendship, Hope (avoid confusion with the listserv)

Dre brought up the suggestion of Solidarity as it evokes an overt act of someone supporting others

Pete says that solidarity reminds him of union/labor organization and that it was adopted by Lek Walenza

Dre suggested possibly an acronym

Opened up comments to community members.

Jo suggested the other conceptual names that were submitted besides Unity Park: Community, Solidarity, Justice, People's, Hope, Friendship, Diversity, Peace, Inspiration, Freedom, Citizens', Love, Good Trouble, Haven

Pete suggested One Love Park. City Park would be safe (but dull)

Anita pointed out that community, justice, gateway

Don likes community or friendship park. Unity is a bit loaded or overused in the current political environment

Rodrigo likes Unity, Citizens' and Haven

Dyann feels that the community park is self evident. It would be good to add to the end of another name, Driskell Community Park

Mr Marshall suggested that there are people that speak many languages within our community and that naming the park bilingually would exclude those who don't speak those two languages

Jo: RETF had looked into the "major" languages in Hyattsville previously and that maybe a peace pole with the word "peace" in multiple languages

Mr Marshall suggested "Laugh out loud community park"

Anita pointed out that we are approaching the end of the scheduled meeting time.

Reviewing the shortlist:

- Driskell

- Anaquash

- Unity

- Community (or at least add it onto another name)

- Gateway

- Inspiration

Sam moved to make add Inspiration to the list

Seconded and approved unanimously

Dre moved to add Gateway
Seconded (multiple)
Approved unanimously

Don moved to add Community as a secondary name
Seconded - Pete
Approved unanimously

Discussed whether we should add a title if we use

Anita moved to accept the short list
Seconded by Stacie
Approved unanimously

The five names to be submitted to city council.
Driskell
Anaquash
Unity
Inspiration
Gateway

Secondary name suggestion of Community
Land acknowledgement to the previous native inhabitants.

Don to write the memo
Memo should be brief. How much research (well researched should be included)
Stacie to review document
Don to provide a deadline via email of when reviews and edits are needed.

Pete and Stacie to present to city council.

Pete moved to adjourn
Don seconded
Approved unanimously

