


City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: JANUARY 18, 2008

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER 

SUBJECT: RECEIPT OF REPORT OF THE NAMING COMMITTEE PROPOSING THE NAMING OF THE OPEN SPACE AT THE CORNER OF JANNEY'S LANE AND QUAKER LANE IN HONOR OF THE LATE PRESIDENT GERALD R. FORD AND SETTING THE REPORT FOR PUBLIC HEARING ON SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2008

ISSUE: Receipt of Report of the Naming Committee Proposing the Naming of the Open Space at the Corner of Janney's Lane and Quaker Lane in Honor of the Late President Gerald R. Ford and Setting the Report for Public Hearing on Saturday, February 23, 2008.

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council:

- (1) Receive this report;
- (2) Set it for public hearing and consideration on Saturday, February 23;
- (3) Thank the members of the Gerald R. Ford Memorial Committee for their work on behalf of the City; and
- (4) If the proposed park is to be named in honor of President Ford, request the Public Art Committee of the Alexandria Commission on the Arts to meet with the members of the Ford Memorial Committee to discuss the best approach to pursue the idea of placing a three-dimensional statuary or bust of President Ford on the site and report back to Council with its recommendations.

DISCUSSION: In February 2007 Mayor Euille appointed a five person committee to recommend ways in which the City can memorialize former Alexandria resident and our late President Gerald R. Ford. Chaired by former Councilman David G. Speck, the Committee also included Ferdinand Day, Jessica Gibson, Pat Troy and Donnan C. Wintermute.

As noted in their report (Attachment) the Memorial Committee sought community input on naming possibilities and received 27 responses. The majority of the ideas involved street namings, monuments, statues, buildings, parks or scholarships. Although there were many ideas presented, the Committee recommended that the one acre park that has been donated to the City at the southeast corner of Janney's Lane and Quaker Lane become the Gerald R. Ford Memorial Park with the appropriate signage, historical and informational plaque and hopefully, a three-dimensional statuary or bust of President Ford. This park is not far from the former Ford family home on Crownview Drive in the Clover-College Park neighborhood.

The Alexandria Naming Committee (Vice Mayor Pepper, Councilmember Lovain and City Manager James Hartmann) met on January 11 to consider the report of the Gerald R. Ford Memorial Committee. The Naming Committee recommends that Council hold a public hearing on this suggestion and following the public hearing consider adopting the Committee's recommendation to name the park at the southeast corner of Janney's Lane and Quaker Lane after President Gerald R. Ford.

If the proposed park is named in honor of President Ford, I recommend that Council request the Public Art Committee of the Alexandria Commission on the Arts to meet with the members of the Gerald R. Ford Memorial Committee to discuss the best approach to pursue the idea of placing a three-dimensional statuary or bust of President Ford on the site and report back to Council with its recommendations.

With respect to the Gerald R. Ford Memorial Committee's recommendation that the street in the nearby new residential community be named after President Ford, Council adopted an ordinance on Saturday, January 12 that changed the name of this street from Barecroft Place to President Ford Lane in response to a request from residents of the street.

ATTACHMENT: Report of the Gerald R. Ford Memorial Committee Report

STAFF: Michele R. Evans, Deputy City Manager

Attachment

Subj: **Gerald R. Ford Memorial Committee Report**
Date: 10/25/2007 9:12:41 A.M. Eastern Daylight Time
From: Jack.Browand@alexandriava.gov
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dspeck@aol.com, donnaanwintermute@aol.com, lawandorder22302@yahoo.com

David G. Speck, Chair, Gerald R. Ford Memorial Committee, requested that the attached report, with committee recommendation, be forwarded for your review. Committee members included David G. Speck, Chair, Ferdinand Day, Jessica Gibson, Pat Troy, and Donnan C. Wintermute.

cc: Ferdinand Day and Pat Troy (mail)

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City of Alexandria - Department of Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities
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Gerald R. Ford Memorial Committee

Ferdinand Day
Jessica Gibson
David G. Speck, Chair
Pat Troy
Donnan C. Wintermute

October 23, 2007

Honorable William D. Euille
Mayor, City of Alexandria
City Hall
301 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Mr. Mayor:

At your direction, five Alexandria citizens were appointed in February 2007 to recommend ways in which the City can permanently memorialize the late President Gerald R. Ford. The members are noted above and at the first meeting in March, I was asked to serve as chair. Through the assistance of City staff, a notice was sent to the community through written and electronic means to invite any individual or entity to suggest ideas for memorializing President Ford. 27 responses were received with the majority of the suggestions involving street namings, monuments or statues, buildings or parks, or scholarships.

The Committee discussed the various suggestions through e-mail exchange, telephone conferencing and individual conversations and then met on October 3rd to finalize the recommendation to be submitted to the Mayor and City Council. Although there were many thoughtful and creative ideas, the Committee felt that a memorial that most closely attached to the neighborhood in which President Ford and his family lived for so many years was the preferred choice. Accordingly, the Committee is recommending that the one acre park that has been set aside at the Southeast corner of Quaker and Janneys Lanes become the Gerald R. Ford Memorial Park with the appropriate signage, historical and informational plaque, and, hopefully, a three-dimensional statuary or bust of President Ford. With regard to the latter part of our recommendation, we are aware that any form of public art has a process that it must go through and that there may be costs involved beyond the normal available funds, and we would be happy to talk with the Public Art Committee of the Arts Commission to discuss the best approach to pursue this recommendation.

Further, we are aware that the Planning Commission and City Council may be considering a change in the street naming for the current residential development on that site. We would encourage you to consider President Ford as the name for that street as well as the park and we view that as consistent with the effort to memorialize a site in the neighborhood where the Ford Family lived, played, attended school and contributed to our community.

Thank you for the opportunity to have participated in this effort. Please let us know if we can of further service.

On behalf of the Gerald R. Ford Memorial Committee,

David G. Speck