

Docket Item #16
STREET NAME CHANGE CASE #2007-0001
OAK GROVE

Planning Commission Meeting
December 4, 2007

ISSUE: Consideration of a request to change the street name of Barecroft Place to President Ford Lane within the Oak Grove development.

APPLICANT: City of Alexandria, Department of Planning and Zoning

STAFF: Jeffrey Farner, Division Chief, Development
Jeffrey.Farner@alexandriava.gov
Katie Parker, Urban Planner
Katie.Parker@alexandriava.gov

STREET NAME CASE # 2007-0001
OAK GROVE-Barecroft Place to President Ford Lane



STREET NAME CASE #2007-0001

12/4/07

DISCUSSION:

The proposal consists of a street name change for Barecroft Place, which is a new street that was constructed with the Oak Grove development (DSP#2004-0005). This project received site plan approval in June 2004 and is located at the corner of Janney's Lane and N. Quaker Lane. Barecroft Place intersects Janney's Lane and provides driveway/garage access to all eight of the houses that are part of this project.



Figure 1: Location of Street

There has been a Gerald R. Ford Memorial Committee tasked with exploring ways to memorialize President Ford within the City. As part of this process, the Committee recommended that the park at the corner of Janney's Lane and N. Quaker Lane be named in honor of Gerald Ford, the country's 38th President, who was a resident of the City of Alexandria for over 20 years. The group also recommended the street associated with the open space be named after Gerald Ford to reinforce the naming of the park for this portion of the City (See attached correspondence dated October 23, 2007). Mr. Ford and his family first moved to Alexandria in 1951 and rented property in Parkfairfax. In 1954, the Fords moved to their home at 514 Crown View Drive, where they resided until moving to the White House in 1974.



Figure 2: Oak Grove and Mr. Ford's House

While staff does not support renaming of streets, in this case because of the naming of the adjoining open space and President Ford's association with this portion of the City, staff is recommending approval.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends **approval** of the street name change **from** Barecroft Place **to** President Ford Lane.

STAFF: Faroll Hamer Director, Planning and Zoning;
Jeffrey Farner, Chief, Development; and
Katie Parker, Urban Planner.

STREET NAME CASE # 2007-0001
OAK GROVE-Barecroft Place to President Ford Lane

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