



ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

**County Board Agenda Item
Meeting of February 20, 2010**

DATE: February 20, 2010

SUBJECT: Dedication of Memorial Plaque at Cherry Valley Park for Miss Meghan Kieffer

C. M. RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the dedication of a plaque memorializing Meghan Kieffer as recommended by the Park and Recreation Commission.

ISSUES: In compliance with the County Plaque Policy, the County Board is requested to approve the placement of a memorial plaque by the Park and Recreation Commission.

SUMMARY: The Park and Recreation Commission recommends that a plaque be dedicated to Meghan Kieffer in Cherry Valley Park.

As required by the County's Policy on Placement of Memorial or Recognition Plaques, the Park and Recreation Commission solicited the opinions of the Historical Affairs and Landmark Review Board ("HALRB"), Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee ("NCAC") and the appropriate neighborhood civic association(s). The Park and Recreation Commission considered the attached letters of support for Miss Kieffer's Memorial Plaque from the Arlington Chamber of Commerce, the Crystal City BID, and Community Residences. On October 21, 2009, the HALRB voted to support the dedication and placement of Miss Kieffer's memorial plaque on a park bench in Cherry Valley Park. The president of the Cherrydale Civic Association has indicated their support for the dedication of the plaque in their community near the pond in Cherry Valley Park. In a voice vote, the NCAC voted "all in favor" to support the dedication of Miss Kieffer's memorial plaque at their November 2009 meeting. The Park and Recreation Commission voted unanimously to recommend the approval of the Meghan Kieffer memorial plaque. Staff concurs with the Park and Recreation Commission's recommendation and that the Meghan Kieffer memorial plaque recommendation is consistent with the County Plaque Policy.

BACKGROUND: On July 10, 1999, the County Board adopted a revised policy for placement of memorial or recognition plaques (Attachment 1). The policy specifies that plaques must honor an individual whom the requesting organization/individual can demonstrate contributed

County Manager: *BMD/ma*

County Attorney: *BRG/SAN*

Staff: David Miller

significantly to the community through participation in community activities or other relevant state or national service. The Policy charges the Park and Recreation Commission with making recommendations to the County Board concerning proposed memorial or recognition plaques. As part of the consultation and recommendation process, the Commission must seek comments from the Historical Affairs and Landmark Review Board, Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee and the appropriate neighborhood civic association(s). The Policy specifies that the plaque can be no larger than 12" X 12". All plaque designs and materials are subject to consideration and approval by the Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources.

The Park and Recreation Commission was presented an email received by the PRCR staff liaison from the family of Meghan Kieffer requesting the dedication and placement of a memorial plaque on the park bench that was donated in her memory. Meghan Kieffer was an active member of the Arlington Chamber of Commerce for several years. She organized and worked on many of the large events the Chamber produces. She was a strong participant in the Chamber's Volunteer Arlington Day event that contributed to the Chamber winning the distinguished James B. Hunter II Community Hero Award. Dennis J. Manning, President and CEO of Community Residences had this to say about Meghan Kieffer's contribution to his organization's signature event, "The Taste of Arlington": "Meghan was an unsung heroine in service to those whose disabilities restrict their lives and limit their choices" and "We are forever thankful for Meghan Kieffer's caring and her enthusiasm for helping others, without seeking recognition or applause."

Meghan Kieffer was also a passionate volunteer for the Arlington County environment. She recruited her mother to participate in the County's volunteer storm drainage marking event as part of the 2007 Earth Day activities. As a registered organ and tissue donor, the Gift of Life organization facilitated her final contribution to others.

DISCUSSION: The recommended memorial plaque inscription would read as follows:

"In loving memory of
Meghan Kieffer
November 8, 1983 – August 16, 2007
In our hearts and memories forever"

The proposed plaque for the Meghan Kieffer memorial would be placed on a bench already acquired and installed in Cherry Valley Park with donations from Miss Kieffer's friends, co-workers and family.

FISCAL IMPACT: There is no fiscal impact to the County. All costs associated with the fabrication, installation and future maintenance of the memorial plaque and the bench is the responsibility of the family of Meghan Kieffer, as stated in the County Plaque Policy.

**ARLINGTON COUNTY POLICY ON PLACEMENT OF
MEMORIAL OR RECOGNITION PLAQUES**
Adopted by the Arlington County Board July 10, 1999

The placement of a plaque or other personal forms of recognition or the donation of items for placement or planting in public facilities or on public land may be permitted; however, such requests must be approved by the County Board. The resolution confirming such approval should also contain any restrictions or obligations related to the maintenance, replacement and care of the donated item.

The following criteria shall serve as the basis for the approval of all memorial or recognition plaques:

- 1) Although a plaque may not name a public facility or public land, it may be placed in or on a public facility or public land in memory of an individual, group or event who/which contributed significantly to the community through participation in community, state or national service.
- 2) A letter of request must be submitted to the Park and Recreation Commission.
- 3) The plaque must honor an individual whom the requesting organization/individual can demonstrate contributed significantly to the community through participation in community activities or other relevant state or national service.
- 4) The recognition plaque must be paid for by the individual/community organization requesting the memorial.
- 5) An appropriate level of community support must be demonstrated for a memorial, such as:
 - Approval/endorsement by the local civic/neighborhood association;
 - Signatures of residents of Arlington County; or
 - Endorsement by other community or civic organizations.
- 6) The memorial plaque can be no larger than 12" X 12". All plaque design and materials are subject to consideration and approval by the Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Resources.
- 7) An individual must have been deceased for at least one year before a memorial plaque can be erected in their honor. An individual/group seeking to have a memorial plaque placed in a public facility or on public land may begin the review process before this yearlong period.

The Park and Recreation Commission shall make recommendations to the County Board concerning requests to place recognition or memorials on park land, public open space and recreation facilities. The Commission will seek comment from the following organizations when considering a memorial/recognition plaque: Historical Affairs and Landmark Review Board, Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee and the appropriate neighborhood civic association(s). Comments from the Arlington Beautification Committee will also be considered.

The Park and Recreation Commission will synthesize the comments received and make a recommendation to the County Board. The County Manager will also present a recommendation to the County Board, which has final discretionary authority to act.

The Chamber
Arlington Chamber of Commerce
Opportunity. Leadership. Results.

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chamber@arlingtonchamber.org

June 23, 2008

To Whom It May Concern:

This is to recognize that recently deceased BB&T Bank employee Meghan Kieffer has been an active member of the Arlington Chamber of Commerce for several years.

She participated in some of the larger events that the Chamber produced, such as our Annual Meeting, the ABBIES (Arlington's Best in Business), the State of the County, the Valor Awards, and a variety of other networking events. Perhaps more importantly, for several years she was a strong participant in the Chamber's Volunteer Arlington Day event (helping the Chamber win a James B. Hunter II Community Hero Award this year).

Meghan will be missed by the Arlington, Virginia community.

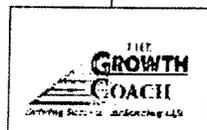
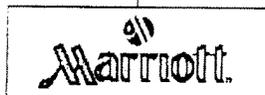
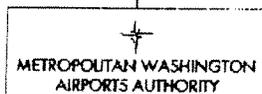
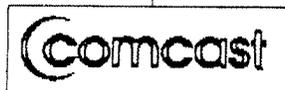
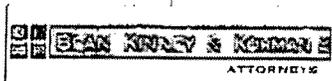
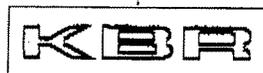
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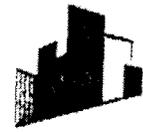


Richard V. Doud, Jr.

President

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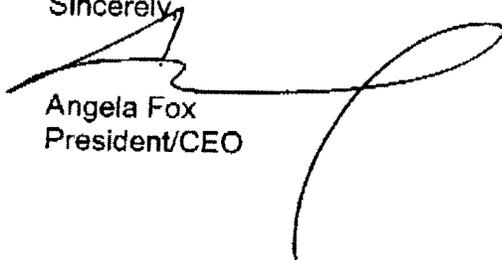
CRYSTALCITY

June 27, 2008

To Whom It May Concern,

I will never forget the first time I met Meghan Keiffer. I had just started as the Crystal City BID's first President/CEO. The Board had selected BB&T as our banker, which was an obvious choice since there were two BB&T branches within our BID Boundaries. To establish a working relationship, I scheduled breakfast with Jim Sherrick, who ran their Northern Virginia practice. He brought Meghan with him. She was personable and delightful. I was immediately impressed with her. She was excited about our work, and joined our Marketing Committee - she wanted to be more involved. She was dedicated and went over and above to understand and participate in our business. She also really wanted to grow her own practice at BB&T and reached out to me for coaching and suggestions. She was pleasantly real and making her way. In her short career, she made many contributions, and I can only imagine what she would have done were she still with us. I would like to give my support to Meghan's family's effort to get a plaque placed on the bench that was donated in her honor in Cherrydale Park.

Sincerely,



Angela Fox
President/CEO



More than independence: the promise of community

July 10, 2008

BB&T
Attn: Ms. Dee Long
2200 Wilson Blvd.; Suite 200
Arlington, VA 22201

Greeting

It is with great sadness that the Community Residences Inc. family learns of the tragic circumstances that took the life of Meghan Kieffer.

Meghan was a special member of our family. Her commitment to the community and compassion for the consumers of Community Residences Inc. will be lost and we will be diminished by it.

Meghan was an unsung heroine in service to those whose disabilities restrict their lives and limit their choices. Our agency's signature event, both in terms of public relations and fund raising is what we call the Taste of Arlington. The event is important to us in many ways and without its success each year it would be impossible for us to carry out our mission to those we serve. The Taste of Arlington is a complex set of carefully choreographed activities, each representing a risk of failure that could spoil the fun and enjoyment of the thousands of individuals who work, volunteer and participate in this one-day event. Through the faithful support of BB&T and the selfless volunteerism of the employees of BB&T we have been able to sustain the Taste of Arlington for 21 years.

We are forever thankful for Meghan Kieffer's caring and her enthusiasm for helping others, without seeking recognition or applause. It is our honor, then, to publicly recognize and applaud her role in helping our community be enriched for having known her and diminished by her loss.

On behalf of the CR family, I extend our deepest sympathies to all those who loved Meghan in her life and will remember her in her passing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Dennis J. Manning'.

Dennis J. Manning
President and CEO

cc: Kathy Wellington
Terry Hurley

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