



ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

County Board Agenda Item Meeting of May 14, 2011

DATE: April 20, 2011

SUBJECT: Name the park informally known as "Herndon & 13th Park" as "James Hunter Park"

C.M. RECOMMENDATION: Approve the naming of the park informally known as "Herndon & 13th Park" as "James Hunter Park", as recommended by the Park and Recreation Commission.

ISSUES: This is a request to name the park informally known as "Herndon & 13th Park". County Board approval is required. No issues have been identified.

SUMMARY: The Park and Recreation Commission recommends that the park informally known as "Herndon & 13th Park" be named "James Hunter Park", pursuant to the County's *Policy for Naming and Renaming of County Facilities and Parks*. County staff supports the proposed name of this park as recommended by the Park and Recreation Commission.

BACKGROUND: On July 10, 1999, the County Board adopted a revised policy for naming County facilities. The policy specifies that facilities, including buildings and parks, shall generally be named according to the geographical, historical, or ecological relationships in which the site is located. The policy charges the Park and Recreation Commission with making recommendations to the County Board concerning proposed names. As part of the consultation and recommendation process, the Commission must seek comments from the Historical Affairs and Landmark Review Board (HALRB), Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee (NCAC) and the appropriate neighborhood civic association.

James Hunter was an Arlington County Board member from 1990-1997. He was a human rights activist and advocated for providing government service to those with limited access. Shortly after retiring from the County Board, Mr. Hunter passed away. The Arlington County Human Rights Commission established the Human Rights Award program in honor of Mr. Hunter for his human rights devotion and leadership for the Arlington community. Mr. Hunter lived a short distance from the park that is now proposed to be named in his honor.

DISCUSSION: In Summer/Fall 2010, community stakeholders (Lyon Village Citizens Association (LVCA), Clarendon Courthouse Civic Association, Clarendon Dogs, Hartford Condos, Ashton Heights Civic Association, and Lyon Park Civic Association) were approached

County Manager:

BMD/mjs

County Attorney:

BRC

[Signature]

36.

Staff: Scott McPartlin, Park Development Division, PRCR
Aaron Wohler, Park Development Division, PRCR

to submit names for the park. A list of names was compiled and reviewed prior to administering the public survey that began on October 12, 2010, and lasted through November 1, 2010.

The methodology allowed survey participants to select two names. Their top choice was weighed at two points, and their second choice names were given a weight of one point. The results of the survey were nearly 2:1 in favor of James Hunter Park.

During the late winter / early spring of 2011 the Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources solicited input from NCAC, HALRB, and LVCA. They all supported the park name. (See Attachments 1, 2 and 3.) On April 26, 2011, the Park and Recreation Commission recommended that the County Board name the park informally known as "Herndon & 13th Park" as "James Hunter Park". Some Park and Recreation Commission members were concerned that the Park name was duplicative because an existing award, the "James B. Hunter Human Rights Award", also honors Mr. Hunter.

FISCAL IMPACT: There is no fiscal impact. The cost of Park signs is included in the Capital Budget.



HISTORICAL AFFAIRS AND LANDMARK REVIEW BOARD

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January 25, 2011

Mr. Christopher Zimmerman, Chairman and
Members of the County Board
2100 Clarendon Boulevard, Suite 300
Arlington, Virginia 22201

Dear Mr. Zimmerman:

At our regular public hearing on Wednesday, January 19, 2011, the Arlington County Historical Affairs and Landmark Review Board (HALRB) discussed the proposal to name the park at 13th Street North and North Herndon Street as James Hunter Park. After a brief presentation by Parks staff, and discussion wherein HALRB members noted Jim's many, many contributions to the Arlington community, we voted unanimously in favor of the proposed park name.

During the discussion, members noted one of the proposed names – Merchants Park – had not been chosen. This name had been proposed as a way to recall the contributions the Vietnamese community made to Clarendon. The concentration of Vietnamese-owned businesses in Clarendon from the 1970s through the early-21st century was indeed a significant chapter in Clarendon's history. The HALRB strongly suggests this significant nexus of Vietnamese culture and Clarendon be recognized in some way in the final park design. This could be achieved through the proposed educational displays for the park and/or some landscape feature of the park. If the ultimate name of the park cannot reflect this important aspect of Arlington's history, then the HALRB strongly advocates that this story be reflected in the interpretation of the site.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nancy J. Iacomini".

Nancy Iacomini
Chairman

cc: Members of HALRB
Department of Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources

Angela Brackett

FA

From: Hans Bauman [hans.bauman@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 21, 2011 8:17 PM
To: CountyBoard
Cc: Aaron Wohler; Tim McIntosh; Juliet Hiznay; Jim Feaster
Subject: NCAC supports the naming of James Hunter Park

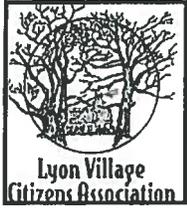
Dear County Board Members,

Last week, the Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee reviewed the proposal to name the park at 13th & Herndon as "James Hunter Park". The membership voted to unanimously support the proposal to name this park after Mr. Hunter in honor of his many contributions to the community.

Many kind regards,

Hans Bauman
Chair, Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee

CB - copy to Pory
H.H. to respond . 1 377050



Lyon Village Citizens Association
2212 18th Street North
Arlington, VA 22201

March 31, 2011

Mr. Christopher Zimmerman, Chairman,
and Members of the County Board
2100 Clarendon Boulevard, Suite 300
Arlington, Virginia 22201

Re: Name for County Park at the Corner of 13th and N. Herndon Streets.

Dear Mr. Zimmerman:

We look forward to the proposed improvements to the County Park at the corner of 13th and North Herndon Streets in Lyon Village.

The Lyon Village Citizens Association strongly endorses the recommended name for the park: **James B. Hunter Park**. Jim was a long time resident of Lyon Village living a block from the Park for many years. Jim was very active in Lyon Village activities including serving as President of the Lyon Village Citizens Association for two years. Jim loved to go for walks with his dog "Luke" in the neighborhood. He was also a champion of "green space" in Arlington, realizing the importance of it to an urban County which was becoming more urban each year. Jim also participated in the county gardening plots each year.

We believe that naming the 13th and Herndon Street Park after Jim is a very fitting way to remember Jim and his many accomplishments while he lived here in Arlington and in the Clarendon area.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

H.K. Park
President
Lyon Village Citizens Association