



CITY COUNCIL NAMING COMMITTEE

**Monday, May 1, 2023
5:15 p.m. to 6 p.m.**

**City Council Workroom & Virtual
City Hall 301 King St.**

AGENDA

1. Call to Order: Councilman Chapman, Chair
2. Confederate Street Naming Draft Scope of Work & FAQ
Dana Wedeles, Strategic Initiatives Officer
3. Park Naming Proposal for Judy Guse-Noritake
Jack Browand, Deputy Director (RPCA), Naming Committee Liaison
4. Next Meeting Date – TBD
5. Public Comment
6. Adjournment

Registration is required so please register in advance for this webinar:
https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_048rNi0DQ4iQBQLVaOdITw

Meeting ID: 995 5690 0612

Passcode: 035141

Dial-in: 301-715-8592

Following the Zoom Webinar, the meeting may be viewed at the City Council Naming Committee website at <https://www.alexandriava.gov/boards-and-commissions/program/city-council-naming-committee>.



CONFEDERATE STREET RE-NAMING Scope of Work

Directive to Naming Committee, with the support of the City Manager's Office: On January 10, 2023, Mayor Justin Wilson introduced a [proposal](#) to rename streets in the City that are named for Confederate soldiers. He stated, "Our predecessors used street naming policies as a form of permanent protest against the burgeoning civil rights movement and growing political power for African-Americans. As a symbol, these honors persist today, honoring virulent racists, many of whom took up arms against our nation. These honors are not defensible and should be removed.....While it is important to remove these inappropriate honors, it is also important to consider the practical concerns as thousands of Alexandria residents and visitors use these existing street names to navigate our community. As such, I believe a reasonable, yet deliberate pace of renaming these streets over time should be embarked upon."

Directive to HARC: The Historic Alexandria Resources Commission (HARC) will be requested to develop a list, with the support of the Office of Historic Alexandria, of individuals and locations, worthy of honor by the City. The Commission is requested to pay special attention to inclusion of women and minorities (as well as events and locations significant to women and minorities throughout our history), who have frequently been overlooked through history. Additionally, the Commission is requested to consider street names that had been retired previously.

Established Policies to Serve as Guidance:

- Street Naming and Renaming Policy, *Approved by the Naming Committee, May 2021*
- Confederate Street Renaming Pilot Program, *Approved by the Naming Committee, August 2021*
- Naming and Renaming Policy and Procedures for Public Parks and Recreation Areas and Facilities, *Approved by the Naming Committee, 2019*
 - Of particular note from this policy is the criteria that park and recreation facilities names will not be considered if:
 - The proposed name is a duplication of an existing park or facility name in Alexandria;
 - The proposed name requested may be perceived to be offensive to segments of the public; and
 - The proposed name is the name of a commercial entity or implies a commercial endorsement, i.e., naming rights.

While this policy is specific to park and recreation facilities, staff suggest adhering to these criteria as guidance when determining future street names as well.

Background Information:

- In May 2021, the Office of Historic Alexandria researched and developed a list of 41 streets named for Confederate soldiers/leaders.
- There are also streets named for known segregationists/Klan members that have not formally been identified, such as Taney Avenue.
- The City Council Naming Committee is currently comprised of three (3) members of City Council and a staff liaison.
 - Councilman John Taylor Chapman, Chair
 - Councilwoman Sarah Bagley
 - Councilwoman Alyia Gaskins
 - Staff Liaison, Jack Browand, Deputy Director, Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Activities

Work Plan:

HARC Work Plan

1. April – September 2023:
 - a. HARC will identify potential names for the Re-naming committee to consider.

Naming Committee Work Plan

1. March 2023
 - a. The Naming Committee will receive the recommended scope of work and process for Confederate Street re-namings.
2. May 2023
 - a. Hold a second Naming Committee meeting to review revised scope of Work in advance of City Council legislative session.
 - b. Staff will develop a webpage that has:
 - i. Timeline and Background
 - ii. FAQ's for residents
 - iii. Community process for both Naming Committee and HARC
 - iv. Historical documentation
 - c. At the second legislative session, May 23, the Naming Committee will bring the scope of work to City Council for their awareness of the process.
3. September 2023
 - a. The Naming Committee will meet to discuss and select its three prioritized street re-naming for 2023. They may also select 2-3 alternative streets. At this meeting, HARC will provide their list of potential names and the Naming Committee will select its top three for consideration. This meeting will include a public comment period.
 - b. Following the meeting, staff will issue a media release and communications to the community with a public feedback form on the recommended names. In addition, the press release will invite suggestions from the Community. Any names from the community must include:
 - i. the justification for the proposed name;
 - ii. documentation on a community-led meeting to discuss the name.

- iii. It may also include recommendations from representatives in the community, such as a community organization (HOA/Civic Association), and an explanation of any additional information on a community outreach process.
 - c. The City will provide written notice to all abutting property owners thirty (30) days prior to the next Naming Committee meeting and City Council public hearings.
4. October 2023
 - a. The Naming Committee will hold an open public hearing. In addition to abutting property owners, the individuals or groups who submitted recommendations will be notified at least two weeks in advance of the meeting date and location and are encouraged to attend. The City's Naming Committee will receive the submission(s), public comment, and any related materials from the nominator(s) or designee(s).
 - b. The City Naming Committee will make a recommendation to City Council.
5. November 2023
 - a. City Council will receive the recommendation of the City's Naming Committee and will schedule the recommendation to be considered, along with a corresponding proposed ordinance, per Code Sec. 5-2-66, at a City Council Public Hearing.
 - b. City Council will make an official decision following the City Council Public Hearing.
6. December 2023
 - a. If approved, City Staff will begin the process of address, system, and signage changes.
7. If a street name is not recommended by the Naming Committee the process begins anew.

Resources:

- The annual budget will support three street re-namings per year. This includes signage, 911 system changes, and all re-addressing needs. This cost is estimated to be between \$20,000 to \$60,000 per street, varying by street length and number of impacted addresses.

Measures of Success:

- Short-term:
 - Completion of three confederate street re-namings per year
- Long-term:
 - "Increase the % that feel openness and acceptance of the community toward diverse backgrounds" ([71% in the 2020 Resident Survey](#)) and decrease the gap (13.1%) between white (77%) and non-white residents (64%) on their response to this question in the resident Survey.

Staff:

- Dana Wedeles, Strategic Initiatives Officer, City Manager's Office
- Jack Browand, Deputy Director of Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Activities and Staff Liaison to the Naming Committee
- Gretchen Bulova, Director, Office of Historic Alexandria
- Ebony Fleming, Director of the Office of Communications and Public Information

- Lindsay Dubin, City Attorney's Office

Attachments:

1. Confederate Street Name Map
2. [Street Naming and Renaming Policy, May 2021](#)
3. [Confederate Street Renaming Policy, August 2021](#)
4. [Change of Street Name Application Instructions, 2020](#)
5. [Naming and Renaming Policy and Procedures for Public Parks and Recreation Areas and Facilities, 2019](#)
6. [Letter to City Council Members from Mayor Justin Wilson, January 10, 2023](#)
7. [Example FAQ](#)

DRAFT

WHAT DO I NEED TO DO IF MY STREET IS RENAMED?

The City will change addresses for residents and businesses within the following operations:

- U.S. Postal Service
 - You do not need to request a change of address form.
- Personal Property tax
 - You do not need to update your personal property records.
- Land Records and Permits
 - The City will inform the Circuit Court Clerk and make any necessary alternations to all planning permits.
- Utilities
 - The City will alert the following agencies regarding street name changes:
 - AlexRenew,
 - Dominion Energy,
 - Comcast,
 - Ting, and
 - Washington Gas.
- Voter Registration
 - The Registrar will change voting records.
- Schools
 - The City will send notifications to the City School Board, Alexandria City Public School Administration, and principals.
- Emergency Services
 - The City will update all of its emergency services of new street names, including:
 - Alexandria Police Department,
 - Alexandria Fire Department, and
 - 311 and 911.

You do NOT need to notify these agencies. Your street name will be updated with no action on your part.

What will residents and businesses be responsible for changing, where applicable?

- [Department of Motor Vehicles](#) – vehicle registration, driver’s license, state IDs
 - Address change can be done online – ID card replacement not required.
- Passports
 - No address change is require, until passport is expired.
- IRS – Tax Advisor
 - Put new address on next tax filing and on Form 8822
 - Mail a letter with the following information: full name, new address, old address, date of birth, Social Security Number, Individual Taxpayer ID Number or Employer Identification Number.
- Wills & Trusts
 - No address change required, though if desired, the City may provide certified letter as addendum to will/trust (if requested).
- Social Security
 - The change can be made [online](#).
- Financials

- Banks and investment services
 - Loan issuers
 - Credit card companies
- Insurance
 - Health, dental, life, car, house and/or renters insurance
- Subscriptions

Business Owners should consider updating the following:

- Business listings on the internet and navigational maps
- Websites
- Business cards
- Promotional Items
- Social Media
- Directory Listings
- Certifications

From: [Alexandria eNews](#)
To: [Jack Browand](#)
Subject: City of Alexandria Solicits Feedback for Naming of Braddock Interim Park in Honor of Judy Guse-Noritake
Date: Friday, April 21, 2023 10:00:32 AM

For Immediate Release: April 21, 2023

The City of Alexandria is soliciting feedback on a proposal to formally name Braddock Interim Park and planned future permanent park Judy Guse-Noritake Braddock Park. Additional information on the current interim park and proposed future park may be found by visiting the [Braddock Metro Neighborhood and Braddock East Master Plans](#) website. The Department of Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities will receive comments through Sunday, May 7, 2023. Those interested in providing their comments on the proposed name, or other name ideas, can email to Jack.Browand@alexandriava.gov or by mail to RPCA, C/O Jack Browand, 2900-A Business Center Drive, Alexandria VA 22314 through May 7.

The park naming recommendation is based on Judy Guse-Noritake's tireless efforts and invaluable work in the field of environmental policy and advocacy, and as an inspiration for future generations to follow in her footsteps and contribute to the betterment of our environment. Ms. Guse-Noritake, was a longstanding City resident and had 20 years of service on the Park & Recreation Commission, she devoted her life to advocating for environmental causes and championing lasting policies that positively impacted the City, and was directly involved in numerous projects and initiatives that have improved parks and natural spaces. This naming recommendation is supported by the Braddock Lofts Homeowners Association and the Braddock Metro Citizens' Coalition.

If you prefer communication in another language, free interpretation and translation services are available to you, please call 703.746.3961 or email genevieve.babecki@alexandriava.gov.

For reasonable disability accommodations, contact Jack.Browand@alexandriava.gov or 703.746.5504, Virginia Relay 711.

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