

CITY OF CORAL GABLES

- MEMORANDUM -

TO: Peter J. Iglesias
City Manager

DATE: June 22, 2020

FROM: Naomi Levi Garcia, Esq.
Assistant City Attorney, Intergovernmental Affairs Mgr.

SUBJECT: Park-Naming Policies
and Procedures

This memorandum is in response to a question posed by Commissioner Keon regarding the City's policy for naming parks following the June 9th City Commission meeting. The City's policy and procedure for naming/renaming City parks, open spaces, public facilities, and rooms (hereinafter "sites") was formally adopted in Resolution No. 30314-A (Attached as Exhibit A) on May 28, 2002. Subsequently, the Community Recreation Department instituted a naming policy that is substantially identical to the policy set forth in Resolution No. 30314-A (Attached as Exhibit B). Both Resolution No 30314-A and the departmental policy are summarized below.

GENERAL POLICY

- Staff may temporarily assign a name based on the adjacent street, functional use, geographic feature, community name or historic significance for reference and identification purposes.
- The chosen name shall not conflict with similar names and every effort shall be made to avoid conflicts with neighboring municipalities, especially where streets cross municipal boundaries.
- The Coral Gables City Commission shall approve all names by Resolution.
- The Historic Preservation Board shall be consulted with regard to historically designated properties.
- Generally, a facility will not be named after a person until after their death. An exception to naming/renaming a facility after a living person may only be made with a four/fifth (4/5) vote of approval by Commission.
- The renaming of parks, open spaces and public facilities will be strongly discouraged. When the name of an individual is used, approval shall be obtained from the individual or the next of kin for such naming.

CRITERIA AND GUIDELINES FOR NAMES HONORING INDIVIDUALS/ GROUPS/EVENTS

- Where [the honoree has made] a significant contribution to the quality of life, well-being of the City of Coral Gables; or
- To memorialize or otherwise recognize substantial gifts and significant donors, individuals designated by donors, or individuals who have made exemplary or meritorious contributions to the City of Coral Gables; or

- Where there is a significant historical or cultural connection to the City and has made a major contribution to the historical or cultural preservation of the City; or
- Where there is a major contribution toward the environmental preservation conservation or enhancement of the City; or
- Where there is a major contribution made to the acquisition, development or conveyance of land or building in question and/or contribution toward acquisition and/or development of the facility; or
- Where there is a direct relationship or association that exists between the place or former place of residence of the person or group and the facility or park to be named/renamed; or
- Where there is a significant contribution to the betterment of a specific park, consistent with the established criteria and standards for the designated park classification.

PROCEDURES FOR NAMING OR RENAMING

An individual, the City Commission, or a group may submit a written request to name/rename a site in honor of an individual or group or event. The requestor must provide a written proposal, including certain minimum information, to the City Manager's Office for referral to the appropriate City board(s) and departments. Proposals must include relevant information in support of the site naming, a letter of approval from the individual to be honored or next of kin, and at least three letters of endorsement supporting the application.

The City Manager's Office will distribute the request to the Community Recreation Department, Historic Preservation and Cultural Arts Department, Planning Division, Building Department, Public Works Department, Public Service Division, and Finance Department for their comments and information.

Following the receipt of comments from the various departments, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board/Cultural Affairs Board shall review the request and formulate a recommendation for the City Commission.

COMMISSION DISCRETION

The Commission retains the ultimate discretion over the naming of parks and other sites and has in the past, chosen to bypass the park naming process and name a site via commission resolution. Below is a list of the last ten park namings and the process that was utilized for each.

1. James T. Barker Park 6/2020 – approved through the process
2. Arva Moore Parks Park – 5/26/2020 – approved directly by Commission
3. Lamar Louise Curry Park – 10/9/2018 – approved through the process
4. Betsy Adams and the Coral Gables Garden Club Park – 4/28/2015 – approved through the process
5. Enrique Cepero Park – 4/20/2015 – approved directly by Commission
6. Kerdyk and Family Park – 3/10/2015 - approved directly by Commission

7. William Alexander Cooper Park – 2/10/2010 – approved through the process
8. Rotary Centennial Park – 04/16/2004 – approved through the process
9. Carlos Kakouris Park – 6/30/2003 – approved through the process
10. Ruth Bryan Owen Waterway Park – 3/9/2004 – approved through the process