

To: Mayor and City Council

From: Brent Walker, Parks and Recreation Director

Date: May 8, 2023

Re: Park Naming Campaign for the Vermack Road and Roberts Drive Park Property

Summary

Staff solicited names from city residents for the park properties located at 4809/4819 Vermack Rd and 5435 Roberts Dr in order for the City Council to name the future parks.

Details

As Dunwoody continues to build out it's park system, it is important to engage the community to be part of the process of naming their neighborhood parks. Staff started an online campaign to solicit names from residents that could be considered by the City Council as a name for the two future parks located on Vermack Rd. and Roberts Dr. At the last meeting Council requested information on the origins of the name Vermack and Roberts. Valerie Biggerstaff with the Dunwoody Preservation Trust provide this information:

Vermack is a combination of Vernon, as in Mt. Vernon, and Womack. Mt. Vernon Road was previously known as Lawrenceville Road, until 1926 when it was changed. According to Jim Perkins, who wrote for the Crier about history before me, it was changed to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence signing. As a side note, there is a video DPT has where Ethel Spruill says Arlington Cemetery changed the name. I haven't been able to verify that, but the cemetery is on Mt. Vernon Highway in Sandy Springs. Womack is named for the Womack family that owned the land where Georgia State Univ. Dunwoody campus is located.

The family that lived at the park land on Vermack however, was the Warnock family (similar names). They lived both on Mt. Vernon in the old Warnock Cottage that still stands and future generations lived in the house on Vermack.

Roberts Drive is named for Isaac Roberts, engineer of the Roswell Railroad from 1881 until 1921. His house is on the road, close to its end near Roswell Road. Today, Roberts Drive is separated by 400 but it was once continuous.

The names Vermack Park, Unalii Park and Uwohali Park were removed from the list and two additional names Humblebee Park and Old Buck Park were added. The attached list has been updated.

Staff also attached the Naming Policy as reference for Council to determine how to proceed.

Request

Staff request that Council consider the names that are submitted and select a name for the park properties located at property at 4809/4819 Vermack Rd and 5435 Roberts Dr.

Vermack Road 4809-4819 Vermack Road

Deer Bed Park
Fallen Pine Park
Hawk Park
Plow Handle Park
Poetry Park
Verde Park
Humblebee Park
Homecoming Park - added 5/6/23

Roberts Drive 5435 Roberts Drive

Arrowwood Park
Cherokee Park
Crossvine Park
Hawkeye Park
Juniper Park
Light Horse Park
Poplar Park
Sassafras Park
Talon Park
Old Buck Park
Roberts Park

STATE OF GEORGIA
CITY OF DUNWOODY

RESOLUTION 2023-xx-x

**A RESOLUTION NAMING THE PARK PROPERTY LOCATED AT 4809/4819
VERMACK RD. XXXX PARK**

WHEREAS: The City has the responsibility to enhance the sense of community through naming of City parks, recreational areas, streets/roads and facilities and,

WHEREAS: The proper naming of a park ensures recreational areas are easily identified and located and,

WHEREAS: The names given to city assets are consistent with the values, mission and characteristics of the City of Dunwoody and,

WHEREAS: The City wishes to encourage public participation and input in order to fully represent the best interest of the asset or area affected.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council for the City of Dunwoody that the property located at 4809/4819 Vermack Rd. shall hereafter be officially named **XXXX Park**.

SO RESOLVED AND EFFECTIVE, this 8th day of May 2023.

Approved:

Lynn Deutsch, Mayor

Attest:

STATE OF GEORGIA
CITY OF DUNWOODY

RESOLUTION 2023-xx-x

Sharon Lowery, City Clerk (Seal)

STATE OF GEORGIA
CITY OF DUNWOODY

RESOLUTION 2023-xx-x

**A RESOLUTION NAMING THE PARK PROPERTY LOCATED AT
5435 ROBERTS DR. XXXX PARK**

WHEREAS: The City has the responsibility to enhance the sense of community through naming of City parks, recreational areas, streets/roads and facilities and,

WHEREAS: The proper naming of a park ensures recreational areas are easily identified and located and,

WHEREAS: The names given to city assets are consistent with the values, mission and characteristics of the City of Dunwoody and,

WHEREAS: The City wishes to encourage public participation and input in order to fully represent the best interest of the asset or area affected.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council for the City of Dunwoody that the property located at 5435 Roberts Dr. shall hereafter be officially named **XXXX Park**.

SO RESOLVED AND EFFECTIVE, this 8th day of May, 2023.

Approved:

Lynn Deutsch, Mayor

Attest:

STATE OF GEORGIA
CITY OF DUNWOODY

RESOLUTION 2023-xx-x

Sharon Lowery, City Clerk (Seal)

Policy for the Naming of City Parks, Recreational Areas, Streets/Roads and Facilities

Purpose:

The City of Dunwoody believes that through mutually beneficial partnerships the overall quality of life in the community can be enhanced, community relationships can be strengthened and efficiencies in time and resources can be achieved. The City delivers quality, life-enriching activities, and state of the art facilities to the broadest base of the community.

The Purpose of this policy is to establish a systematic and consistent approach for the sponsoring and naming/renaming of parks, recreational areas, streets/roads and facilities owned and/or operated by the City of Dunwoody. This policy will guide name recognition and establish its uniform application. It is realized that the responsibility for naming City parks, recreational areas and facilities lies with the Mayor and City Council.

In appreciation for contributions and support the city receives from external organizations, individuals and businesses, it may be necessary to apply a policy whereby the City of Dunwoody would provide suitable acknowledgement of particular contributions and support. All recognition shall adhere to the aesthetic values and purpose of the City's parks, facilities and services. In addition, such recognition shall not detract from the visitor's experience or expectation, nor shall it impair or diminish the visual, aesthetic or functional qualities of the site or be perceived as creating a proprietary interest.

Objectives:

- Enhance sense of community through naming of City parks, recreational areas, streets/roads and facilities.
- Ensure parks and recreational areas are easily identified and located.
- Ensure names given to city assets are consistent with the values, mission and characteristics of the City of Dunwoody.
- Assure the quality of the title/name, so it may beneficially serve the purpose of the City in a permanent manner.
- Encourage public participation and input in order to fully represent the best interest of the asset or area affected.
- Encourage and recognize the dedication of lands, or donations by individuals or groups.

Criteria:

The Policy for the naming of City parks, recreational areas, streets/roads and facilities is established in order to carefully administer determined naming criteria which emphasizes community values and character, local history, geography, environmental, civics and service to the Dunwoody community. It is not necessary that every City park or recreation facility have a name. Further, such facilities should not be named to honor or recognize an individual or group unless the Mayor and City Council determines that it is appropriate to honor or recognize a deserving or outstanding group or individual for their actions and/or service.

When naming a City park, recreational area, streets/roads and facilities the following Criteria will be considered:

- Geographical location of the facility including descriptive names. A name shall not be considered if an existing park or facility within a 50 mile radius of the City limits bears the proposed name.

- An outstanding feature of the area. (example: hill, river, vegetation)
- Commonly recognized subjects of historical significance such as event, person (non-living and deceased for a minimum of five years), group, culture, or place.
- A person (non-living and deceased for a minimum of five years) or group who significantly contributed to the acquisition or development of the park or facility.
- An individual (non-living and deceased for a minimum of five years) who provided an exceptional service in the interest of the city or community.
- The Mayor and City Council have the authority to waive the minimum number of years an individual must be deceased in order to be considered.
- Naming may be considered based on the provision of significant funding which substantially underwrites the cost of renovation or construction of city property. Financial underwriting shall be broadly defined as substantial monetary contributions that completely or significantly enable city projects such as parks, buildings or property acquisition to occur. This may include monetary gifts and/or grants that leverage federal, state, and local funding for such projects or complete donation of land.
- Parks and facilities that are donated to the city can be named by deed restriction by the donor. The naming and acceptance of land is subject to approval by the Mayor and City Council.
- Naming may not conflict with public grant funding policies established by state and/or federal grant funding programs.
- Naming Rights, or Sponsorship Benefits must not include depictions, words or phrases that are reasonably deemed to be harmful or otherwise developmentally inappropriate for the purpose of communication with, or display to the general public. Examples of depictions, words or phrases that may be rejected under this Policy are those which:
 - Are sexually suggestive or obscene;
 - Promote unlawful discrimination on the basis of race, ethnicity, religion, or any other classification protected by law;
 - Connote inappropriate violence or intimidation;
 - Relate events, activities or behaviors that are criminal or otherwise violate law (including without limitation ,violations or applicable environmental, controlled substance or safety laws); or
 - Promote activities or products that are reasonably determined to be detrimental to the public health or safety.
 - Associations with tobacco and alcohol are prohibited.

Renaming:

The intent of naming is for permanent recognition. It is recommended that efforts to change a name be subject to the most crucial examination so as not to diminish the original justification for the name or discount the value of the prior contributors. Parks named for subjects, other than individuals, may be changed in name only if the current name is ineffectual or inappropriate.

Procedure:

- Staff, city residents, community leaders and organizations interested in proposing a name for a park, recreational area, streets/roads or facility shall submit written recommendations, petitions, and etc. to the City Manager for consideration. Recommendations need to describe in detail why the candidate merits such recognition.
- When naming after a person or persons, (non-living and deceased for a minimum of five years) written documentation of approval by next of kin to be honored (if available/possible) is required as part of the proposal.

- The City Manager shall consider all requests and names deemed worthy of consideration will be recommended to the Mayor and City Council.
- The Mayor and City Council shall allow for public input and comment.
- The Mayor and City Council shall confirm park, recreation areas, streets/roads and facility names by resolution.
- The Mayor and City Council has final approval and may reject any naming or renaming request.

The following principals form the basis of the City's recognition of sponsors:

- The City Manager or their designee has the authority to approve sponsorships of City events and programs.
- The City of Dunwoody appreciates all sponsorships that enable it to further its mission.
- Recognition of a sponsorship shall not suggest in any way the endorsement of a sponsor's goods or services by the City of Dunwoody, or any proprietary interest of the sponsor in the City.
- Any signage which recognizes a sponsor shall meet all applicable regulations set in Sign Regulations of the City of Dunwoody Municipal Code and shall not detract from the park surroundings, nor shall it impair or diminish the visual, aesthetic or functional qualities of the site or be perceived as creating a proprietary interest nor alter any interpretive message and/or a park visitor's experience. Signs be sized appropriately for the location they are placed as determined by the City Manager or their designee.

Only the following content will be deemed appropriate:

- The legally recognized name of the corporate sponsor.
 - The sponsor's organizational slogan may be considered if it identifies rather than promotes the organization or its products and services.
 - The City of Dunwoody will not make any statements which directly or indirectly advocate or endorses a sponsor's organization, products or services.
 - The City's Communications and Marketing staff must approve the use of the City of Dunwoody's name, marks or logo by the sponsor in their own business publications or other print, video, internet, broadcast, social media or display items developed to promote or communicate the sponsorship. All use must be associated with the specific sponsorship.
- All sponsorship agreements will be for a defined period of time having regard to the market value of the sponsorship at the time it is made.
 - Naming of events within a park or community building in recognition of a sponsor is permitted providing such names are subordinate to the name of the park, event or the community building.
 - Any physical sign, representation or symbol associated with the sponsoring of an event shall not be larger in font or size than the "City of Dunwoody" name or facility name at the location or in any and all marketing or promotional materials or communications.
 - All final graphics, logos, signs, representations or visuals are subject to a final approval of the City Manager and the Communications and Marketing department.
 - Costs associated with the manufacturing of the sign must be paid by the Sponsor

Renewal Rights and Process

When the City of Dunwoody executes an agreement with any sponsor, the agreement will include a right of renewal term. Contracted sponsors receive the "first right of refusal" to renew as a sponsor; however, the benefits and consideration of the sponsorship may be renegotiated as necessary.

Terminating Sponsorships

The City of Dunwoody reserves the right to terminate any sponsorship should conditions arise during the life of that sponsorship that results in the sponsorship conflicting with this policy or the sponsorship is no longer in the best interests of the City. Decisions to terminate a sponsorship shall be made by the City Manager.