



Hyattsville City Council Agenda Item Report

Meeting Date: March 4, 2019
Submitted by: Joseph Solomon, W5
Submitting Department: Legislative
Item Type: Legislative
Agenda Section:

SUBJECT

Authorizing the City Administrator to initiate necessary actions to advise the Hyattsville City Council on options to change the name of William Pinkney Magruder Park (20 minutes)

HCC-278-FY19

Recommendation:

I move that the Mayor & Council authorize the City Administrator to take the following actions to advise the Hyattsville City Council on the feasibility of, and make recommendations to the Hyattsville City Council based on community feedback related to, a name change of William Pinkney Magruder Park (herein referred to as Magruder Park):

- 1.) Authorize City Attorney to investigate the feasibility of changing the name of Magruder Park without reverting ownership of the park back to the Magruder Family and/or Estate. The City Administrator and/or City Attorney will be required to report back their findings to the City Council no later than 120 days after passage of this motion. In the event additional research time is required, they may request an extension from the City Council. Additionally, the City Attorney should advise the City Council on the possibility of updating the park deed to exclude the offensive language as defined in the motion summary background details. The City Administrator and/or City Attorney shall present its findings to the City Council for further authorization of any subsequent or related legal action.
- 2.) If the City is capable of changing the name of Magruder Park without reverting ownership, and in the absence of additional recommendations from the City Council on either the public input process or the related or subsequent legal actions- Authorize the City Administrator to initiate a community-wide name search for no less than 90 ninety days and no more than 120 days. The purpose of the search will be to advise Hyattsville residents on the pending name change and solicit feedback from the community. All Hyattsville residents, community-based organizations, and Council Advisory Committees, should be permitted and advised of their option to participate. The City Administrator shall present the administrative search plan to the City Council ahead of initiating the search process.
- 3.) Require the City Administrator to present at least the top 10 name change suggestions to the City Council for final discussion and action no more than 30 days after the community suggestion period has ended.

Sponsor(s):

Solomon

Co-Sponsor(s):

Croslin, Spell, Wright, Haba, Ward, Suiter

ATTACHMENTS

Summary Background:

William Pinkney Magruder, as a public official, private land owner, benefactor to the City of Hyattsville and Prince George's County, and as a policy influencer, pursued a segregationist agenda contributing to a locally driven systemic attempt to prevent non-white people from owning homes and enjoying the pleasures of a municipal park. Among

other examples, these actions are best evidenced by the following excerpt from Magruder’s deed of Magruder Park to the City of Hyattsville, “... IN TRUST NEVERTHELESS to hold said land as a public recreation park and playground to be known as WILLIAM PINKNEY MAGRUDER PARK, for the Caucasian inhabitants only of the said town of Hyattsville,” and, “... to issue permits permitting persons of the Caucasian race, not inhabitants of said town.”

Next Steps:

Council Action

Fiscal Impact:

N/A

City Administrator Comments:

The City Attorney will review land records, deeds, and other relevant and available documents and report back to the Council. The staff can use available outreach methods to ensure a public process for obtaining community input as directed by the Council and if legal opinion supports.

Community Engagement:

Community is aware of the history of Magruder Park. Some community members have already expressed an interest in name change during reimagine Magruder Park community sessions. Worked with Hyattsville CDC Director, and HPA President in developing language. Received vote of support from HWRAC.

Strategic Goals:

Goal 5 – Strengthen the City’s Identity as a Diverse, Creative, and Welcoming Community

Legal Review Required?

N/A