



Commission on Naming Public Properties

Department of City Planning

200 Ross Street

1st Floor Hearing Room

Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Meeting Minutes

January 4, 2016

2:04 PM

Commission Members Present: Mike Gable, Raymond Gastil, and Jim Griffin

Staff Present: Lisa Ray

Correspondence

Mr. Gable stated that there was no correspondence.

Items for Review

- a) The Commission discussed the request made by Mr. Griffin to amend the Commission by-laws to define the term “public property” section 3A that furthers define the meaning purpose.

Section 3A should be amended to add the following language that further defines “purpose”. After the first paragraph in this section the following paragraph should be added – “The term “public property” is defined as: property owned by the City or one of its agencies, divisions, or entities, and regularly used by the general public.”

On motion by Mr. Griffin and seconded by Mr. Gastil, all ayes. Motion carried.

- b) Remove the request from I&P for renaming conference rooms until a later date

On motion by Mr. Griffin and seconded by Mr. Gastil, all ayes. Motion carried.

- c) August Wilson Park (formerly Cliffside Park)

Ms. Rademacher of Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy stated that the park was created in 1975 and is less than one acre, located at the intersection of Cliff and Cassatt Streets. The park was completely redesigned after an extensive community-based planning and design effort, and is currently under construction, slated for completion in spring 2016. The park design celebrates the Hill District’s cultural heritage, featuring an installation of quotes from the famed playwright and Pittsburgh native August Wilson, who lived a block from the park until age five. With Cliffside Park’s renovation intended to spur broader revitalization in the community based on cultural assets, it would be appropriate and effective to rename the park for August Wilson. She presented samples of the various types of signs based on the new city sign design.

Mr. Griffin asked if there was sufficient community support to rename this park and does



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Ms Rademacher said they have reached out to various neighborhood groups and they are in support of this including Mr. Wilson's estate.

Mr. Gable stated that it appears to have met all of the criteria.

Mr. Gable asked if there was anyone to speak on behalf of this application.

Mr. Paul Ellis, Executive Director the Daisy Wilson Artist Community, Inc and nephew of Mr. Wilson stated that he has spoken with his board of directors and they are in full support of this application.

He stated that Cliffside Park is just a block away Mr. Wilson's boyhood home, which provided a cultural theme for the park's transformation. Currently, the home is being developed as The Daisy Wilson Artists Community, a nonprofit studio space for fine arts, music and literature to revitalize the culture of the Hill District. It is our view that linking these cultural assets will leverage a greater appreciation and utilization of the community's resources.

Ms. Terri Baltimore of the Hill House Association spoke in support of the project stating that in keeping up with community's Green print Plan and Master Plan linking these cultural assets will leverage a greater appreciation and utilization of the community's resources. She believes this will bring people into the Hill District and have incredible views of Pittsburgh and the Hill District.

Mr. Griffin said this reminds us of the Good Work the City is doing across the city.

Mr. Gable asked for a motion to approve said item:

On Motion by Mr. Griffin and seconded by Mr. Gastil approving the renaming of the Cliffside Park to the August Wilson Park. Roll call, all ayes. Motion carried.

Adjournment

On motion by Mr. Griffin and seconded by Mr. Gastil, the meeting was adjourned at 2:34 p.m.

Jim Griffin, Secretary