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## INFORMATION:

### **Open Streets 704 – Post-Event Report**

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Charlotte's first large-scale "Open Streets" event – Open Streets 704 – was held on Sunday, May 1. The event was a partnership between the City of Charlotte, Mecklenburg County Park & Recreation, Mecklenburg County Health Dept., and Partners for Parks. Thousands of walkers, joggers, cyclists, rollerbladers, dancers, musicians, chalk artists, and many others came out to enjoy the event. The May 1 event route ran from NoDa to Little Sugar Creek Greenway and Memorial Stadium. It connected the neighborhoods of NoDa, Belmont, Villa Heights, Optimist Park, First Ward, and Elizabeth.

Approximately 10,000 people participated. Event organizers surveyed nearly 100 participants with the following findings:

- 100% think Open Streets strengthens our community.
- 98% said the event improves their feelings about the City of Charlotte.
- 80% planned to spend money at the event (or already had).
- 61% responded they are more likely to walk or bike as a form of transportation after attending the event.

Staff will use this feedback to inform planning for future Open Streets events.

Open Streets events temporarily close streets to automobile traffic so that people may use them for walking, bicycling, dancing, playing, and meeting their neighbors. Open Streets festivals currently take place in more than 100 cities across North America. These events typically are held on Sunday afternoons when traffic volumes are minimal. Open Streets programs have proven to be successful at achieving goals related to recreation, public health, active transportation (walking and biking), and community building. For more information, go to: <http://www.openstreets704.com/>

### **Comprehensive Transportation Plan Public Engagement**

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The Charlotte Regional Transportation Planning Organization (CRTPO) is asking the public for comments or questions about the Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP). The CTP is a fiscally unconstrained long-range regional plan, which compiles transportation planning efforts from the City of Charlotte and other CRTPO jurisdictions. The CTP consists of four maps illustrating staff's assessment of travel networks for motorists, bicyclists, pedestrians, transit riders, and freight. CDOT staff worked with staff from CATS, other local governments, CRTPO,

and NCDOT to prepare the CTP and ensure it reflects adopted plans and policies. The CTP will be mutually adopted by the CRTPO and NCDOT Boards.

Public engagement for the CTP will occur throughout the summer, with adoption anticipated in the fall. The public can attend workshops, view webinars, or provide comments through a set of interactive, online maps. More information about the CTP, including how to provide comments, is available at:

<http://crtpo.org/comprehensive-transportation-plan>

### **April 20 Metropolitan Transit Commission Meeting Summary**

*Staff Resource: John Lewis, CATS, 704-336-3855, [John.Lewis@charlottenc.gov](mailto:John.Lewis@charlottenc.gov)*

A summary of the April 20 Metropolitan Transit Commission is attached below. The MTC considered two action items and heard one information item at the meeting. MTC approved the Title VI Fare Equity Analysis, and approved Option 1 of the staff recommended fare structure. The body heard a report on the Rail Trail vision framework.



MTC C-M Memo  
201604.pdf

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

City Council Follow-Up Report



18--May.pdf

- Renaming Polk Park
- Municipal Service Districts



## **April 20 Metropolitan Transit Commission Summary**

### *Title VI – Fare Equity Analysis*

MTC unanimously approved the Title VI Fare Equity Analysis. The analysis revealed a disproportionate burden for low income riders for two fare types: full cash fare and one-ride ticket, as low income riders make 60 percent of all bus full-fare cash purchases and 33 percent of all one-ride ticket purchases on the rail system. Option 1 of the proposed fare increase options did not increase bus and rail full cash ticket prices, so that option would not impact low income riders disproportionately.

### *Transit Operational Capital & Debt Programs*

MTC members first approved Option 1 of the staff-recommended fare structure change options, and then unanimously approved the entire budget resolution. Option 1 does not increase the cost of a full-fare single ride ticket on bus or rail, but changes fare discounts as follows: reduces the 20 percent volume discount on ETC passes sold through employers to a 10 percent discount; eliminates the 15 percent discount on ten-ride passes; and prices a weekly pass at 14 rides while retaining the unlimited ride feature. Staff hopes that the budget shortfall that still exists with Option 1 will be made up when the current fare boxes are replaced early in the budget year. MTC members approved revisiting the elimination of the ten-ride pass discount at the next budget cycle.

### *Rail Trail Framework / Vision Plan*

The Rail Trail was constructed within the rail corridor adjacent to CATS' light rail system. It is largely located within the South End District. The City built the existing trail, which opened in 2007 with the light rail opening. It was built to a trail standard, a basic asphalt utilitarian trail with basic lighting. The trail has become hugely popular and serves as a linear park for residents of Uptown and South End. Currently about four miles long, it is one of the most popular urban greenways in the southeast. CATS and the City have been able to expand and lengthen the trail through the conversion of industrial sites near the corridor and creating new pedestrian linkages. Pedestrian linkages near rail lines were discouraged during the days of industrial freight rail. The linkages are now necessary and desired with the population growth in the area, so CATS and the City are working with Center City Partners and other innovators to make the trail even more functional in response to all of the new residents and users in the area. The Rail Trail's Framework Plan guides the vision for the trail, transforming 90 leftover, inaccessible, and unusable pieces of real estate. The vision was to strengthen the identity of Charlotte as a city with great creativity and cultural experiences. The project management team spearheading the effort is interdisciplinary, with members drawn from CATS, CDOT, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Planning, Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation, and Center City Partners.

Charlotte Rail Trail is developing organically over time, piece by piece. It will evolve and change. Highlights of the trail include a chalkboard where people respond to provocative statements with funny, engaging responses and a large transformer substation with dynamic lighting provided by Duke Energy. Guerilla art has appeared on the trail, with two metal roosters enclosed in a fenced-in space that formerly held a trolley transformer as well as gaming tables

such as the hexagonal ping pong table where six players can play ping pong simultaneously. The success of this organic venture, with partners along the trail who believe their assets are more valuable because of the presence of the trail, has resulted in a Friends of Rail Trail effort that has received funding and social media presence to encourage the grass-roots activity and effort. News on the trail's development will be posted at the website [www.CharlotteRailTrail.org](http://www.CharlotteRailTrail.org).

#### *CATS CEO Report*

Under the CEO's report, Mr. Lewis discussed:

**a. Ridership:**

The trend of ridership numbers over the last couple of quarters continues to creep upward. Ridership has increased 1.1 percent over the same period last year with a four percent for year-to-date increase.

**b. Financial Update:**

Sales tax receipts continue to outperform budgeted estimates. CATS is at 96 percent of budget revenue estimates at the beginning of the fourth quarter.

**c. I-77 Corridor:**

From CATS' viewpoint, variable pricing lanes currently under construction in I-77 corridor are an opportunity to jumpstart premium service in the corridor. CATS' goal to construct and operate commuter rail in the corridor has not changed. CATS will continue to work with partners in Norfolk Southern and North Carolina Railroad to develop a mutually beneficial strategy to achieve that goal. However, customers within that corridor need rapid transit options as soon as possible. The approved budget provides funding for an implementation plan study for bus rapid transit on that corridor when the I-77 lanes open. Staff will work to define the plan's work scope and work with the towns' staff on the implementation plan and put together a Small Starts grant submission to move the concept along in conjunction with the long-term plan of commuter rail. Bus rapid transit stations can be where commuter rail stations will ultimately be located. Marketing the service will be a key aspect to ensure citizens along the corridor understand the opportunity that the premium transit service will provide for corridor mobility.

**d. APTA Bus Conference:**

CATS is hosting the annual APTA Bus & Paratransit Conference beginning on Saturday, May 14, 2016. The annual International Bus Rodeo will take place on Sunday, May 15. If you are interested in seeing transit professionals doing amazing things with vehicles, a few hours at a transit rodeo will surprise you.

The next MTC meeting will be May 25, 2016 at 5:30 p.m.



CHARLOTTE™

## City Council Follow-Up Report

May 18, 2016

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### **May 2, 2016 – Citizens’ Forum**

#### **Renaming Polk Park**

*Staff Resource: Gina Shell, Engineering & Property Management, 704-336-4648, [gshell@charlottenc.gov](mailto:gshell@charlottenc.gov)*

During the Citizens’ Forum, Mr. Lloyd Scher asked the City Council about the possibility of renaming Polk Park for former Council Member Al Rouso and renaming Little Sugar Creek Greenway for former Council Member Jerry Tuttle.

City Council named Polk Park on September 23, 1991 in honor of Thomas K. Polk, a local Revolutionary War leader, whose house stood across the street from the location of the park on the current-day intersection of Trade and Tryon. He is called a “founder” of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County and was instrumental in the creation of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence. Additional information about Polk can be found by accessing the following link: <http://charmeck.org/mecklenburg/county/ParkandRec/TrailOfHistory/Pages/ThomasPolk.aspx>

Prominently displayed at the front of the park is a 4-sided clock, which was installed in 1998 and later dedicated in memory of Council Member Al Rouso. The existing plaque near the base of the clock commemorates Rouso’s service. Photos of the clock and plaque are attached.



Polk Park Photos.pdf

The Mecklenburg County Board of County Commissioners administers the process for renaming county parks including the Little Sugar Creek Greenway. Their policy and an application to request a naming opportunity are attached.



Facility Naming  
Policy.pdf

A copy of this report and corresponding attachments will be forwarded to Mr. Scher.

### **May 9, 2016 – City Council Business Meeting**

#### **Municipal Service Districts**

*Staff Resource: Kim Eagle, Management & Financial Services, 704-336-3700, [keagle@charlottenc.gov](mailto:keagle@charlottenc.gov)*

During the public hearing regarding the City’s Municipal Service Districts, Council Member Austin asked how the City solicits input from residents and property owners about the needs of the service districts.

### *Background*

The five Municipal Service Districts (MSDs) within the City of Charlotte were created as special tax districts to enhance the economic viability and quality of life in select areas. The City contracts with various financial partner agencies to extend its capacity to provide the enhanced level of services, facilities, or functions provided in each MSD.

In 2015 the North Carolina General Assembly adopted revisions to North Carolina General Statute 160A-536 (the general statute pertaining to MSDs). These statutory revisions include a new process for MSD contracts entered after October 1, 2015. Revised MSD statutory requirements include:

- Holding a separate public hearing prior to entering into a contract with a financial partner agency to provide services in the district;
- Determining criteria for selection of a financial partner agency with which to contract for providing services to the service district and to use a bid process to select a contract agency to provide services to the service district;
- Requiring the financial partner agency to present to City Council annually its report of the continuing needs of the service district and the completed and pending projects of the financial partner agency that meet those needs.

### *Input Solicitation Process*

As a part of the new statutory requirements, the City solicited input from residents and property owners about the services provided in each MSD with the public hearing that was conducted on May 9, 2016. This public hearing was advertised in the *Charlotte Observer* and online two weeks prior to the public hearing date. Additionally, the City solicited public comment on the service districts' needs and feedback for the MSD contract evaluation criteria via email at: [financialpartners@ci.charlotte.nc.us](mailto:financialpartners@ci.charlotte.nc.us), a published e-mail address.

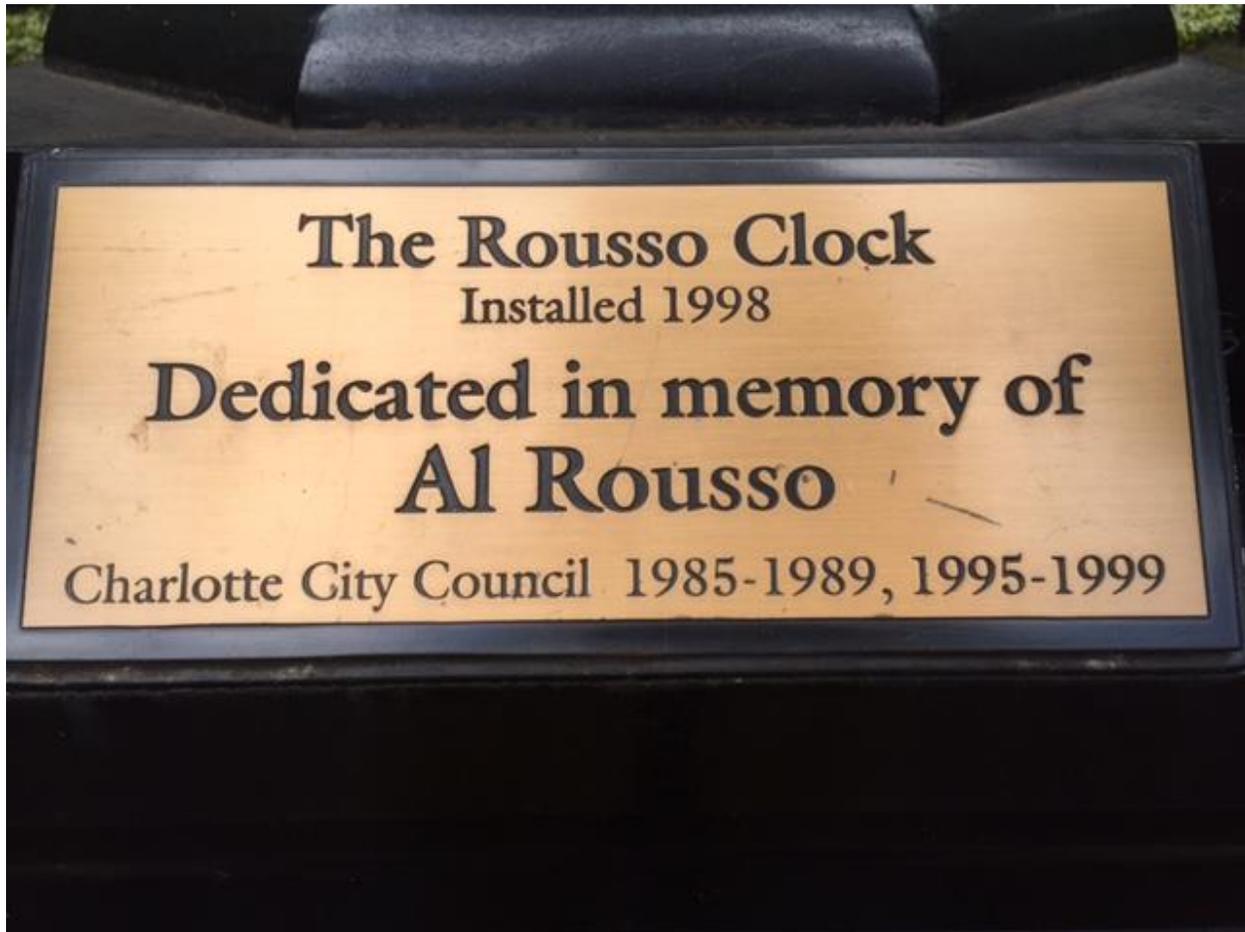
The current MSD partner agencies, Center City Partners and University City Partners, regularly solicit feedback from residents and business owners about the services provided within each service district. Stakeholder input is collected in a variety of methods including:

- Social media and online news blogs that provide opportunities for residents to comment and ask questions;
- Diverse Board of Directors composition that is representative of various resident and business interests;
- Direct email notices to constituents;
- Public presentations and community engagement events;
- Formal constituent surveys (e.g. using electronic tools such as Survey Monkey to solicit feedback), and
- Regular stakeholder meetings, such as:
  - Business retention meetings;
  - Quarterly broker forums;
  - Neighborhood association meetings; and
  - One-on-one meeting with individual constituents/constituent groups as requested.

Four-sided clock in memory of Council Member Al Rousso



Plaque commemorating Council Member Al Rousso's service



## Mecklenburg County Facility Naming Policy

### Purpose

To establish consistent guidelines for naming buildings and other property, including public areas, owned by Mecklenburg County.

### Guidelines

- I. The authority to name or rename Mecklenburg County (County) facilities is vested with the Board of County Commissioners.
- II. Facilities to be named or renamed must be owned by Mecklenburg County, or must be leased by Mecklenburg County and the naming or renaming of the facility must be permissible under terms of the lease agreement.
- III. In rare circumstances and for just cause, a County facility previously named in honor of or in memorial to a person may be renamed. Facilities owned or leased by Mecklenburg County shall only be renamed if at least one of the following conditions is met:
  - (a) A minimum of twenty (20) years has passed since the adoption of the existing name;
  - (b) The facility has been relocated;
  - (c) The facility's function has changed.
- IV. Facilities owned or leased by Mecklenburg County shall only be named for a living person if at least one of the following conditions is met:
  - (a) The living person made a significant financial contribution to the development or acquisition of a facility and entered into an agreement approved by the Board of County Commissioners that the facility would be named for the contributor;
  - (b) The living person made a significant contribution to the enhancement of the quality of life in the community and is widely recognized and highly regarded for their work in the community;
  - (c) Leased property that has been named by the lessor for a living person.
- V. Facilities owned or leased by Mecklenburg County shall only be named for a deceased person if the following condition is met:
  - (a) The person made a significant contribution to the enhancement of the quality of life in the community and is widely recognized and highly regarded for their work in the community;
- VI. Facilities owned or leased by Mecklenburg County shall only be named for an elected official if:
  - (a) A minimum of five (5) years has passed since the individual last served in elected office, excluding elected officials who are deceased.
- VII. Facilities owned or leased by Mecklenburg County may be given names based upon geographical, historical, ecological, functional or other such factors as the Board of County Commissioners considers appropriate.

- VIII. A County facility under construction or renovation may be given a “working title” and shall only become the official name if approved by the Board of County Commissioners.
- IX. Selection of names should be managed in such a way that prevents duplication and/or confusion.
- X. Naming/renaming requests for Park and Recreation facilities/public areas will follow the process outlined in the Park and Recreation Public Areas and Facilities Naming Policy, which is attached herein as Appendix 1.
- XI. Exceptions to this policy may be made by majority vote of the Board of County Commissioners.

Adopted the 1<sup>st</sup> day of September, 2009

Revised October 15, 2013

## **EXHIBIT 1**

### **Application Process**

Applications for naming and/or renaming of Mecklenburg County facilities must be submitted by an individual, independent groups, staff and/or members of the Mecklenburg County Board of County Commissioners. Applications must be submitted to the Mecklenburg County Manager's Office using the Exhibit 2 form. Applications will go through an extensive screening process, including a background check if the request is to name County property for an individual. Once the application has passed the screening process, a Public Hearing Notice will be placed in the local newspaper 10 days in advance of the hearing. During the public hearing, individuals and/or groups will have an opportunity to express their support or opposition of the naming/renaming request.

**EXHIBIT 2**

**MECKLENBURG COUNTY FACILITIES NAMING AND RENAMING POLICY  
APPLICATION**

**I. General Policy Statement**

The Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) shall be responsible for approving all names of facilities in Mecklenburg County Government consistent with the Mecklenburg County Facilities Naming Policy.

**II. Applicant's Information**

Name of Individual/Group Making Application:

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: Home: \_\_\_\_\_ Business: \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Site of Naming/Renaming to be Considered: \_\_\_\_\_

**III. Recommendation and Supporting Information**

Recommended Name: \_\_\_\_\_

The recommended name is a reference to (check one of the following):

\_\_\_ a living person

\_\_\_ a deceased person

\_\_\_ other reference (please explain): \_\_\_\_\_

*(If none of the above, please skip all remaining questions and provide a one-page rationale to support recommended name)*

**IV. Background Check**

If the request is to name a facility after a person, living or deceased, please provide the following information about that person. This information will be used only to conduct a background check on the person for whom the naming is being requested and will be held confidential.

Current Address (if living): \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Social Security Number: \_\_\_\_\_

V. Name of civic/community activities, position of leadership and dates of involvement:

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VI. Organizations and positions held: \_\_\_\_\_

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VII. Awards and honors: \_\_\_\_\_

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VIII. Additional comments: \_\_\_\_\_

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## Appendix 1

### Park and Recreation Public Areas and Facilities Naming Policy

#### General Policy Statement

The Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) shall be responsible for approving all names for public areas and facilities of Mecklenburg County Government **consistent with the Mecklenburg County Facilities Naming Policy**. All such petitions and other requirements surrounding the naming and/or renaming of public areas and facilities will be entertained and recommended for consideration by individuals, independent groups, staff and/or other approved governmental bodies. Staff and/or citizen advisory boards will comply by conducting three (3) public readings of the proposed names during a timed agenda item identified as Community Workshop at their monthly meeting. Therefore, these readings will require a ninety (90) day public input process before being recommended to the BOCC. Citizen comments regarding the proposed naming/renaming may be presented verbally during the Community Workshop(s) or in written letter, facsimile or email form to the staff. Prior to solicitation or placement of a proposed name on “any” agenda, the staff will first give notice to the BOCC through a Request for Board Action supported by appropriate background information on the need for naming/renaming of the proposed public area and/or facility under consideration. Staff will seek participation by members of the BOCC in the naming/renaming process, particularly the BOCC member representing the district in which the facility is located.

#### Presentation to the Staff

The staff will receive written, facsimile or email applications ONLY. Requests may come from any Mecklenburg County resident, organization, or the staff of Mecklenburg County. The application request will include as much background data as possible indicating why a particular name should be designated for a particular area or facility. Recommended names for consideration should be submitted no less than 180 days in advance of the public area and/or facility’s proposed dedication.

#### Criteria for Consideration

- I. The staff will accept applications from any County resident or group of County residents who wish to recommend the naming of a public area and/or facility in honor of a person, historical event, natural phenomenon or geographic location.
- II. The staff may recommend the name of an individual for a public area or facility, when that individual has made exceptional contributions to the County. Such contributions may have been rendered in money, land, time or in overall public service and/or promotion of public service. Exceptional service to the County and/or community at-large in all areas of public service is equally acceptable.
- III. Generally, the staff believes that facilities within a public area and/or facility should not have separate names, but should bear the name of the public area or facility itself. When a facility within a public area or facility that has already been named is

to be named, the inner-facility will in some manner denote its affiliation with the encompassing area or facility.

- IV. The name must not duplicate, or be closely related, or pronounced similarly, to any other name within the County, or any other local municipal system(s) so as to minimize any/all confusion to the general public.
- V. When the staff believes that the contribution of a particular individual or group of individuals warrants the name to be associated with a public area or facility that already has a name, the community or the staff may request to add that name to the existing name. Only one (1) additional name may be added and no more than two (2) names may be given to any area or facility.
- VI. Recognizing that it is appropriate to change names of a public area or facility under certain conditions, the BOCC reserves the right to change the name of an area or facility after a minimum of twenty (20) years. This time frame applies only to those public areas and facilities that have been named for an individual.
- VII. When naming or re-naming a public area or facility, the staff may accept and present applications to the citizen advisory and neighborhood bodies ONLY after solicitation of BOCC involvement. If appropriate, a first public meeting will be for discussion of the matter; a second public meeting will be to receive public input; a third public meeting will be held to take action on the matter. All these meetings will occur during a period not to exceed ninety (90) days from the first public meeting.
- VIII. Applications for naming a public area 200 acres or less or a facility of 10,000 square feet or less requires a petition, expressing support of the request, with valid signatures of a least twenty-five (25) adult residents of Mecklenburg County within the service radius.
- IX. Applications for naming a public area of more than 200 acres or a facility of more than 10,000 square feet serving more than the nearby community or neighborhood requires a petition, expressing support of the request, with valid signatures of one hundred (100) adult residents of Mecklenburg County.
- X. Applications for changing the name of an existing public area or facility by addition of another name or a complete name change requires a petition , expressing support of the request, with valid signatures of one hundred (100) adult residents of Mecklenburg County.
- XI. The BOCC may desire to place a plaque at an appropriate location within a public area or facility, whereby the name(s) of individual(s) may be placed in recognition of their contributions. This action may occur when the BOCC finds that it is inappropriate to name a public area or facility in its entirety for the individual(s).

- XII. When, following solicitation and there has not been a suggested title or appropriate suggested title for a new public area and/or facility, staff may then determine an appropriate title for recommendation to the BOCC.
- XIII. Certain features in public areas and/or facilities could be named for such things as flowers, birds, animals, etc. instead of people. Consideration for naming these items should be at the discretion of the staff and do not need approval of the BOCC.
- XIV. On occasions there may be organized or unorganized opposition to the naming/renaming of a public area and/or facility. Those opposing a request should follow the same general process and requirements described above that regulate applications to name or rename public areas and/or facilities. In particular, the opposing party/parties must submit a written statement to the BOCC or its designees, detailing the specific reasons for their objections. Any individual and/or group opposed to the naming/renaming could be required to appear before staff to answer questions concerning their written statement of opposition. The opposition also must provide a petition consistent with the requirements of the naming/renaming applicant(s).
- XV. When opposition occurs to a request, staff will delay action on the naming/renaming of the public area and/or facility for at least ninety (90) days, to evaluate the opposition's information and provide a reasonable time to support the decision-making process.
- XVI. During the process of opposition, the staff is responsible for informing the public of the status of the naming/renaming request, through appropriate communications that could include but may not be limited to:
- (a) Issuance of Public Service Announcements (PSA) via local media forms.
  - (b) Site signage.
  - (c) Internet, etc.

All available information devices will be used to encourage public participation and involvement reflecting all pro/con viewpoints held by different elements of the citizenry. Such information must be available for review by the public for a minimum of thirty (30) days.