FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY



# M E M O R A N D U M

- TO: Chairman and Members Park Authority Board
- FROM: Kirk W. Kincannon, Executive Director
- **DATE:** January 4, 2019

## Agenda REVISED – 010719

Committee of the Whole Wednesday, January 9, 2019 – 6:45 p.m. Boardroom – Herrity Building Chairman: William G. Bouie Vice Chair: Ken Quincy

- 1. Renaming Robert E. Lee RECenter Discussion\*
- 2. Consideration of Installation of Ox Hill Battlefield Monuments Action\*

\*Enclosures



Committee of the Whole January 9, 2019

## DISCUSSION

## Renaming - Robert E. Lee RECenter (Lee District)

Based on the direction from the Park Authority Board Executive Committee on November 14, 2018, staff researched the list of current park and facility names that had an association with the Civil War. The list includes parks that have been named for Civil War related events, locations, or historical figures and includes information as to whether the park name was specifically related to the Union, Confederacy, neither, or both. The Robert E. Lee RECenter came to the top of the list for renaming potential.

Attachment 2, Policy 304, of the Fairfax County Park Authority Policy Manual provides guidance and direction in naming and/or renaming Fairfax County Park Authority parks, facilities or resource management areas. This policy describes naming criteria, noting that generally, parks are named in accordance with geographical, historical or ecological features indigenous to the park site or to the immediate vicinity of the site. The policy further outlines naming restrictions or conditions under which individuals would be memorialized through a park naming. The policy discourages renaming parks except after thorough review, a proposed name is found to be "more appropriate than the existing name…"

On December 12, 2018, the Committee of the Whole discussed the renaming of Robert E. Lee RECenter to Lee District RECenter, and requested the discussion continue to the next CoW, in order that Park Board Lee District representative be present to review options for the renaming.

#### FISCAL IMPACT:

There would be fiscal impacts anticipated for signage changes related to any park names being changed. The degree of fiscal impact would be determined by the number of parks that are renamed.

## ENCLOSED DOCUMENTS:

Attachment 1: Naming Matrix Attachment 2: Policy 304

<u>STAFF</u>: Kirk W. Kincannon, Executive Director Committee of the Whole January 9, 2019

Sara Baldwin, Deputy Director/COO Aimee L. Vosper, Deputy Director/CBD Judith Pedersen, Public Information Officer Board Agenda Item January 23, 2019

## ACTION

### Consideration of Installation of Ox Hill Battlefield Monuments (Springfield District)

## ISSUE:

Consideration of installation of Ox Hill Battlefield Monuments.

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

The Park Authority Executive Director recommends not installing the monuments in their current form.

## TIMING:

Action is requested on January 23, 2019.

## BACKGROUND:

As part of the development and implementation of the Ox Hill Master Plan, a series of interpretive elements were created, as well as the development of two memorials. Through the Civil War Sesquicentennial, the Fairfax County Sesquicentennial Committee planned for and implemented the fabrication of two stone memorials that list the military units, one dedicated to the Union forces and a second dedicated to confederate forces, who fought in the Battle of Ox Hill/Chantilly.

Based on concerns for public safety following the issues in Charleston, and later in Charlottesville, the installation of the memorials at Ox Hill Park was halted. Subsequently, the Park Authority Board Executive Committee met on November 14, 2018, to discuss the memorials and installation and directed staff to bring the item to the Committee of the Whole prior to the end of 2018 for further discussion on the matter. The item was brought back to the Committee of the Whole on December 12, 2018.

It was the consensus of the board at that meeting, that if there were to be memorials, the focus should be on the healing and unification, not on the memorializing of the war. Installing memorials at this time would be contrary to the efforts of social equity that the park board embraces.

FISCAL IMPACT: None Board Agenda Item January 23, 2019

ENCLOSED DOCUMENTS: None

<u>STAFF</u>: Kirk W. Kincannon, Executive Director Aimee Vosper, Deputy Director/CBD Sara Baldwin, Deputy Director/COO Elizabeth Crowell, Cultural Resource Management Branch, Resource Management Division