

# **CITY OF FORT PIERCE**

## **PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

### **REPORT TO THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSIONERS**

**MARCH 8, 2021**





**Presented by Committee Members:**

**Charlene Adair**

**Mark Arlington**

**Bob Burdge**

**Dr. Susan Hamburger**

**Ionis Jefferson-Knowles**

**Patty Reconco**

**Martha Wright**

**Mike Reals, Public Works Director**

**Tanya White, Support**

# Agenda

- **NW Pioneers Park**
- **Park Ranger Program**
- **PAL Park Renaming**

# NW Pioneers Park (29<sup>th</sup> St. & Avenue M)

## How did the Parks Advisory Committee get involved?

- Two submissions were received to rename this park to “Rufus J. Alexander, Jr.”.
- The Parks Committee presented conclusions on 1/13/20 stating that the original intent of the park was to honor many pioneers, and that Mr. Alexander could be considered as one of those pioneers honored. The Commission determined that the name for the park should remain as is.
- This review led us to understand the intent of this park when named on 2/17/81.

## Conclusions from the Parks Committee:

- We support the idea of honoring pioneers who helped develop and protect Lincoln Park.
- The park design includes 22 spaces in the circular entrance for plaques, and more could be added to the wall. Originally, the design called for engraving the concrete, but that is no longer feasible.
- We recommend that a process be developed to name these pioneers and honor each of them with a bronze plaque in this beautiful park to complete this project after 40 years.
- An appropriate group should be assigned to manage this project. Lincoln Park Main Street has expressed interest in this effort and has prepared a draft list of possible honorees.
- It appears that grants may be available to help with the cost.

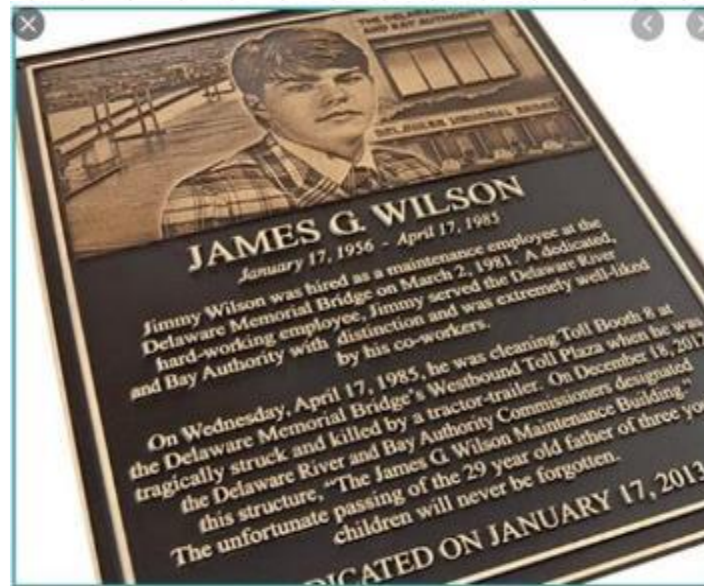


NW PIONEERS PARK

# NW Pioneers Park

- We recommend bronze plaques on posts for beauty and durability.
  - Healy Plaques provided information and many options for the plaques. For example, an 18 X 24 bronze plaque with an etched portrait and an 8' X 1' post mount would be \$2257 plus shipping. This provides a basis for budget development.

Examples of possible designs include:



## Post Mounts



# Park Ranger Program

- **Investigation of having a Park Ranger Program was assigned to the Parks Advisory Committee in January of 2020. The Committee did not meet April through August.**
- **Before the shutdown, we developed a list of what we would want a Parks Ranger to do, which included:**
  - **Be an Ambassador for our City and parks. Answer questions, provide information, etc.**
  - **Manage Special Events Permits, including meeting with person responsible for each rental at beginning and end of rental of pavilions.**
  - **Manage Special Use Permits.**
  - **Report needed repairs, improvements, suspicious activity, medical emergencies, etc.**
- **We also researched Park Ranger programs on the internet.**
  - **It was concluded that most of these programs were within City Parks in the Western US and may not be equivalent to the activities and duties required in our City Parks.**
  - **Much information was gathered in the areas of hiring, training, supervision, and costs of uniforms, supplies, and transportation.**

# Park Ranger Program

- **A survey was sent to 36 cities and counties in Florida on 9/28/20 with a deadline of 10/12/20.**
  - **Eleven entities responded about their Parks Ranger Programs. Four had no programs. Seven had programs, but the Rangers are all employees. One had limited use of volunteers at a couple of sites. Details are in your packets.**
  - **The cost of these Park Ranger Programs was reported to be \$21,762 - \$75,420.**
  - **These programs need to be employee-based and properly funded due to the various legal and logistical factors associated.**
- **Conclusions:**
  - **Chief of Police, Diane Hobley-Burney, reported that this would not be a fit for FPPD Community Service Officers, which is a non-confrontational assignment.**
  - **We agree with the Chief that this is not an appropriate volunteer job and should be left to sworn officers.**
  - **Citizens have expressed gratitude and support for the highly successful program of providing FPPD support and continuous Code Enforcement support on weekends at Jaycee and South Causeway Parks.**

# **PAL Park Renaming (903 S. 21<sup>st</sup> St.)**

- **City requested nominations on October 27, 2020 to rename PAL Park given that the park is no longer a part of the Police Athletic League. It is now being reimagined by the City as a Community Center with Park Amenities:**
  - **Recreation and resource center for all ages.**
  - **Athletic activities.**
  - **Learning and developmental opportunities.**
- **Utilizing the process for “Naming of Public Facilities”.**
- **Nominations received and conclusions:**
  - **“Clyde Russell and John Toler” – incomplete.**
  - **“Ms. Zora Neale Hurston” – meets criteria.**
  - **“The Highwaymen Park” – meets criteria.**
  - **“Highwaymen Memorial Park” – meets criteria.**
  - **“Frontline Children Park” – meets criteria.**
- **The Parks Advisory Committee’s role is to vet each nomination and present to the Commission.**
  - **Do the nominations adequately represent the purpose of this Park as stated above?**



# **Discussion and Questions**