

CITY OF FORT PIERCE

PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Regular Meeting - Thursday, September 23, 2021 – 10am to 12pm
Commission Chambers - City Hall 100 N. US-1 Fort Pierce, FL

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

3. **ROLL CALL**

4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- a. Approval of minutes from the August 19, 2021, meeting.

5. **OLD BUSINESS**

6. **NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Renaming a section of the Sunrise Theater Mezzanine
- b. Renaming Law Enforcement Memorial Park / Hayes Rd. Park

7. **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Any person who wishes to comment on any subject on this Agenda may be heard at this time. Please sign the sign-up sheet in order to speak. Please limit your comments to no more than five (5) minutes, as this section of the Agenda is limited to thirty minutes. The Parks Advisory Committee will not be able to take any official action under “Comments from the Public” section.

8. **BOARD DISCUSSION**

9. **STAFF DISCUSSION**

10. **ADJOURNMENT**

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 286.26, Florida Statutes, persons with disabilities needing special accommodation to participate in this meeting should contact the City Clerk's Office at (772) 467-3065 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

Parks Advisory Committee

4. a.

Meeting Date: 09/23/2021

Re:

SUBJECT:

Approval of minutes from the August 19, 2021, meeting.

Attachments

Draft Minutes

Form Review

Form Started By: Kaitlyn Ballard

Started On: 09/22/2021 04:21 PM

Final Approval Date: 09/22/2021

DRAFT

City of Fort Pierce
Parks Advisory Committee Meeting
August 19, 2021 @ 10:00am
City Hall – Commission Chambers

1. **Call to Order** - The meeting was called to order at 10:02am.

2. **Pledge of Allegiance** - Recited by the Committee.

3. **Roll Call**

Present: Charlene Adair, Mark Arlington, Bob Burdge, Dr. Susan Hamburger, Patty Reconco, Ionis Jefferson-Knowles, and Leslie Olson

Absent: None

Staff Present: Kaitlyn Ballard and Mike Reals

4. **Approval of Minutes from the May 13, 2021, Meeting**

Motion was made by **Bob Burdge**, seconded by **Dr. Susan Hamburger**, to approve the minutes from the June 10, 2021, all in favor, **motion passed**.

Introductions took place and Leslie Olson was introduced and welcomed to the board.

5. **Old Business**

- a. Update on the Adopt-a-Park Program – Charlene Adair gave an update on what was discussed at the KFPB Board Meeting regarding the Adopt-a-Park Program. She informed the committee that the program has been approved by KFPB with a change of informing city staff at least 48 a head of time before a cleanup.

6. **New Business**

- a. Renaming a section of the Sunrise Theater Mezzanine – The Sunrise Theater Board has requested a name change and it has gone before City Commission and was approved. The Parks Advisory Committee will review the nominations and submit their recommendations to the City Commission. The same thing will occur with Law Enforcement Memorial Park as the Commission approved remaining that area as well.

- A 21-day review period was approved by the committee for renaming submissions. A motion was made by Ionis Jefferson-Knowles, seconded by Bob Burge, to approve the review period, all in favor, motion passed.

7. **Comments from the Public** –

- There was no comment from the public.

8. **Board Discussion**

- Leslie Olson discussed the committee visiting the various park throughout the City of Fort Pierce and possibly identifying possible capital improvements.
- Leslie also mentioned hosting the PAC Meeting at the parks throughout the city. The committee thought this would be a good idea when it is a little cooler outside.
- The board would like a list of all the current parks in the city.
- The board discussed a possibility of a map on the city's website. – Kaitlyn will provide an update on this at the next meeting.

9. **Staff Discussion**

- Mike Reals advised the committee that funding has been identified for Pioneer Park.
- He also stated this committee will not be getting shirts.
- Kaitlyn Ballard discussed the upcoming Lunch and Learn and provided flyers.

10. **Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 11:24am.

Parks Advisory Committee

6. a.

Meeting Date: 09/23/2021

Re:

SUBJECT:

Renaming a section of the Sunrise Theater Mezzanine

Attachments

Earl Little Nomination

Guz Gutierrez Nomination

Form Review

Form Started By: Kaitlyn Ballard

Started On: 09/20/2021 05:09 PM

Final Approval Date: 09/20/2021

City of Fort Pierce Naming of Public Facilities Nomination Form

This Nomination Form is to establish a systematic and consistent approach for the official naming of public facilities in the City of Fort Pierce including parks, facilities, recreational areas, streets, municipal buildings, and specialized areas. The criteria for nomination are explained in the document "Guidelines for the Naming of Public Facilities".

Nominator

Name Melanie George on behalf of the Sunrise Theatre Advisory Board

Address, City, State, Zip 714 Quincy Avenue, Fort Pierce, FL 34951

Phone 863-669-8649 Email mgeorge13081@gmail.com

Nomination

The nominator must answer the following questions and submit this form to the City Clerk by _____

Name being nominated Mr. Earl Little

If a person:

A. Address, City, State, Zip (or former if deceased) 1402 N. 29th Street, Fort Pierce, FL 34947; 208 Courtland Dr, Dothan AL 36301

B. Date of Death (if deceased) N/A

C. List specific years of involvement (Example - 01/10-12/17) 1955-2019

D. Identify the general area of contribution made by the nominee.
a. (Example - Health, Education, Business, Environment, Civic, Other) _____

Civic and Education Contributions to the City of Fort Pierce and its citizens in the area(s) of Music and the Theatrical Arts.

E. Summarize the type of contribution (accomplishments and community involvement) that the nominee made. (more detail in #1 and #2) Instructed, promoted, and performed Theatrical and Music Arts in the City of Fort Pierce for over 45 years. Transformed a community and youth to love ar

a. (Examples – Neighborhood or geographic; Natural or geological features; National, State, and local leaders; Historical figure, place, or event; Individuals who have made significant monetary contributions or have contributed outstanding service to the community).

If other than a person:

A. Summarize the reason for this nomination (more detail in #3) N/A-Nominee is a person.

N/A-Nominee is a person.

E. Summarize the type of contribution (accomplishments and community involvement) that the nominee made. (more detail in #1 and #2)

Mr. Little instructed, promoted, and performed Theatrical and Music Arts in the City of Fort Pierce for over 45 years. He transformed a community and its youth to love and appreciate Theatre and the Musical Arts during his long tenure in our community.

1. Identify in detail the area of contribution made by the nominee and be specific – name either facilities or specialized areas. (Example - Health, Education, Business, Environment, Civic, Other).

Mr. Earl Little made enormous contributions to the City of Fort Pierce throughout his sixty-eight years of educating, directing, and performing in the field of musical arts. Mr. Little began his love for music and theatre while attending Lincoln Park Academy in the 1930's. He continued his education and training while attending then Hampton Institute (University) and the Oberlin Conservatory of Music in Ohio. Mr. Little served his country as a member of the Army Medical Corp. from 1945-1951. Mr. Little began his teaching career in Baton Rouge, LA at Southern University as an Instructor from 1951-1955. He returned to his beloved hometown of Fort Pierce, Florida in 1955, where he spent his lifelong career teaching music and the arts. He continued to support the Fort Pierce community with his many years of volunteer and civic contributions. Serving in leadership roles and directing area performances, his continuous commitment to introducing the world of the arts to our community and the surrounding Treasure Coast areas shaped a culture in his followers that created a lasting appreciation and advancement of musical theatre. Mr. Little's impact on with his students, exposing them to the various cultural events during a time of segregation and his dedicated recordings of the many events, performances, awards, and honors during his tenure only prove the enormous influence he left on generations to appreciate the arts and its many different forms and cultures. Earl continued his lustrous career with St. Lucie Public Schools until his retirement in 1991.

2. Describe the type of contribution (accomplishments and community involvement) that the nominee made. (Examples – Neighborhood or geographic; Natural or geological features; National, State, and local leaders; Historical figure, place, or event; Individuals who have made significant monetary contributions or have contributed outstanding service to the community).

Mr. Little's Impact to the learning and lives of his students and citizens of the Fort Pierce Community through his talents as an educator is exemplary. His love for the musical arts and his appreciation of service, which he was so heavily involved in throughout his career, made an enormous impact to this community from 1955-2019. His Operettas were renown county-wide at

Lincoln Park Academy in Fort Pierce in the 1960-1970's bringing people from all areas to enjoy. Many of Mr. Little's students both at Lincoln Park Academy and Fort Pierce Central High School have returned to our community as musical arts educators themselves, while others credit Mr. Little for enabling them to travel throughout the world empowered to succeed because of his teaching and exposure to various cultural events. Mr. Little established a Performing Arts Scholarship in 2016. Currently two (2) local area recipients are attending Florida State University in Tallahassee, FL.

3. Describe in detail why the name being nominated is related to this facility, including any background, details, or other relevant information.

Mr. Little's interest and love for drama and opera started at Lincoln Park Academy in the 1930's when he was in the 3rd grade. Mr. Little recounts that during segregation his instructor would take students to musical productions in West Palm Beach, FL, Coconut Grove Theatre in Miami, FL, and Passion Plays in Lake Wales Florida. This exposure to the theatre, musical productions and choral performances cemented his love of music and the arts that remained with him throughout his life and career in educating others in his hometown of Fort Pierce, FL. In his youth, Earl would save his money to buy tickets to see shows at the Sunrise Theatre whenever possible. He would take the back stairs that led up to the balcony seating area to watch and listen to the musical performances being shown. When asked if having to visit the Sunrise Theatre during segregation and being forced to sit upstairs away from the stage and others, created a sadness in him, he responded that he would "get lost in the performance and that is where is focus has always been." Mr. Little is honored in this request to seek approval to rename a portion of the Balcony area of the Sunrise Theatre where he grew his passion for the arts as the Earl Little Mezzanine respectfully recognizing his contributions to our Community and the Theatrical and Musical Arts.

- Master Instructor/Educator with St. Lucie Public Schools, 1955-1991.
- Led the first only Black African American chorus to appear in the All-State Choral Convention, 1965.
- Fort Pierce Lincoln Park Academy Alumni Class of 1943.
- 1st Black African American Choral Director and Judge for St. Lucie County Choral Competitions.
- State Approved Adjudicator for Choral Music, State of Florida.
- Served as both the Florida Vocal Association District Chairman and President.
- St Lucie Public Schools- Teacher of the Year 1983.
- Associate Master Teacher Award, Florida Department of Education.
- National Association of Negro Musicians Inc. Award Recipient.

- Inducted into the Florida Vocal Association Hall of Fame 2012.
- Active member Mt. Moriah Primitive Baptist Church.
- St Lucie Opera Society Choral Director -1976.
- Arranged and Directed Christmas performances on the Treasure Coast since 1951-2019.
- Established a Performing Arts Scholarship in 2016. Currently two (2) recipients are attending Florida State University in Tallahassee, FL.

Signature of Nominator _____



Return the completed forms by email or mail to:

Email: lcox@cityoffortpierce.com

Mail: Linda Cox, City Clerk, City of Fort Pierce, 100 N US Highway 1, Fort Pierce, FL 34950

City of Fort Pierce Naming of Public Facilities Nomination Form

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Nominator

Name Gus Gutierrez

Address, City, State, Zip 117 Orange Ave Fort Pierce FL 34950

Phone (828) 684-9085 Email HoweAndDesigns@gmail.com

Nomination

The nominator must answer the following questions and submit this form to the City Clerk by _____

Name being nominated Broadway Mezzanine or The Flagler Mezzanine
or The Floridian Mezzanine

If a person:

A. Address, City, State, Zip (or former if deceased) N/A

B. Date of Death (if deceased) N/A

C. List specific years of involvement (Example - 01/10-12/17) N/A

D. Identify the general area of contribution made by the nominee.

a. (Example - Health, Education, Business, Environment, Civic, Other) N/A

E. Summarize the type of contribution (accomplishments and community involvement) that the nominee made. (more detail in #1 and #2) N/A

a. (Examples – Neighborhood or geographic; Natural or geological features; National, State, and local leaders; Historical figure, place, or event; Individuals who have made significant monetary contributions or have contributed outstanding service to the community).

If other than a person:

A. Summarize the reason for this nomination (more detail in #3) _____

1. Identify in detail the area of contribution made by the nominee and be specific – name either facilities or specialized areas. (Example - Health, Education, Business, Environment, Civic, Other).

NIA

2. Describe the type of contribution (accomplishments and community involvement) that the nominee made. (Examples – Neighborhood or geographic; Natural or geological features; National, State, and local leaders; Historical figure, place, or event; Individuals who have made significant monetary contributions or have contributed outstanding service to the community).

NIA

3. Describe in detail why the name being nominated is related to this facility, including any background, details, or other relevant information.

- A) Broadway Mezzanine: we have a theater like those on Broadway and it's great and we are proud of this.
- B) The Flagler Mezzanine: This was the founder of Florida in its current form that we know today. Brought the Railroad which made Fort Pierce develop.
- C) The Florida an Mezzanine: Pays Tribute to the Great State of Florida.

Signature of Nominator _____



Return the completed forms by email or mail to:

Email: lcx@cityoffortpierce.com

Mail: Linda Cox, City Clerk, City of Fort Pierce, 100 N US Highway 1, Fort Pierce, FL 34950

Parks Advisory Committee

6. b.

Meeting Date: 09/23/2021

Re:

SUBJECT:

Renaming Law Enforcement Memorial Park / Hayes Rd. Park

Attachments

Danny Parrish Nomination

Form Review

Form Started By: Kaitlyn Ballard

Started On: 09/20/2021 05:11 PM

Final Approval Date: 09/20/2021

City of Fort Pierce Naming of Public Facilities Nomination Form

This Nomination Form is to establish a systematic and consistent approach for the official naming of public facilities in the City of Fort Pierce including parks, facilities, recreational areas, streets, municipal buildings, and specialized areas. The criteria for nomination are explained in the document "Guidelines for the Naming of Public Facilities".

Nominator

Name Bruce A. Murray, Secretary of the Fort Pierce Police Department Charitable Trust, Inc., independent 501(c)3 Florida corporation

Address, City, State, Zip 426 Avenue A, Fort Pierce, Florida 34950

Phone 772-285-1755 Email bam36mail@gmail.com

Nomination

Facility to be named/renamed Law Enforcement Memorial Park/Hayes Road Park

Address of facility to be named/renamed 920 S US Highway 1, Fort Pierce, FL 34950

The nominator must answer the following questions and submit this form to the City Clerk by 9/16/21

Name being nominated: **SGT. DANNY PARRISH FALLEN FIRST RESPONDERS PARK**

If a person:

- A. Address, City, State, Zip (or former if deceased) confidential – law enforcement
- B. Date of Death (if deceased) January 18, 1991
- C. List specific years of involvement (Example - 01/10-12/17) 7/6/87 – 1/18/91
- D. Identify the general area of contribution made by the nominee.
 - a. (Example - Health, Education, Business, Environment, Civic, Other) Police Officer who gave his life in the line of duty - Civic
- E. Summarize the type of contribution (accomplishments and community involvement) that the nominee made. (more detail in #1 and #2) Police Officer who gave his life in the line of duty
 - a. (Examples – Neighborhood or geographic; Natural or geological features; National, State, and local leaders; Historical figure, place, or event; Individuals who have made significant monetary contributions or have contributed outstanding service to the community).

If other than a person:

- A. Summarize the reason for this nomination (more detail in #3) N/A

1. Identify in detail the area of contribution made by the nominee and be specific – name either facilities or specialized areas. (Example - Health, Education, Business, Environment, Civic, Other).

See attached

2. Describe the type of contribution (accomplishments and community involvement) that the nominee made. (Examples – Neighborhood or geographic; Natural or geological features; National, State, and local leaders; Historical figure, place, or event; Individuals who have made significant monetary contributions or have contributed outstanding service to the community).

See attached

3. Describe in detail why the name being nominated is related to this facility, including any background, details, or other relevant information.

See attached

Signature of Nominator  9/7/21

Return the completed forms by email or mail to:

Email: lcox@cityoffortpierce.com

Mail: Linda Cox, City Clerk, City of Fort Pierce, 100 N US Highway 1, Fort Pierce, FL 34950

Attachments for Danny Parrish renaming nomination

1.

This nominee meets numerous key criteria set forth in the City of Fort Pierce Guidelines for Naming of Public Facilities, as follows:

1. Danny Parrish contributed outstanding civic service to the community, giving his life protecting it.
2. Danny Parrish's name appears on national lists of law enforcement heroes who died in service.
3. The Park being renamed has been known as the Law Enforcement Memorial Park since May 1993 and is located on the grounds of the Main Station of FPPD where all visitors and personnel associated with the agency will clearly see the signs and park.
4. The life size statue being erected in front of the building will be in the likeness of Danny Parrish but will represent all officers of the agency.
5. The Charitable Trust managed by a Board of both FPPD and civilian personnel selected the memorial to Danny Parrish as their first venture after appeals by several Officers who served with him who felt the small plaque in the visitors' parking lot at the station did not adequately honor his sacrifice or keep promises to his family. The Charitable Trust has raised well over \$50,000 so far of a \$100,000 goal to create the memorial for Sgt. Danny Parrish. A life sized statue of a fully uniformed Officer saluting the flag is currently being cast and will be placed in front of the Main Station in November. Funding for this statue has come from a private charitable foundation based on the fact that the memorial created will bear Sgt. Danny Parrish's name. It is proposed to rename the small park recognizing Sgt. Parrish and expanding the name to encompass all first responders.

2.

Sergeant Parrish was born October 4, 1961. He joined the Fort Pierce Police Department July 6, 1987, and served with honor until killed in the line of duty on January 18, 1991. His residence address and civilian activities in the City of Fort Pierce are confidential as a fallen Officer. His widow is still a resident of St. Lucie County and active in civil service. Recently retired FPPD Officers, some of whom have assisted the Charitable Trust in development of this memorial, served with Danny Parrish and encourage this renaming.

3.

In 2019 a group of citizen leaders and representatives of the Police Department decided to form a not for profit 501 (c) 3, Charitable Trust run by a joint civilian and law enforcement Board. The Trust has launched a special Fallen Officer Memorial for Sgt. Danny Parrish, who was the fourth FPPD Officer killed in the line of duty. His family, those who served with him, and others want to honor him appropriately. Sgt. Parrish made a routine traffic stop on a vehicle going the wrong way on a one-way road at night with only one headlight. The driver offered several false IDs. When Sgt Parrish moved to arrest him, the offender jumped the Officer, obtained his gun, and shot him over a dozen times with his own weapon. When apprehended, the offender had cartridges from Sgt. Parrish's gun in his pocket and the gun was found buried in his back yard. He was convicted and remains incarcerated, an initial death sentence having been vacated.

The first three Officers killed in the line of duty were honored by having the Avenue D Police Substation named after the first and the Main Station at 920 So. U. S. Hwy. 1 named after the second and third, who died in the same incident. We will recognize Sgt. Parrish's sacrifice with a bronze statue depicting an Officer in full uniform saluting the flag at the FPPD Main Station and hope to rename the small park in front of the station as a memorial to Sgt. Danny Parrish. Our hope is it will become a memorial location for all fallen first responders in St. Lucie County.

The attachments hereto include the end of watch announcement by the Fort Pierce Police Department at the time of Danny's death and a portion of the Florida Supreme Court decision on appeals by the offender and his current status. They establish the validity of the history outlined above and totally support this nominated name for the park in the stated location. Your favorable support will be appreciated and is expected.

THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS PROVIDE FURTHER DETAILS IN SUPPORT OF THIS NOMINATION:

Sergeant Danny Thomas Parrish

Fort Pierce Police Department, Florida

End of Watch Friday, January 18, 1991

DANNY THOMAS PARRISH

Sergeant Parrish was shot and killed while making a traffic stop on a vehicle traveling in the wrong way on a one way street and had one headlight out. The 18-year-old driver attempted to give Officer Parrish false names. Realizing this, Sergeant Parrish attempted to arrest the suspect who then spun around on the officer and took his service weapon. The suspect then shot him 14 times before fleeing. He was arrested the same night with the remaining two rounds from Sergeant Parrish's gun in his front pocket. The weapon was found buried in the suspect's back yard.

The suspect was sentenced to death and is now waiting for an appeal.

Sergeant Parrish was posthumously promoted to the rank of sergeant. He was survived by his wife and parents.

BIO

- **Age** 29
- **Tour** Not available
- **Badge** Not available

INCIDENT DETAILS

- **Cause** Gunfire
- **Weapon** Gun; Unknown type
- **Offender** Sentenced to death

EXCERPTS OF FLORIDA SUPREME COURT JUDICIAL RULING

- Billy Leon KEARSE, Appellant, v. STATE of Florida, Appellee.
- No. 79037.
- **Supreme Court of Florida.**
- June 22, 1995.
- Rehearing Denied November 9, 1995.
- *680 Richard L. Jorandby, Public Defender and Jeffrey L. Anderson, Asst. Public Defender, West Palm Beach, for appellant.
- Robert A. Butterworth, Atty. Gen. and Sara D. Baggett, Asst. Atty. Gen., West Palm Beach, for appellee.
- PER CURIAM.
- We have on appeal the judgment and sentence of the trial court imposing the death penalty upon Billy Leon Kears. We have jurisdiction pursuant to article V, section 3(b)(1) of the Florida Constitution. For the reasons set forth below, we affirm Kears's convictions, but vacate his death sentence and remand for a new penalty phase proceeding before a jury.
- Kears was charged with robbery with a firearm and first-degree murder in the death of Fort Pierce police officer Danny Parrish on January 18, 1991. After Parrish observed Kears driving in the wrong direction on a one-way street, he called in the vehicle license number and stopped the vehicle. Kears was unable to produce a driver's license, and instead gave Parrish several alias names that did not match any driver's license history. Parrish then ordered Kears to exit the car and put his hands on top of the car. While Parrish was attempting to handcuff Kears, a scuffle ensued, Kears grabbed Parrish's weapon and fired fourteen shots. Thirteen of the shots struck Parrish, nine in his body and four in his bullet-proof vest. A taxi driver in the vicinity heard the shots, saw a dark blue vehicle occupied by a black male and female drive away from the scene, and called for assistance on the police officer's radio. Emergency personnel transported Parrish to the hospital where he died from the gunshot injuries.
- The police issued a be-on-the-lookout (BOLO) for a black male driving a dark blue 1979 Monte Carlo. By checking the license plate that Officer Parrish had called in, the police determined that the car was registered to an address in Fort Pierce. Kears was arrested at that address. After being informed of his rights and waiving them, Kears confessed that he shot Parrish during a struggle that ensued after the traffic stop.
- The jury convicted Kears of both charged counts and recommended the death penalty by a vote of eleven to one. In sentencing Kears to death, the judge found four aggravating circumstances: 1) the murder was committed while the defendant was engaged in a robbery; 2) the murder was committed to either avoid arrest or hinder the enforcement of laws; 3) the murder was especially heinous, atrocious, or cruel (HAC); and 4) the victim of the murder was a law enforcement officer engaged in the performance of his official duties. § 921.141(5)(d), (e), (g), (h), (j), Fla. Stat. (1991). The judge found two statutory mitigating circumstances: the murder was committed while the defendant was under the influence of extreme mental or emotional disturbance; and the defendant's capacity to appreciate the criminality of his conduct or to conform his conduct to the requirements of law was

substantially impaired. § 921.141(6)(b), (f), Fla. Stat. (1991). The judge also found three nonstatutory mitigating circumstances: the defendant's impoverished and culturally deprived background; the defendant was severely emotionally disturbed as a child; and the defendant's IQ is just above the retarded line. However, the judge determined that none of the mitigating circumstances "are substantial or sufficient to outweigh any aggravating circumstance."