

PROSPERITY & LIVABILITY COMMITTEE
Chaired by Council Member Hudson
Committee Members: Hudson, Holmes, Jefferson, and Peters
MAY 4, 2022 – 9:00 A.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS – MUNICIPAL BUILDING

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Hudson called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.

The following Committee Members were **Present (3)**:

Chairman Wesley Hudson, Committee Member Cyril Jefferson, and Committee Member Michael Holmes

The following Committee Member was **Absent (1)**:

Committee Member Monica Peters

Staff Present:

Eric Olmedo, Assistant City Manager; Meghan Maguire, Assistant City Attorney; Jeron Hollis, Managing Director; Ryan Ferguson, Communications Manager; Lee Tillery, Director of Parks & Recreation; and Lisa Vierling, City Clerk

Guests Present:

Ayana Wall (Hank Wall's daughter); Chiekah "Chi" Wall (Hank Wall's son); and Shelly Skeen (a very close family friend of Hank Wall)

The following documents associated with the presentations, are hereby attached as a permanent part of these proceedings:

1. *Forwarding Memo for Agenda Item*
2. *PowerPoint Presentation-Hank Wall May 2022.*

PRESENTATION OF ITEMS

2022-213 Establishment of a Permanent Memorial for Henry "Hank" Wall

The Parks and Recreation staff will provide information and renderings for a proposed memorial for Henry "Hank" Wall at Washington Terrace Park to honor his years of service to youth in the High Point community through his leadership with Brothers Organized to Serve Others (BOTSO) and recommends approval of the naming of an entry way at Washington Terrace Park as "Hank Wall Way."

Chairman Hudson recognized Lee Tillery, Director of Parks & Recreation.

Mr. Tillery explained that staff is requesting a permanent memorial for community leader, Hank Wall, who passed away in March of this year. He stressed the significance of the impact that Mr. Wall had on the Parks & Recreation Department through the establishment of BOTOSO (Brothers Organized to Serve Others). He noted that he has had many communications with Shelly Skeen and has known and had the utmost respect for Mr. Wall for many, many years. He spoke of the unfortunate loss of such a great community leader and expressed excitement to finally meet Mr. Wall's family. He stated that Mr. Wall passed away on Saturday, March 5th, and spoke to the significant impacts that Mr. Wall had on the youth in this community for the past 28 years when BOTOSO was formed. Mr. Wall established this mentoring agency for Black males ages 6-18 to make a positive impact on their lives and spoke of all the stories that he's heard from the people and youth that he has touched and made such a tremendous difference in their lives and the impact that he has had on their lives over the years.

Mr. Tillery shared that Mr. Wall would call him often just to talk about ideas about positive things he had envisioned for the youth in the community and noted he served on several agencies in High Point which solidified his commitment to the community and to the youth.

Regarding naming of facilities or amenities in High Point particularly with the Parks & Recreation Department, he advised there was not a written policy in place for naming such facilities, but staff did have examples of the facilities that were named after individuals and the reasons why. He pointed out the following facilities that were named after individuals and the reasoning behind it.

- ✓ *Armstrong Park was named after a son who was killed in WWII. The family donated land to the city and wanted to ensure that it would be named after their loved one.*
- ✓ *The J. Brooks Reitzel Tennis Center; he had a big impact on tennis in the city.*
- ✓ *The Clarence Stricklin Municipal Pool at Washington Terrace Park. Mr. Stricklin, a long-time community advocate, served on the Parks & Recreation Commission. His grandson, Bryan Stricklin, currently serves on the Parks & Recreation Commission as well.*
- ✓ *The Rebecca Smothers Environmental Center, which is named after a long-term council member who also served several terms as mayor.*

Mr. Tillery explained there is no written policy in place as far as naming facilities such as these. He noted that he has been working with Ms. Skeen and they would like to memorialize Mr. Hank Wall with the installation of a permanent entry way sign at one of the two entrances at Washington Terrace Park since that was BOTOSO's home for a long time; it would be called Hank Wall Way. He shared an illustration/rendering of the proposed sign.

Chairman Hudson asked if any thought was possibly given to something similar to the Wiley sign at the entrance to the greenway so more verbiage could be included about Mr. Wall. Mr. Tillery thought it was a great idea and noted that staff could certainly look at some different options that would include more space to tell more of Mr. Wall's story.

Committee Member Jefferson felt the entry way sign, Hank Wall Way, could be located on the street coming into the park, then an additional sign containing more details about Mr. Wall could be located somewhere within Washington Terrace Park. He thanked everyone who has been working on this and noted that it has been a short-time since Mr. Wall passed away in March and how meaningful it will be in carrying on his legacy. He also mentioned Mr. Wall's involvement in the Andrews High School championship football team; the tremendous impact he had on the players and their lives; and the championship would not have been possible without Mr. Wall's mentoring and involvement with the players; how there are so many young people he has helped; and how he forged a path for so many High Pointers and the tremendous impact he had in the community.

Committee Member Jefferson then moved to forward this matter to the City Council with a favorable recommendation to approve the naming of an entry way at Washington Terrace Park , "Hank Wall Way," for the installation of a permanent memorial honoring Mr. Henry "Hank" Wall. Committee Member Holmes made a second to the motion, which carried by the following 3-0 unanimous vote:

Aye (3): Chairman Hudson, Committee Member Jefferson, and Committee Member Holmes.

Absent (1): Committee Member Peters

Following the vote, Mr. Wall's son, Chi; daughter, Ayana; and friend, Shelly Skeen, were all provided an opportunity to come forward to share some words about Mr. Wall, BOTOSO, and his legacy. Each one thanked the city for all the support; expressed grateful appreciation for the outpouring of love shown for Mr. Wall.

Chairman Hudson thanked everyone for coming and shared that it was such an honor to be a part of the great things happening to carry on Mr. Wall's legacy.

Council Member Jefferson announced that the Black Men United for Change Walk would be held on June 19th which would also be a walking celebration of Juneteenth held in collaboration with the Carl Chavis YMCA.

ADJOURNMENT

There being nothing further to come before the Prosperity & Livability Committee, there were no objections to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Wesley Hudson, Chairman
Prosperity & Livability Committee

Attest:

Lisa B. Vierling, MMC
City Clerk