



SPECIAL CALLED PARKS BOARD MEETING

**Belton, Texas
Monday, July 20, 2020 - 5:30 p.m.
Wright Room**

Facial Coverings will be required where social distancing cannot be maintained.

- 1. Call to order.**
- 2. Public Comments.**
- 3. Consider minutes from the May 4, 2020, Parks Board Meeting.**
- 4. Conduct a workshop on the following items:**
 - a. Outline of process to rename Confederate Park & Confederate Park Drive.**
 - b. Outline of process in creating a citizens committee for facility & street renaming input.**
 - c. Review and discuss timeline for recommendation to City Council.**
- 5. Board and/or Staff comments.**
- 6. Adjourn.**

If interpreter services for the deaf or hearing impaired are required, please contact the City Clerk at (254) 933-5817 at least 48 hours in advance.

Posted:

Date and time

By

Removed:

Date and time

By



City of Belton – Parks Board

Meeting Minutes

Harris Community Center

401 N. Alexander Street

Belton, TX

Monday, May 4, 2020 - 5:30 p.m.

Virtual Meeting

To mitigate the spread of COVID-19 The City of Belton Parks Board held a meeting on Monday May 4th via Zoom. This meeting was closed to in-person attendance by the public. Attending the meeting were Parks Board members Daniel Bucher, Ted Smith, Diane Ring, Jason Wolfe, and Chair Josh Pearson. City Staff in attendance included Director of Parks Recreation, Matt Bates, Parks Superintendent, James Grant, and Event Coordinator Katrina Townsend.

1. Call to Order.

Chair Josh Pearson called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

2. Public Comments

None.

3. Consider the minutes from the March 2nd, 2020, Parks Board Workshop & Meeting.

Mr. Wolfe made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, Ms. Ring seconded the motion. Minutes were approved unanimously 5-0.

4. Receive an update on the following, from Director of Parks and Recreation, Matt Bates.

a. Updates and plans going forward to Belton Parks as a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Mr. Bates spoke on dates beginning in March, when local regulations were put in place. Mr. Bates spoke on what is open in the Belton Parks System. Open items included parks, trails, Harris Community Center, disc golf, dog park, community garden, and Miller Springs Nature Center. Mr. Bates explained that public restrooms, playgrounds, basketball courts, athletic fields/complexes remain closed. Mr. Bates presented a survey published through the National Recreation and Parks Association that showed the status of various amenities throughout the country and compared them with the status of amenities in Belton. Mr. Bates spoke on Phase I- reopening of services and the return of Belton Parks and Recreation staff to work full time on May 4, 2020. Mr. Bates described what to expect with Phase II and what services are expected to re-open. Mr. Bates gave a target date of May 18, 2020 of when youth sports associations were scheduled start up. Mr. Bates spoke on the Harris Community Center and was hopeful that an increase in capacity would allow more robust rentals. Mr. Bates explained that the Splash Pads projected date of opening was Memorial Day. Ms. Ring spoke on the parking lot at Miller Springs Nature Center and the number of people visiting, and that it did appear as though people were social distancing. Mr. Pearson asked Mr. Bates if Belton had any boat ramps that people could utilize. Mr. Bates explained that Belton did not have any boat ramps, but that the US Army Corps of Engineers does.

b. Current and future park projects.

Mr. Bates gave updates on the Texas Parks and Wildlife Grant. Mr. Bates was hopeful of receiving a notification before the end of May of its approval. Mr. Bates spoke on the extension of the temporary dog park fence for another 3 months. Mr. Bates then spoke on the combination of grant/ existing funds with Fiscal Year 2021 TIRZ funding on October 1st for use on the Heritage Park expansion. Mr. Bates announced the completion of 24th street updates. Mr. Bates then went on to give a status update on the Yettie Polk Park Basketball courts, including its re-surfacing, lighting, and reinstallation of basketball hoops.

c. Upcoming events and programs.

Mr. Bates explained the continuation and increase in frequency of our Storywalk Program. Mr. Bates elaborated that staff were refocusing event efforts into meaningful programming for a range of ages. Mr. Wolfe asked Mr. Bates for updates on the Fourth of July Parade. Mr. Bates explained that the Fourth of July Parade was being planned ahead as if it were happening in some form or fashion. Ms. Ring asked about the heavy equipment at Heritage Park. Mr. Bates informed Ms. Ring that they were resurfacing the road.

5. Board and/or Staff comments.

None.

6. Adjourn.

Mr. Pearson called a motion to adjourn, Mr. Bucher seconded. Meeting was unanimously adjourned at 6:02 PM.

Staff Report – Special Called Parks Board Agenda Item



Agenda Item #4

Conduct a workshop on the following Items:

- a. Outline of process to rename Confederate Park & Confederate Park Drive.
- b. Outline of process in creating a citizens committee for facility & street renaming input.
- c. Review and discuss timeline for recommendation to City Council.

Originating Departments

Parks & Recreation – Matt Bates, Director of Parks & Recreation

Summary Information

Several attachments accompany this Workshop:

- The City has received a request to consider a name change for Confederate Park and Confederate Park Drive by Luke & Kayla Potts (Ex. 1)
- We have also received a request from Douglas Brito (Ex. 2) as well as other recommendations by various media.
- City adopted a Resolution 2013-20 establishing a Policy regarding Street/ Facility naming and name changes (Ex. 3).
- Approximately 2.5 acres of the nearly 16 acres that comprises Confederate Park, and the road that bisects it, was conveyed from J.D. and Allie Crawford in 1892 to the Ex Confederate Association of Bell County and the City of Belton, for the Associations Reunions and use as a City Park (EX. 4&5). The remaining nearly 13.5 acres was acquired overtime. The 16-acre has been used as a City park for decades.

At the July 20th, City Council Meeting, a work session was conducted in which Council unanimously agreed that both 'Confederate Park' and 'Confederate Park Drive' should be renamed. Council advised that Parks Board take the lead in generating a park and street name(s) for Council consideration. Council also asked Parks Board to solicit input from the community by forming a committee that could provide feedback and suggestions on proposed names.

This Workshop will be the first in a series of meetings for the Parks Board aimed at accomplishing the requests set forth from City Council by generating discussion and input on proposed Park & Street names.

Fiscal Impact

Amount: Nominal for Park/Street Signage.

Budgeted: ☐ Yes ☒ No

Recommendation

N/A

Attachments

Request Letter from Luke & Kayla Potts
Request email from Douglas Brito
Resolution 2013-20/ Street Naming and Facility Naming Policy
Transcribed Deed from J.D. and Allie Crawford
Original Deed from J.D. and Allie Crawford
Map of Belton Cultural and Historical Resources
Vicinity Map of Location of Request
Media Clippings from 7-14-2020 City Council Meeting

EXHIBIT 1

06.10.2020

Memo

To
City of Belton

From
Luke and Kayla Potts

CC
City of Belton City
Council and Parks
Department

Re
Confederate Park
Renaming

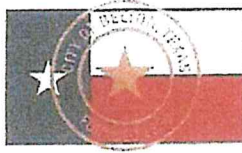
To whom it may concern:

We would like to recommend a new name for what is currently Confederate Park and Confederate Park Dr. in Belton, TX. The current names have become unwelcoming and controversial to residents and tourist and do not represent the unity that is spread amongst our citizens. While our family goes back many generations, we recognize the history of our town, the lessons it has taught us, the need to never forget our history, and the changes in times. Belton has a history of loving their neighbors and being welcoming to all. We would like this to be present in the names of our beautiful parks that are here for everyone to enjoy. We would like to recommend a committee be formed by the Parks Department/Director to come up with a new name for this park that reflects the unity in Belton and to have the street name to correlate with the new park name. We ask that you please accept this application and consider our request. If you have any questions please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

Luke and Kayla Potts

EXHIBIT 1 (continued)



PLANNING DEPARTMENT CITY FACILITY NAMING APPLICATION

There is a 30 day review process for all facility naming requests

Name of Applicant Luke & Kayla Potts
Phone: 254-718-1026 Email: ~~501220~~ Kayla.86@yahoo.com
Address: 3101 Dunn Canyon Rd., Belton, TX 76513
Signature: Luke & Kayla Potts
Date: 6/10/2020
Current Facility Name: Confederate Park
Proposed Facility Name: We would like the new name to be chosen by a committee formed by the Parks Director.
Reasons supporting facility name change:
The current Park name is not a welcoming name to some residents & tourist and we would like the park to be renamed to a name that is not as controversial & unwelcoming.

Application Requirements:

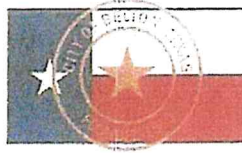
- ☐ A letter summarizing justification for the request
- ☐ Check for \$75 (non-refundable)
- ☐ Map showing location of facility
- ☐ Fee for signage – costs of making and installing all the necessary signage

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\$75 Non-refundable application fee paid ☐ Yes ☐ No
Estimate of cost and installation of signage: _____
Date submitted for Staff review: _____
Staff comments: _____

Date of City Council Consideration: _____
☐ Approved ☐ Denied

EXHIBIT 1 (continued)



PLANNING DEPARTMENT STREET RENAMING APPLICATION

There is a 30 day review process for all street renaming requests

Name of Applicant Luke & Kayla Potts
Phone: 254-718-1626 Email: ~~Kayla~~ Kayla.86@yahoo.com
Address: 3161 Duns Canyon Rd, Belton, TX 76513
Signature: [Signature] Kayla Potts
Date: 6/10/20
Current Street Name: Confederate Park Dr.
Proposed Street Name: We would like the new name to be chosen by a committee formed by
Location of Street: Confederate Park the Parks
Subdivision: NA Blocks Included: NA director
Zoning District: Park
Land uses located on the street: Park

Reasons supporting street renaming: We would like the name to correlate
with the new name of the park that will be chosen by
the committee for renaming the park & street

Application Requirements:

- ☐ A letter summarizing justification for the request
- ☐ Check for \$150 (non-refundable)
- ☐ Map showing location of street
- ☐ Favorable support from 70% of responding property owners fronting the street proposed for renaming
- ☐ Fee for signs – costs of making and installing all the necessary signage
- ☐ Property owners are responsible for notifying their tenants

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

\$150 Non-refundable application fee paid ____ Yes ____ No

Estimate of cost and installation of signs: _____

Date submitted for Staff review: _____

Staff comments: _____

Date of City Council consideration: _____

____ Approved ____ Denied

EXHIBIT 1 (continued)

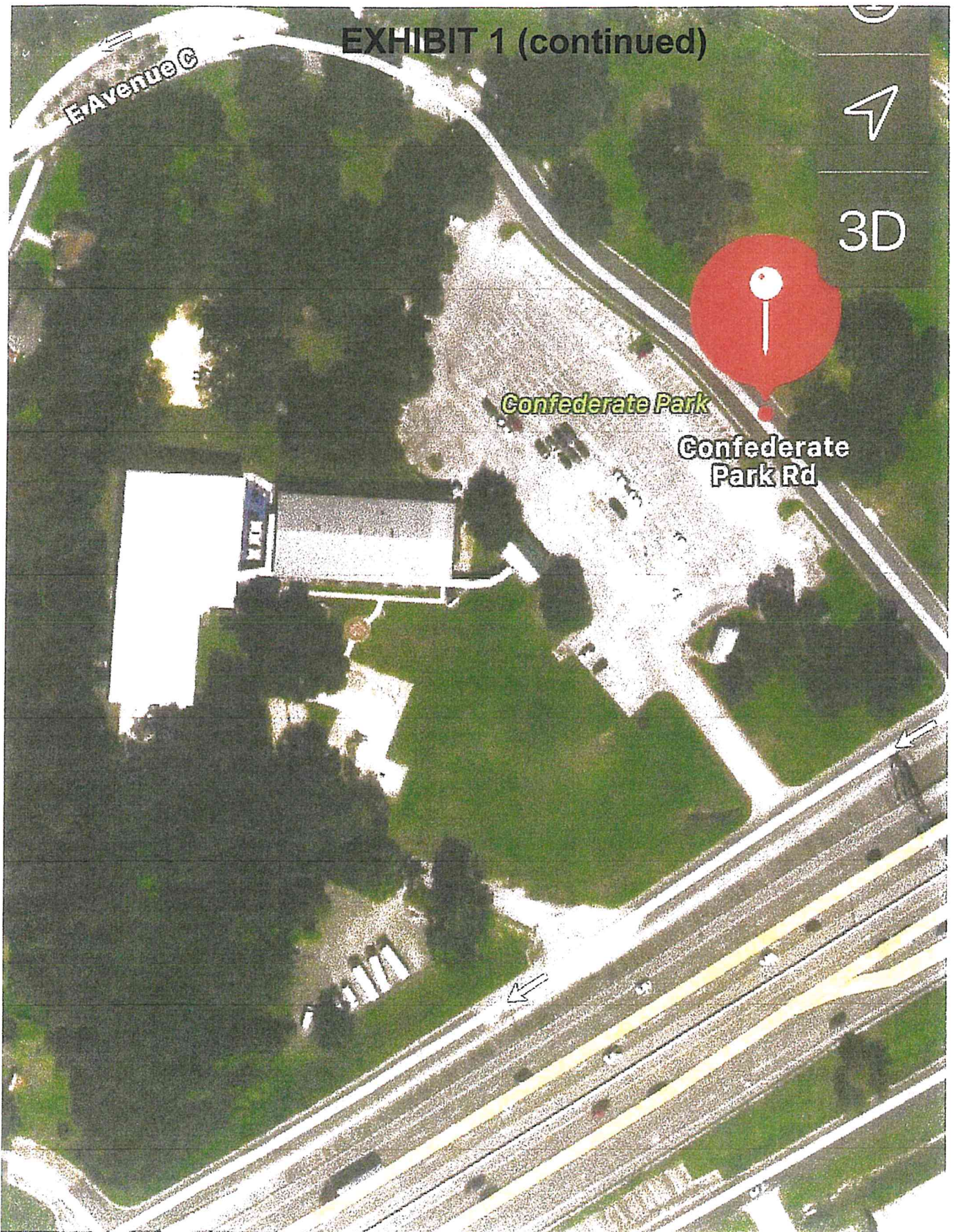


EXHIBIT 2

Sam Listi

From: Matthew Bates
Sent: Friday, June 19, 2020 8:02 AM
To: Sam Listi
Cc: Gene Ellis; Paul Romer
Subject: FW: Renaming Confederate Park

FYI- This is a follow up from gentleman who created petition I sent over yesterday.

Matt

From: Douglas Brito <douglascebrito@icloud.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 18, 2020 11:08 PM
To: ParksAndRec <parksandrec@BeltonTexas.Gov>
Subject: Renaming Confederate Park

To whom it may concern,

Hello, my name is Douglas Brito. Recently, I have started a petition to rename the Confederate Park in Downtown Belton and it has gained a lot, nearly 100 signatures all of the world, of support. I've lived in this city for 8 years now. This city will always carry a special place in my heart. With that being said, it pains me to see how our town still glorifies the evils of our past by honoring the Confederacy. In the link I will provide, I suggested changing it to Miriam A. Ferguson Park, to honor the first female Governor of Texas, who was born in Bell County. The correct way to honor our past would be remembering something good about our history, and not something devastating such as a rebellion that supported the oppression and enslavement of an entire race of human beings. Please consider renaming the park. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Douglas Brito

WARNING: This message is from an EXTERNAL email source. DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected email. Contact Belton IT support for assistance if necessary.

EXHIBIT 3

RESOLUTION NO. 2013-20

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BELTON, TEXAS, AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 2012-18, ESTABLISHING A STREET RENAMING AND FACILITY NAMING POLICY.

WHEREAS, a Committee was selected by the City Council to develop a policy regarding the renaming of streets and the naming of facilities in the City of Belton to establish uniform criteria and procedures, applicable to all persons, groups, firms and agencies, for renaming a city street, or for naming a city facility; and

WHEREAS, it is in the City's best interest to coordinate designation of street names and addresses in order to avoid motorist confusion, facilitate emergency services, and help ensure prompt delivery of goods and services; and

WHEREAS, at times it is appropriate to honor people, places, or events having made a significant impact on the quality of life within the City, and/or events of significance to the City's development by use of an honorary street name designation; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has considered the matter and deems it in the public interest to authorize this action.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BELTON, TEXAS:

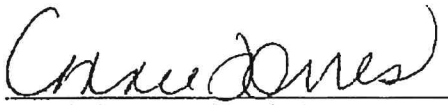
Part 1: That the revised guidelines indicated in the City of Belton Street Renaming, and Facility Naming Policy shall hereby be employed in the renaming of streets and the naming of city facilities.

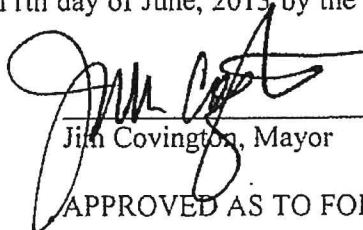
Part 2: That this resolution shall become effective immediately from and after its passage.

Part 3: It is hereby officially found and determined that the meeting at which this resolution is passed was open to the public as required, and that public notice of the time, place and purpose of said meeting was given as required by the Open Meetings Act.

PASSED AND APPROVED this the 11th day of June, 2013, by the City Council of the City of Belton, Texas.

ATTEST:


Connie Torres, City Clerk


Jim Covington, Mayor
APPROVED AS TO FORM:

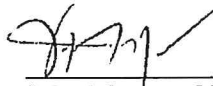

John Messer, City Attorney

EXHIBIT 3 (continued)

City of Belton, Texas



Street Renaming and Facility Naming Policy

Revised June 11, 2013

I. PURPOSE

This policy is implemented to establish criteria and procedures, applicable to all persons, groups, firms and agencies, for the renaming of a City street, and for naming a City facility. Streets and facilities should generally be named after people, places and events having made a significant impact on the quality of life within the City, and/or events of significance to the City's development. Proposed names for a street renaming should generally meet one of the following criteria:

1. to commemorate noteworthy persons associated with the City of Belton;
2. to commemorate local history, places, events or culture;
3. to strengthen neighborhood identity;
4. to recognize native wildlife or natural features related to the City of Belton; or
5. to recognize persons, places, or events of state, national, or international significance.

Consideration should be given to names of local areas of historical significance. The following names shall not be used:

1. names of living persons for streets, other than a recognized national figure;
2. duplicative names of streets already existing within the City;
3. names which are, and could be considered discriminatory or derogatory, or that express a particular political affiliation; and
4. names that could be considered as advertising.

This policy does not affect the naming of new City streets through the subdivision platting process.

II. INTENT

The success and vitality of the City depends on the contribution and support from citizens, volunteers, financial donors, and community leaders. Individuals, groups, companies or corporations may be recognized. The City welcomes the opportunity to recognize those who have demonstrated outstanding service and have worked to enhance our community. A fair and impartial street renaming policy is necessary to assure that renaming a street in recognition of an individual, group or corporation is reserved for those most deserving. Further, renaming decisions should not be influenced by personal prejudice, favoritism, political pressure or temporary popularity. Naming a City facility should reflect similar objectives. The Planning Department will work with applicants to coordinate a request to rename a street or to name a City facility prior to Council consideration.

EXHIBIT 3 (continued)

III. EXPENDITURES

The costs of making and installing all the necessary signage authorized by the Council shall be paid for by the applicants. The Director of Public Works shall compute the costs of making and installation of the signs or plaques, and provide the amount of the costs to the applicants. If the City Council approves the street renaming or facility naming the applicants shall pay the full amount of the costs to the City of Belton prior to the making of the new signs. Sign maintenance shall be the responsibility of the Public Works Department.

The fees and costs set forth above may be waived if the procedure is initiated by the City Council or if Council determines it appropriate.

IV. CRITERIA FOR CONSIDERATION

After receipt of a completed application for renaming of a street, the City Clerk shall distribute it to the following departments: Public Works, Planning, Information Technology (GIS), Fire, and Police for a review and recommendation to the City Manager's office. Criteria for evaluation of a street renaming shall include, but not be limited to:

1. Number of businesses/residents directly affected – consideration in this category would focus on the number of properties directly affected; the fewer properties the better.
2. Recognition of community diversity – consideration of this criterion would endorse evolving community diversity.
3. Recognition of historical significance – consideration of this criterion recognizes the historical significance of existing street names and the importance in recognizing the potential future historical importance to current events and developments.
4. Appropriateness given types of uses along subject street – consideration of this criterion would insure reasonable compatibility between land use and street name.
5. Impacts on emergency services – consideration of this criterion will ensure that replacement names for existing streets will not result in confusion related to efficient access for emergency purposes.
6. Precedent – consideration of this criterion will determine whether an action renaming a street might establish a desirable or undesirable precedent.
7. Continuity and stability – consideration of this criterion will evaluate the effect of a renaming request on the public's general connection with the existing name.

V. STANDARDS

- a. If a portion of a street is proposed to be renamed, the renamed portion shall begin and end at the intersections of major cross-streets.
- b. Abbreviations of words or names and initials will not be permitted (excluding suffixes).
- c. Single alphabetical characters will not be permitted.
- d. Duplicate street names, in sound or pronunciation within Belton/Belton Extra Territorial Jurisdiction (ETJ) will not be permitted.
- e. Street names will be easy to pronounce and easily recognizable in emergency situations.
- f. No street name shall contain more than twenty (20) characters.
- g. Names that may be offensive (slang, double meanings, etc.) will not be permitted.
- h. Vanity names will not be permitted.
- i. No street name shall contain the words North, South, East, West, or any combination thereof. Those directions are to be used only as a prefix.

EXHIBIT 3 (continued)

- j. Street types should not be used as the street name. Example: Crossing Parkway. Crossing is a street type.
- k. Dual street naming is permitted.
- l. Road Naming Standards identified in the Central Texas Council of Government's (CTCOG) 9-1-1 Addressing Standards (Attachment A) shall be utilized to the maximum extent practical.

VI. APPLICATION PROCESS

- a. The procedure for requesting a facility naming or street renaming is initiated with an application (request) filed with the City Clerk.
- b. The application shall contain:
 - 1. For a proposed facility naming, the proposed new name; the name, address, and contact information of each person, group, agency, or entity requesting the facility naming; a statement of reasons supporting the facility naming; a map with the location; and a non-refundable application fee of seventy five dollars (\$75.00).
 - 2. For a proposed street renaming, the present official City name of the street; proposed new name or dual name; the name, address, and contact information of each person, group, agency, or entity requesting the street name change; a statement of reasons supporting the street renaming; a map with the location; and a non-refundable application fee of one hundred fifty dollars (\$150.00).
- c. An application and a petition response form shall be sent to all adjacent fronting property owners by the Planning Department by certified mail. Owners shall be determined by the Planning Department from the then current real property ad valorem tax roll. Property owners will have 30 days from the post marked date to return petitions to Belton City Hall. For City Council consideration, a minimum 70% of responding property owners must respond favorably to the proposed street name change.
- d. If less than 70% of property owners respond favorably to the proposed street name change, the Planning Department will advise the applicant the request will not be processed further. If 70% or more of adjacent fronting property owners respond favorably to the proposal, the item will be scheduled for City Council consideration.
- e. The City Manager shall schedule a City Council public hearing on all applications for street renaming which meet the requirements outlined in this policy. Written notice of a public hearing before the City Council shall be sent to all adjacent fronting property owners, as indicated on the then current real property ad valorem tax roll, on the street in question. Notice shall be sent at least ten (10) days prior to the meeting via first-class mail and shall contain the proposed street renaming and the date and time of the public hearing. In addition, notice for street renaming will be listed on the City's website at least ten (10) days prior to the public hearing at a City Council meeting. Notice shall also be published in the newspaper at least ten (10) days prior to the public hearing.
- f. A simple majority vote of the Councilmembers present is required to rename a City street. The City Council shall either approve or deny the application based upon the information presented at the public hearing. The decision of the City Council shall be considered final.
- g. Regarding the naming of a City facility, a public hearing is not required, nor is notification to surrounding property owners, nor a newspaper notice. A website listing of the proposed facility name shall be provided at least ten (10) days prior to the Council consideration.

EXHIBIT 3 (continued)

VII. POST APPROVAL PROCEDURE

If the request for a street renaming is approved by the City Council, the City Clerk shall notify all City Department Heads of the renaming, authorize amending the official street maps maintained by the City of the renaming, and post notice of the change on the City's website. CTCOG, the Bell County Communications Center, and the U.S. Post Office shall also be notified by the City Clerk. It shall be the property owners' responsibility to notify their respective utility companies (other than the City), the Bell County Tax Appraisal District, their mortgage companies, social security administration, lien holders, and any other pertinent entities of the street renaming.

When a request for a street renaming or the naming of a City facility has been denied by the City Council, the same request may not be considered for a period of six (6) months from the date of the City Council action.

EXHIBIT 3 (continued)



PLANNING DEPARTMENT STREET RENAMING APPLICATION

There is a 30 day review process for all street renaming requests

Name of Applicant _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Current Street Name: _____

Proposed Street Name: _____

Location of Street: _____

Subdivision: _____ Blocks Included: _____

Zoning District: _____

Land uses located on the street: _____

Reasons supporting street renaming: _____

Application Requirements:

- ☐ A letter summarizing justification for the request
- ☐ Check for \$150 (non-refundable)
- ☐ Map showing location of street
- ☐ Favorable support from 70% of responding property owners fronting the street proposed for renaming
- ☐ Fee for signs – costs of making and installing all the necessary signage
- ☐ Property owners are responsible for notifying their tenants

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

\$150 Non-refundable application fee paid ____ Yes ____ No

Estimate of cost and installation of signs: _____

Date submitted for Staff review: _____

Staff comments: _____

Date of City Council consideration: _____

____ Approved ____ Denied

EXHIBIT 3 (continued)

PROPERTY OWNER RESPONSE

THIS PETITION CONCERNS A PROPOSAL TO RENAME THE STREET NAME OF

_____ TO _____

IN THE BLOCK RANGE FROM _____ TO _____

Print Name:

Street Address:

Telephone Number:

Mailing Address:

Legal Description, if available: Lot _____ Block _____ Addition _____

I, the undersigned Owner of this property set forth by name, hereby join in and request the petition to change the street name be (check one):

_____ Approved

_____ Disapproved

Signature:

Please submit your petition within 30 days of receipt.

NOTE: A minimum 70% of responding property owners indicating approval is required for City Council consideration of a street name change.

EXHIBIT 3 (continued)



PLANNING DEPARTMENT CITY FACILITY NAMING APPLICATION

There is a 30 day review process for all facility naming requests

Name of Applicant _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Current Facility Name: _____

Proposed Facility Name: _____

Reasons supporting facility name change: _____

Application Requirements:

- A letter summarizing justification for the request
- Check for \$75 (non-refundable)
- Map showing location of facility
- Fee for signage – costs of making and installing all the necessary signage

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY	
\$75 Non-refundable application fee paid	____ Yes ____ No
Estimate of cost and installation of signage:	_____
Date submitted for Staff review:	_____
Staff comments:	_____

Date of City Council Consideration:	_____
____ Approved ____ Denied	

EXHIBIT 3 (continued)

CTCOG
P.O. Box 729
Belton, Texas 76513
254-770-2200 Voice
254-770-2399 FAX

Central Texas Council of Governments

9-1-1 Addressing Standards

*Accomplishing Together That Which We
Cannot Alone*

ATTACHMENT "A"

EXHIBIT 3 (continued)

CTCOG 9-1-1 Rural Addressing Standards

The purpose of developing E 9-1-1 standards is to enable emergency service providers to quickly reach the location of a 9-1-1 call with the least amount of confusion. National Standards have been written for the enhanced 9-1-1 development. The commonly accepted standards for addressing, road naming, dispatch, etc. in use nationwide need to be evaluated by each local body performing the necessary work. Although most national standards may apply to our specific counties, it is necessary to configure the standards to meet the criteria of our specific area. Each county must adopt a rigorous set of standards.

Several decisions must be made such as: the geographical area to be included, the method of street naming and number assignment, and the extent of coordination with neighboring counties. The design of the E 9-1-1 Addressing system is something that should be thought about long before a GIS Contractor comes on board to begin an addressing effort.

Key individuals that may be included are: Postmasters, members of EMS, members of Fire Departments, members of Sheriff's Departments, member of tax departments, realtors, or utility company employees. These developments should be countywide based. It is imperative that a point of contact at the County level be available who can give impetus to any unforeseen matters.

Road Naming Standards

It is much easier to complete a measured addressing project if road-naming activities are completed BEFORE house numbering is begun. The following are some Road Naming Standards that should be considered on the local level as to whether they meet your specific county needs.

- Roads should have unique names throughout an entire town, zip code and emergency service zone. Every distinct road should be a separate named road. This includes private roads.
- There should be no duplicate street names unless the boundaries of commonly used village names within the municipality can be specifically identified.
- A named road should be essentially continuous, without gaps.
- There should be no identical or similar sounding street names (e.g., Beach and Beech, Main and Maine, Flower and Flour, or even Beach and Peach)
- Avoid using directional or suffixes to distinguish separate, non-contiguous streets (e.g., Palm CT, Palm AVE, and Palm ST, N. Palm CT).
- Avoid special characters, such as hyphens, apostrophes, periods, or decimals, in street name and numbers.
- Streets within multi-structure complexes (e.g., business campus, multi-unit apartment complex) should be named and each structure should be individually addressed.
- Streets within mobile home parks should be named and each lot individually addressed.
- Road names should be assigned based on traffic patterns. Road networks are often like stream networks, with main stems of high traffic volume, and tributaries with less traffic volume should continue with the same name.
- The name of a road or street that has a historical reason for having its name should retain its name.
- The road with the most houses on it should retain its name, thus affecting the least amount of people.

EXHIBIT 3 (continued)

- Road names should only change at substantial intersections or at town boundaries. Do not change road names on corners or in the middle of road section (it's confusing).
 - The street that has had the road name the longest should retain its name.
 - The name of the street that is used for the longest distance or is most likely to have the heavier traffic should retain its name.
 - When a road runs from one town to another it can change names at the town border.
 - There is no need for road names to correspond with official town highway numbers.
 - State and US highways should be assigned their highway names, with the format of the highway type ("US Route" or "NYS Route 97")
 - If a local name is already in use for a US or State Highway (e.g., Main ST), it can maintain the local name as it's official name. To avoid confusion, local names should only be assigned to US and State highways in towns where the highway appears to be and functions as a local road. Generally, the official highway name is preferred.
 - When neighboring towns agree to keep the same name of a road running between towns, the measuring and numbering should be consecutive.
 - Numbering along State Highways and US should follow the same rules for other named roads passing between towns. For long highways spanning many towns, it will not be practical to use sequential numbering for end to end. However, for a highway spanning just 2 or 3 towns the numbering will ideally be sequential for the full length of the highway to avoid any confusion between towns.
 - Many roads have alias names that they are known by. If desired, your GIS Contractor should be able to enter these aliases into the county's road dataset. However, every road must have a single, official name for Enhanced 9-1-1 purposes.
 - For roads that connect two other roads, but have a middle section that is little used or impassable (at least in winter) there are several options.
 - Driveways with 3 or more homes located off the same access drive should be given a Private Road name designation.
1. Assign a single name to the entire road and number the road sequentially starting at the more traveled end. This option is recommended when the middle section is passable and used most of the year.
 2. Assign different names to either end of the road and choose a point in the middle of the impassable section where the name changes. This option is appropriate only if the middle section is truly impassable. Each road's numbering would start from its intersecting road (where most or all traffic originates) and end at the middle point.
 3. Assign a single name to the road, but choose a point in the middle section where the road changes from "East" to "West" or from "North" to "South". For example, "East Burly Hill Road" and "West Burly Hill Road". These constitute two distinct numbering for each road would start at the intersecting road (where most or all traffic originates) and end at the middle point.
 4. Private Road naming must be chosen by either largest land owner along easement (driveway) or (and inside Bell County) a petition signed by the majority of owners located along easement (driveway). A Private Road name should be chosen by the owner/s that is not in use elsewhere in the county.
 5. Once a Private or County Road name has been assigned/chosen, a map requesting approval must be sent to the County Commissioner's Court and Judge. If located in Bell County notice must be sent to the County Engineer's Office as well for approval and sign placement and notification sent to the precinct Commissioner.

EXHIBIT 3 (continued)

Adopting and Standardizing a System for Addressing

Municipalities planning to commence an enhanced 9-1-1 project should establish a single locatable addressing system that is adopted for all addressing purposes including emergency service provision, postal delivery, municipal record keeping, and utility service orders.

5.28' Address Increment

NENA Standards recommend that communities adopt a 5.28' increment. This increment would allow for 1,000 unique numbered addresses per 1-mile length of road (there are 5,280 feet in a mile). This increment makes it very easy for an emergency service provider in the event of an emergency to look at the address and quickly figure out how far down the road the house is located. For example, if an ambulance were dispatched to 500 Alpine Lane (using a 5.28' address increment) the emergency vehicle would know to travel exactly one half mile down Alpine Lane to locate number 500. Similarly, if an emergency service provider is dispatched to 957 Alpine Lane, they would immediately know that they must travel just under a mile and look on the left side of the street for the emergency address site number 957. Obviously, this kind of addressing increment can save a great deal of time during an emergency situation.

Another benefit of the 5.28' increment is that structures can be assigned an address every 10.5' on each side of the driveway. Very few driveways, even in congested areas are located that close together. This means that many addressees are developed, mainly for navigational purposes, but also for future development needs of a community. Therefore, it is very important to select a numbering increment that not only supports your current addressing needs, but the future development needs of your community. If the appropriate measured numbering system is selected; a community will never need to be re-addressed to accommodate future development.

52.8' & 50' Address Increments

Although not generally recommended by NENA, these address increments are occasionally chosen to meet the specific needs of a community. Communities should be careful to ensure that this numbering increment meets both their present needs AND the needs they anticipate for future sub-division and development AND the needs of timely emergency response. Oftentimes the logic for utilizing the larger 50' increments is in consideration of more rural areas, where, in theory, the amount of development is expected to be far less than the urban areas. Therefore, in these rural areas it is oftentimes considered overkill to generate so many numbers. Unfortunately, when this larger increment is chosen, the easy address-based navigation is diminished by a less than quick to figure out math equation. In other words, it is much simpler to figure out that a house addressed utilizing the 5.28' increment and given the address 500 Alpine Lane is approximately one half mile down the road. It is not so easy to apply the same logic to a house addressed utilizing the 50' increment. Communities should very carefully consider what is gained in response time (since that is the point of re-addressing) by choosing a 50' or greater increment.

Evens on the Right - Odds on the Left

All structures should be numbered with even numbers on the right and odd numbers on the left. This parity should be strictly followed to aid in the efficient response of emergency crews. This parity sometimes becomes confusing in the case of a Cul-Du-Sac, circular streets, trailer parks, etc. Be sure your GIS Consultant has an automated system of checking the parity of each mapped and addressed structure. Without a built-in and digitally automated means of performing QA/QC on the address parity, the address data is bound to end up with parity errors.

EXHIBIT 3 (continued)

Addressing Standards

The following are recommendations to consider as county addressing standards. Each of these recommendations should be specifically looked at to see if they make sense in your county and if so, they should be implemented as part of your countywide addressing standards.

- Official street numbers should proceed from a logical point of origin and should be in proper numerical sequence in relation to other lots with frontage on the same street/road. It is recommended that a county adopt a standard numbering sequence that goes from East to West and South to North.
- Odd numbers should be assigned to left side of the street and even numbers should be assigned to the right side of the street.
- Address numbers should be assigned to all structures which are inhabited or which have or may have phone service (including telephone booths) and not to lots and parcels. Many lots have more than one structure and thus require more than one address.
- Corner lots should be assigned a number according to the frontage of the main entrance and/or where the driveway meets the road - **not** where the mailbox is located.
- The logical/grammatical order of address elements should follow USPS conventions: street number, pre-directional, primary street name, suffix, post-directional, and secondary number, if any (e.g., 100 W Main ST SE Apt 201).
- Multi-unit structures should be given one primary number (e.g., 101 Main ST or 103 Main ST) and apartments or suites should be given numbers or letters as secondary location indicators (e.g., 111 Main ST, APT A, or 111 Main ST, APT 101).
- Primary street numbers should not be longer than six characters.
- There should be **no** fractional addresses (e.g., 101 1/2 Main ST).
- Alphanumeric primary or secondary address numbers should not be used (e.g., EOI Main ST).
- Hyphenated primary or secondary address numbers should not be used (e.g., 41-65 Bell ST).
- Significant leading zeros in primary and secondary numbers should not be used (e.g., 0145 Main ST).
- One letter road names should not be used (e.g., B Street or Z Lane).
- Common practice is to number from east to west, and from south to north.
- Where one road starts and ends at points on a second road (creating a loop), the numbering along the two roads should be in the same direction.

Road Signs and Address Number Standards

Road Signs

Naming roads and mapping them is among the first steps in an addressing process. Placing road signs is one of the final tasks. To assist both emergency service personnel and the general public, signs must be visible and maintained. A frequent complaint about a road sign is that they are often hidden by tree branches. Annual trimming can eliminate this problem. *There are several varieties of signs that are suitable for public road use. The most common is the green background with reflective white lettering. However, regardless of color, the important issue is to ensure the letters are tall enough to be easily seen day or night.*

Sizes

Lettering on street name signs should be at least 4 inches high, supplementary letting to indicate the type of street (e.g., Street, Avenue, Road, etc.) or section of city (e.g., NW) may be in smaller lettering, at least 2 inches high.

EXHIBIT 3 (continued)

For rural areas: Municipalities should use 9 inch high blade in lengths of 24, 30, 36, or 42 inches with 6 inch high letter for street names, 4 inches for other.

For urban areas: Municipalities should use 9 inch high blade in lengths of 24, 30, 36, or 42 inches with 4 inch high letter for street names, 3 inches for other.

Placement

In business districts and on principal arteries, Street Name signs should be placed at least on diagonally opposite corners so that they will be on the far right hand side of the intersection for traffic on the major street. They should be mounted with their faces parallel to the streets they name. In residential districts at least one Street Name sign should be mounted at each intersection. In rural districts signs should be placed to identify important roads not otherwise marked.

On intersection approaches a supplemental Street Name sign may be erected separately or below an intersection related warning sign. When combined with a yellow diamond sign, the color should be a black message on a yellow background. The preferred mounting method for street signs is post-top mounting brackets. Hardware for mounting signs to posts should be subsidiary to other items. The minimum vertical clearance should be 8 feet to the bottom of the sign for post-top mountings.

Materials

The most commonly used materials for blades is either extruded aluminum with a 0.25 inch flange thickness and 0.090 inch web (min.) or flat sheet aluminum with a minimum thickness of 0.125 inches. However, other materials can be used, if they achieve the same level of visibility.

Colors

The signs should have a reflectorized white or silver text (stick on reflective letters) on a reflectorized green background, the colors should conform with those found in standard color tolerance charts as approved by the U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration.

Lettering

Letters and digits should conform to standard alphabets for highway signs printed by the federal highway administration. Conventional abbreviations are acceptable except for the street name itself. A symbol or letter designation may be included to identify the governmental jurisdiction. If used, the length of the designation should not exceed the height of the sign, and should be positioned to the left of the street name.

Displaying Address Numbers:

Structures in cities are much easier to mark than those in rural areas where the structures are often obscured by trees or are so far off the road as to not be visible. To ensure that all house numbers are visible, it may be necessary to make special provisions for posting numbers in rural areas. Listed below are recommended standards for displaying address numbers:

1. First preference should be to put a number on the front of every structure.
2. Mailboxes should be marked with the house number if the box is in front of and on the same side of the street as the house.
3. Where mailboxes are not in front of the house or structure to be marked, a number should be displayed on the structure, if it is visible from the road.
4. If the structure is not visible from the road and no mailbox is beside the driveway leading to the structure, a sign or number post should be erected to display the number. This sign or number post could display the number either vertically, from top to bottom, or horizontally.

EXHIBIT 3 (continued)

5. In areas of snowfall, it is very important that the structure number be placed high enough that it will not be obstructed by snow during an average winter.

Notification for new roads:

Once a name, whether private or county, has been established and approved. All emergency responding agencies should be sent a map showing location information, road name or number and coordinating addresses (if assigned) with the date of notification placed in the ArcGIS map data. A copy of the notification letter should be kept as well. The Post Office and Telephone Company that services the new road should be notified of its location and address ranges in addition.

Be Open to Hire a GIS Consultant

It is imperative that before you write a request for proposals (RFP) or begin the process of hiring a GIS Consultant to perform Addressing and Data Development, that the county have all standards outlined. Without identifying on a local level, which standards the county has chosen, you cannot hope to hold a GIS Consultant to any consistent set of rules. Once done it is important to look for a GIS Consultant that has a proven track record of completing large scale E-911 data development projects in a timely manner. **Check all consultant references carefully!!**

EXHIBIT 4

Deed for Property ID 20493

The State of Texas

County of Bell

Know all men by these presents, that we J.D. Crawford joined herein by his wife Allie Crawford of the City of Belton, County of Bell and State of Texas, for and in consideration of the sum of Two Hundred and Fifty Dollars in cash to us in hand paid by the Ex Confederate Association of Bell County, by and through its President H.M. Cook Esq. and also the sum of Two Hundred and Fifty Dollars in cash to us in hand paid by The Corporation of the City of Belton by and through its Mayor, D.A. Chamberlin Esq. the receipt of each of said two sums of money aggregating the sum of Five Hundred Dollars is hereby fully acknowledged and confessed to our satisfaction, have this day granted, bargained, sold, conveyed and delivered, and so by these presents grant, bargain, sell, transfer, convey and deliver unto the said H.M. Cook, as president of the Ex Confederate Association of Bell County, Texas, and to the said D.A. Chamberlin, as Mayor of the City of Belton, and to their successors in office respectively each an undivided one half interest in and to the following described tract on parcel of land situate, lying and being in the Corporate limits of the City of Belton, County of Bell and State of Texas, to wit: Block No. (25) twenty-five, in Lee's Addition to the Town of Belton, on the south side of Nolans Creek and being a part of the original survey in the name of M.F. Connell and containing two and one half acres, more or less and being to same conveyed to J.D. Crawford by M.R. Wiseman and wife by Deed dated Nov. 12th, 1883, and recorded in Vol. A7, pages 12, 13, & 14, Records of Bell Co. And for the further consideration that said property is to be held in Trust for the use of the said Bell County Ex Confederate Association so long as said association shall remain and maintain its organization. And said Association shall have the exclusive right to the use of said grounds for its Reunion purposes, and if at any time the said Bell County Ex Confederate Association shall cease to be an organization as it now exists (Exception being that said Organization may if deemed proper changes its name or title of officers and still be an Organization of Ex Confederates) then and in that event one half of said property shall be held in trust for all time to come for the use and benefit of the white citizens of the City of Belton, as a park, and if at any time the City of Belton should cease to be an incorporated City, then the same shall continue to be held in trust as above set forth by the County Judge of Bell County. And in consideration that no Deed of Trust, Mortgage, or other lien shall ever be given against said property, neither shall the same be sold for any debt or indebtedness of either said Ex Confederate Association or the City of Belton. But said property shall be used by the City of Belton and the said Ex Confederate Association as a park for their exclusive use and benefit and it is further understood that the said Bell County Ex Confederate Association shall have any and all revenue or any and all rents which may be derived from the same, and which shall be used to improve and decorate said grounds with and for reunion purposes only, and that the whole of said property shall be managed by and controlled exclusively by the Officers and Executive Committees of said Bell County Ex Confederate Association who shall let the City use the same for any and all public occasions not conflicting or to conflict with the Annual Reunion or other gatherings of said Ex Confederate Association, and said property nor any part thereof shall ever be sold without the full consent of both the City of Belton and said Ex Confederate Association.

EXHIBIT 4 (continued)

To have and to hold the above described premises together with all and singular the rights and appurtenances thereunto or in anywise belonging unto the said Bell County Ex Confederate Association by and through its President, and to the City of Belton by and through its Mayor, and their successors in office respectively, forever. And we do hereby bind ourselves, our heirs Executors and Administrators to warrant and forever defend all and singular the said premises unto the said Bell County Ex Confederate Association and the City of Belton or their assigns against every person whosoever lawfully claiming the same or any part thereof.

Witness our hands this 2nd day of May, A.D. 1892.

J.D. Crawford
Allie Crawford

EXHIBIT 5

Deed for Property ID 20493

The State of Texas }
County of Bell } Know all men by these Presents,
That we J. D. Crawford joined herein by
his wife Allie Crawford of the City of
Belton, County of Bell and State of Texas, for and in consid-
eration of the sum of Two Hundred and Fifty Dollars in cash
to us in hand paid by the Ex Confederate Association of Bell
County, by and through its President W. M. Cook Esq. and
also the sum of Two Hundred and Fifty Dollars in cash to
us in hand paid by the Corporation of the City of Belton, by
and through its Mayor, D. A. Chamberlain Esq. the receipt of
each of said two sums of money aggregating the sum of Four
Hundred Dollars is hereby fully acknowledged and confessed
to our satisfaction, have this day granted, bargained, sold,
conveyed and delivered, and do by these presents grant, bar-
gain, sell, transfer, convey and deliver unto the said Wm
Cook, as president of the Ex Confederate Association of Bell
County, Texas, and to the said D. A. Chamberlain, as Mayor

of the City of Belton, and to their successors in office respectively
each an undivided one half interest in and to the following de-
scribed tract or parcel of land situate, lying and being in the
Corporate limits of the City of Belton, County of Bell and State
of Texas, to wit: Block No. 35 Twenty five, in Lee's Addition
to the Town of Belton, on the South side of Nolans Creek and
being a part of the original survey in the name of M. D. Bonnell
and containing two and one half acres more or less, and be-
ing the same conveyed to J. D. Crawford by M. D. Wiseman Esq.
by Deed dated Nov. 12th 1883, and recorded in Vol. 67, page
121 & 14 Records of Bell Co. And for the further consideration
that said property is to be held in trust for the use of the
said Bell County Ex Confederate Association so long as said
association shall remain and maintain its organization.
And said Association shall have the exclusive right to the
use of said grounds for its Reunion purposes, and if at
any time the said Bell County Ex Confederate Association
shall cease to be an organization as it now exists (except-
ing that said organization may if deemed proper change
its name or title of officers and still be an organization
of Ex Confederates) then and in that event one half of
said property shall be held in trust for all time to come

EXHIBIT 5 (continued)

Deed for Property ID 20493

for the use and benefit of the white citizens of the City of Belton, as a park, and if at any time the City of Belton should cease to be an incorporated City, then the same shall continue to be held in trust as above set forth by the County Judge of Bell County. And in consideration that no deed of trust, mortgage, or other lien shall ever be given against said property, neither shall the same be sold for any debt or indebtedness of either said Ex Confederate Association or the City of Belton. But said property shall be used by the City of Belton and the said Ex Confederate Association as a park for their exclusive use and benefit. And it is further understood that the said Bell County Ex Confederate Association shall have any and all revenue on any and all rents which may be derived from the same, and which shall be used to improve and decorate said grounds, with and for reunion purposes only, and that the whole of said property shall be managed and controlled exclusively by the Officers and Executive Committee of said Bell County Ex Confederate Association who shall let the City use the same for any and all public occasions, not conflicting or to conflict with the Annual Reunion or other gatherings of said Ex Confederate Association, and said property nor any part thereof shall ever be sold without the full consent of both the City of Belton & said Ex Confederate Association.

I have and to hold the above described premises together with all and singular the rights and appurtenances

thereunto or in anywise belonging unto the said Bell County Ex Confederate Association by and through its President, and to the City of Belton by and through its Mayor, and their successors in office, respectively, forever. And we do hereby bind ourselves, our heirs, Executors and Administrators to warrant and forever defend all and singular the said premises unto the said Bell County Ex Confederate Association and the City of Belton or their assigns against every person whomsoever lawfully claiming the same, or any part thereof.

Witness our hands this 20 day of May, A. D. 1892,

J. D. Crawford.
Willie Crawford.

EXHIBIT 6

BELTON CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL RESOURCES

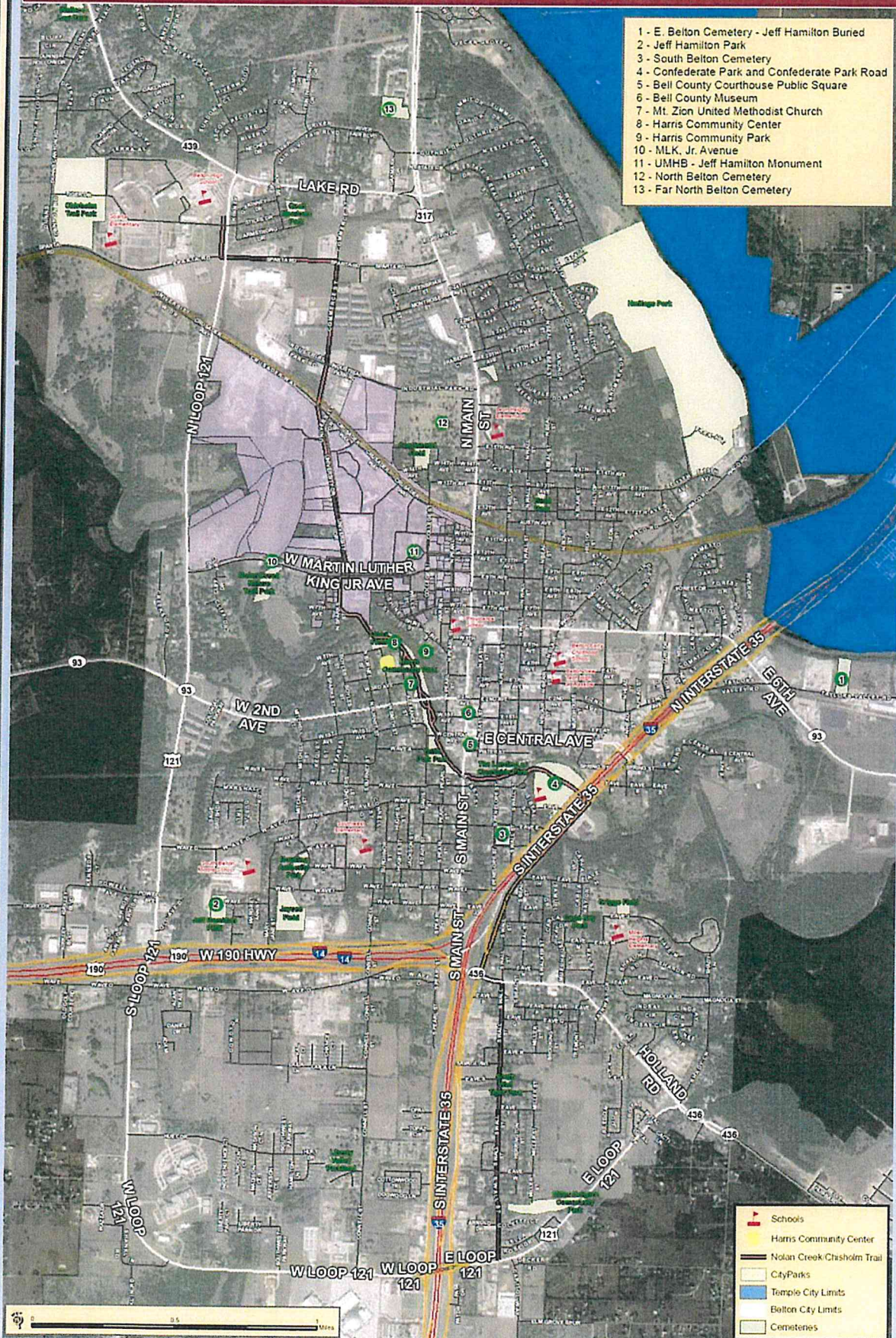
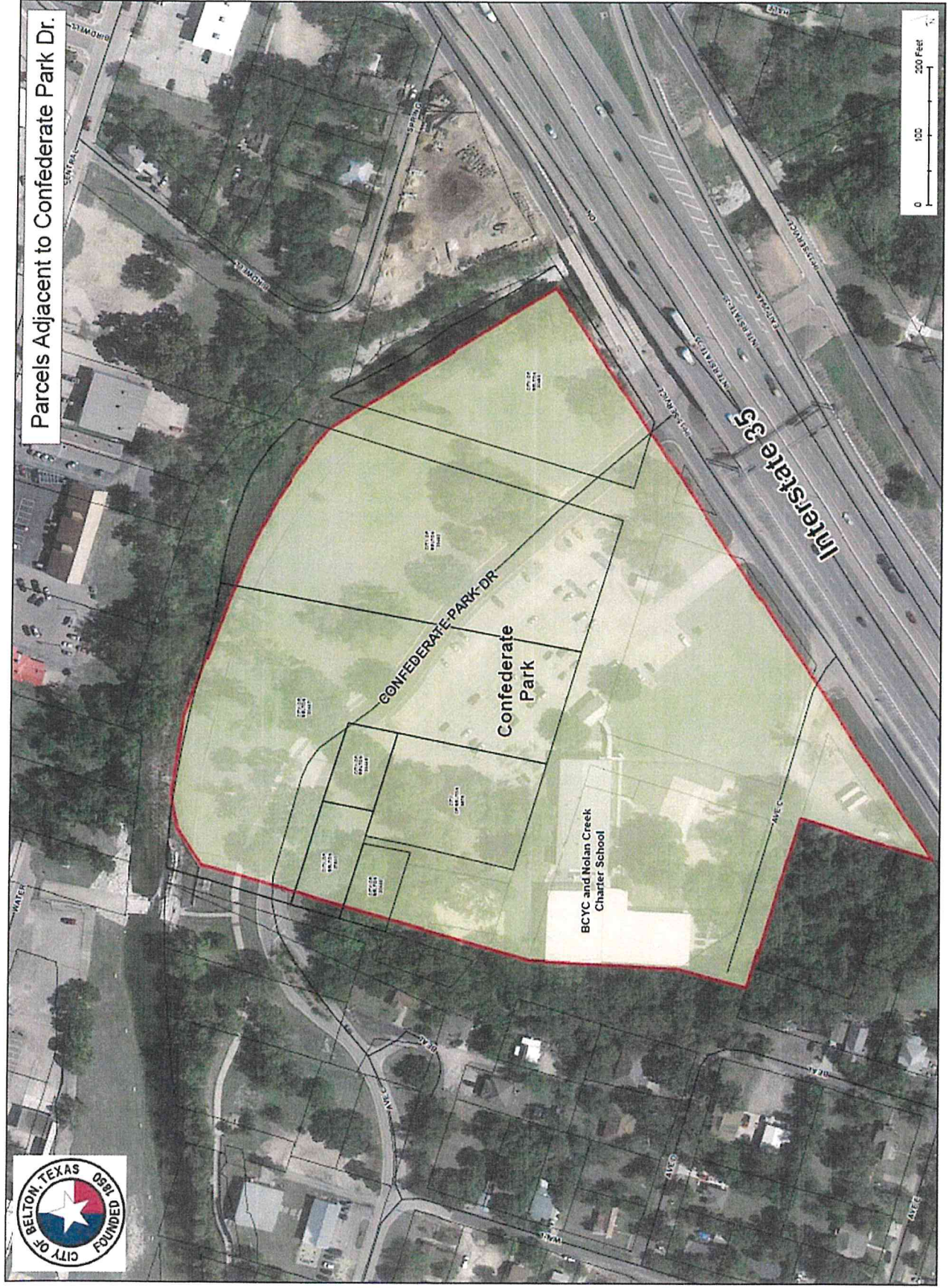


EXHIBIT 7



FEATURED

Belton City Council wants to rename Confederate Park

Proposed committee to consider alternatives

BY JACOB SANCHEZ | TELEGRAM STAFF

Jul 14, 2020



BELTON — It is all but certain that Confederate Park will be renamed.

The Belton City Council on Tuesday directed city staff to place an item to consider a name change and to have the parks board form a committee of residents to find new names. The Council will consider the item at a future meeting.

"I think the Council — the six white men and the one white woman — don't want to really be the only ones who make that decision, so I think that's where we're at," Mayor Marion Grayson said.

The Council agreed the committee the park board forms should be a diverse group of Belton residents that includes some of the Beltonians who spoke out on the park's name.

The Council's directive came after 19 people — 12 of whom wanted the park's name to remain and the other seven wanted it changed — voiced their opinion on Confederate Park.

One person who spoke out against changing the park's name was former state Rep. Molly White, who now lives in Zabcikville.

"Tearing down doesn't not build up. Renaming does not heal. Only forgiveness and reconciliation can move us forward," the one-term Republican legislator said. "So I encourage the city to not rename Confederate Park — rather let's work together to build our relationships with each other."

Retired U.S. Lt. Col. Marvin Bell pointed out that he and his wife were the only black people at the Council meeting.

"I know change is hard for people to accept, but change will happen. Either you lead, follow or get out of the way," Bell said. "Changing the name is not going to affect the hearts and minds of people."

The Council's Tuesday discussion was triggered by residents Luke and Kayla Potts, the owners of Woodhouse Day Spa, Kona Ice, and Douglas Brito. They wrote letters asking the city to consider renaming Confederate Park. The Potts also filed a facility renaming application for the park and the nearby Confederate Park Drive.

Councilman John Holmes read the deed for the original parcel of land that the Ex-Confederates Association gave to the city on May 2, 1892. The deed states the "property shall be held in trust for all time to come for the use and benefit of the white citizens of the city of Belton."

"A park with a deed that says for white use only punches me in the gut when I hear that," he said.

Grayson said the city cannot wipe away the history of Confederate Park. She said the city of Belton should place storyboards to tell visitors the story of the park.

"We're not going to lose that history. We're not going to lose those lessons," Councilman Craig Pearson said, referring to some people's comments that changing Confederate Park's name would erase history. "We're going to honor that. But I think we're going to move forward."

jsanchez@tdtnews.com

MORE INFORMATION



Confederate statue discussion is Wednesday

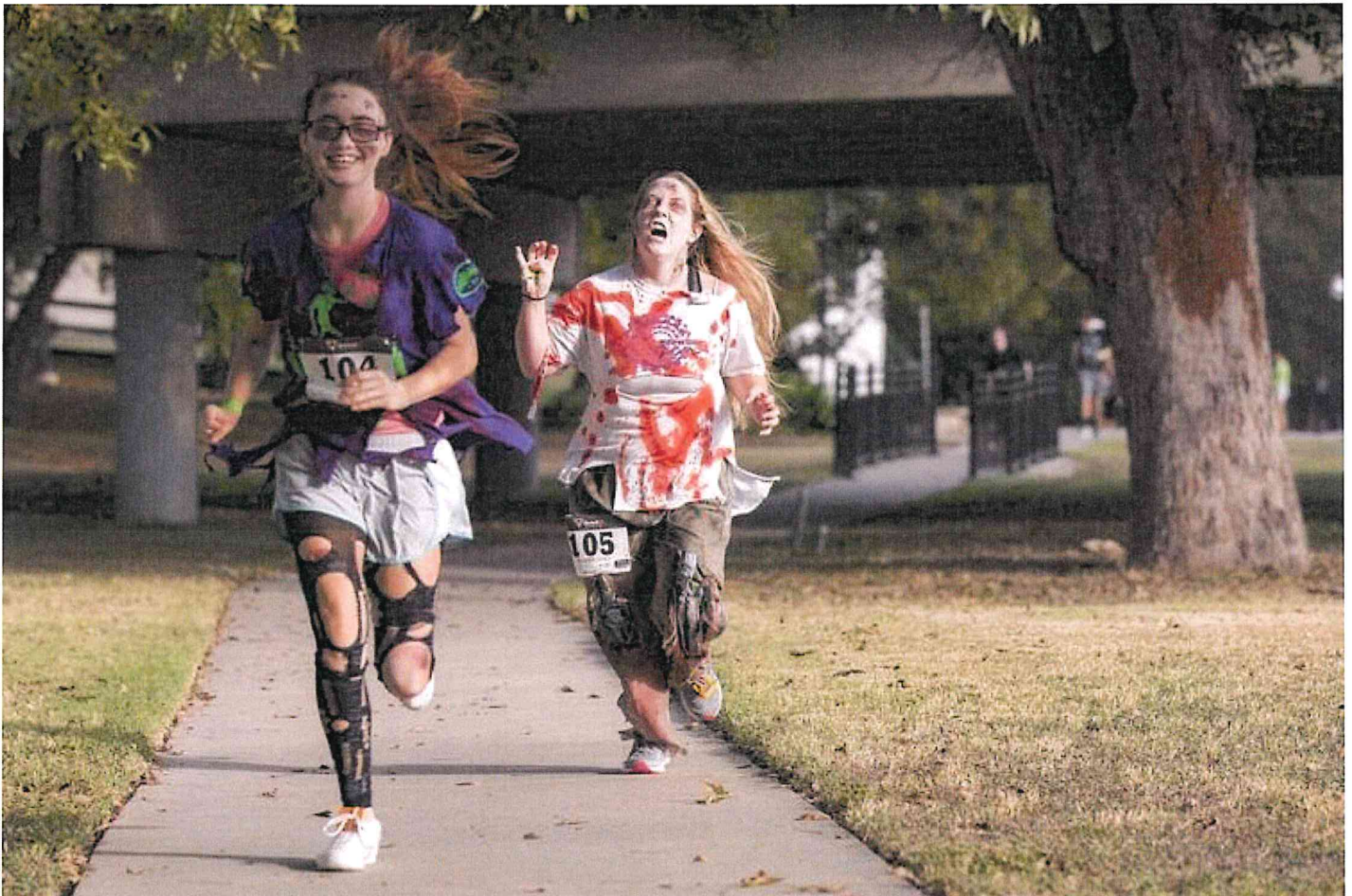
Jacob Sanchez

https://www.tdtnews.com/news/central_texas_news/article_7244677c-c3d8-11ea-96c5-9330c74e08a5.html

'Unwelcoming and controversial': Confederate Park renaming to be considered by Belton City Council

BY JACOB SANCHEZ | TELEGRAM STAFF

Jul 11, 2020



Valerie Dusek, left, and Kelly Dusek, both of Temple, compete Oct. 26, 2016, as zombies in a zombie 5K run sponsored by freshmen at Belton New Tech High School @ Waskow at Confederate Park in Belton.

Telegram file

CORRECTION: The Potts family mentioned in this story is NOT the owners of Cochran, Blair & Potts department store. The Telegram regrets the error.

The city of Belton received a big gift on May 2, 1892: The Ex-Confederate Association of Bell County gave the county seat 6 acres of land near Nolan Creek.

The land was turned into a recreation area named in honor of the people who gave the city the tract — Confederate Park.

Now — 128 years after it was established — the Belton City Council is set to begin discussing renaming Confederate Park. Council members will discuss possibly renaming the park during a work session at its 5:30 p.m. Tuesday meeting at the Harris Community Center, 401 N. Alexander St.

The city received two letters from residents asking for the Council to consider renaming Confederate Park, spokesman Paul Romer said.

“This application brings the matter directly to the Belton City Council for consideration,” he said. “Their public deliberations are scheduled to begin with a workshop on Tuesday, July 14.”

Mayor Marion Grayson said the discussion will determine the next steps for possibly renaming Confederate Park.

“It has been discussed some for a few years now, and we recently received a formal request from a citizen,” she said. “We’ll discuss further at the meeting, and see what the consensus will be.”

An ‘unwelcoming’ name

One letter came from a family — who also submitted an application for renaming the park and the nearby Confederate Park Drive.

“We would like to recommend a new name for what is currently Confederate Park and Confederate Park Drive in Belton, Texas,” wrote Luke and Kayla Potts. “The current names have become unwelcoming and controversial to residents and tourists, and do not represent the unity that is spread amongst our citizens.”

Reevaluating Confederate monuments

This is the first serious name change consideration for Confederate Park.

In 2017, a group of residents asked the Commissioners Court to move the Confederate soldier statue located on the northwest corner of the Bell County Courthouse grounds. Confederate Park popped up during their discussions.

"People of color are afraid to come over here to Belton because they feel it is a racist place," Bennie Walsh, Temple NAACP president, said at the time, pointing to the statue and Confederate Park as the reasons some Bell County residents avoid the county seat.

Three years later, a lot has changed.

A national conversation on racism — sparked by the police custody death of George Floyd — has dominated political discourse since May. Part of this dialogue is the reevaluation of Confederate monuments and memorials that many Americans see as racist.

A majority of Texas, 52 percent, say Confederate statues and monuments should be removed from public property, according to a University of Texas at Austin and Texas Politics Project poll released last month.

Like Belton, the Bell County Commissioners Court is set to discuss the Confederate soldier statue at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday in the Assembly Hall at the Bell County Expo Center, 301 W. Loop 121.

'Evils of our past'

That is a point Belton resident Douglas Brito brought up in his letter to the city asking for Confederate Park to be renamed.

"I've lived in this city for eight years now. This city will always carry a special place in my heart. With that being said, it pains me to see how our town still glorifies the evils of our past by honoring the Confederacy," Brito said.

Brito suggested naming the park after Bell County-born Miriam "Ma" Ferguson — the 29th and 32nd governor of Texas and the first woman elected as the state's top official.

"The correct way to honor our past would be remembering something good about our history, and not something devastating such as a rebellion that supported the oppression and enslavement of an entire race of human beings," Brito said. "Please consider renaming the park."

Ferguson — along with her husband, James “Pa” Ferguson, who also served as governor — were controversial.

Both were accused of selling pardons and paroles, and directing highway contracts to friends, according to the Texas Tribune. Pa Ferguson was forced to resign after the Texas House impeached him and the Senate convicted him on 10 charges, including the misapplication of public funds, according to the Texas State Historical Association.

The Ferguson House, the couple’s former home, is at 518 N. Seventh St. in Temple’s Historic District. The structure is a Texas Historic Landmark and on the National Register of Historic Places.

Belton values

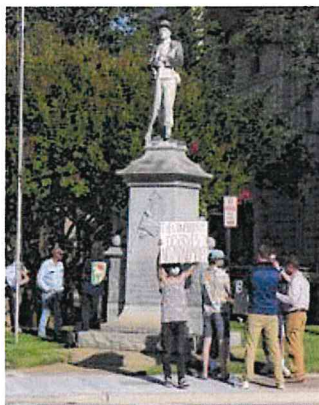
Confederate Park, Luke and Kayla Potts said, does not reflect Belton’s values.

They want a committee to be formed to consider a new name for Confederate Park and the road named after it.

“Belton has a history of loving their neighbors and being welcoming to all,” they said. “We would like this to be present in the names of our beautiful parks that are here for everyone to enjoy.”

jsanchez@tdtnews.com

MORE INFORMATION



Confederate statue discussion set for Expo Center

Name it Veterans Park

People own Bell County Confederate statue

Jacob Sanchez

Belton City Council conduct work session on renaming Confederate Park

By **CASSIDY PATE**
Belton Journal

The City of Belton has received numerous requests to rename Confederate Park and Confederate Park Drive in Belton, as the name itself is claimed to be discriminatory and a symbol of racism. In response to these requests, Belton City Council conducted a work session on the topic to discern how to move forward on Tuesday.

The meeting began with 19 members of the Bell County community giving public comments regarding the renaming of Confederate Park and Confederate Park Drive.

While a portion of the residents spoke against the renaming, a select number of individuals voiced their concern that the name, "Confederate Park," is a reminder of the American Civil War and the fight for and against slavery.

Citizens who spoke for the maintenance of Confederate Park's namesake made

Central Texans gather and vigil in honor



PHOTO

Central Texans gathered to participate in a protest and vigil to honor Fort Hood soldiers, U.S. Army Spc. Vanessa Guillen and U.S. Army Spc. Robinson, who killed himself on Wednesday, July 1. Morales were discovered in June.

Bell County Commission votes to burn

By **LINDSAY STARR PLATT**

Belton Journal

Bell County Commissioners met for the weekly Commissioners Court Meeting at the Historic Courthouse and via livestream video conference due to COVID-19 restrictions on public gatherings.

Commissioners approved the Order Restricting Out-

from 8 p.m. on July 14 until 10 a.m. on July 22. It was determined that circumstances were in all or part of the unincorporated area of Bell County that would create a public safety hazard that would be exacerbated by outdoor burning. The Burn Ban could be terminated earlier if County officials determine that a public safety hazard no longer exists.

See BAN. all the parks in one move. on could, perhaps, improve

the following arguments: the park was established as a place where Confederate veterans, known as the Bell County Ex Confederate Association, could gather and the idea that history is to be preserved and used as a reminder that one can learn from his/her mistakes. Many residents gave personal accounts of their upbringing in Belton, as well as their ancestors who fought for the Confederacy.

Residents in favor of renaming the park made the following arguments: the word "Confederate" carries a racist connotation, and Belton is in need of change to ensure all parties are equally represented. Many of these individuals referred to the deed for the transfer of 2.5 acres of the park's 16 acres of land to the City of Belton and the Bell County Ex Confederate Association. The deed states that the park was conveyed "...for the use and benefit of the white citizens of the City of Belton..."

See **PARK**,
Page A2

door Burning (Burn Ban). The hiring of 15 additional correctional officers was

Bell County's yo leads COVID.

By **CASSIDY PATE**
Belton Journal

Bell County Emergency Management held a virtual press conference on Thursday, July 9 to provide updates on COVID-19, or the coronavirus. Bell County Judge David Blackburn led the session alongside Bell County Public Health District (BCPHD) Director Amanda Robison-Chadwell.

As of Tuesday, 2,290 positive cases had been reported in Bell County with 14 fatalities and 595 recoveries, per the BCPHD dashboard.

"Today marks a new high for daily reported cases at 153, and we are still seeing the trend of young people driving the case counts," Robison-Chadwell said in a statement on Tuesday. "It is imperative that we continue

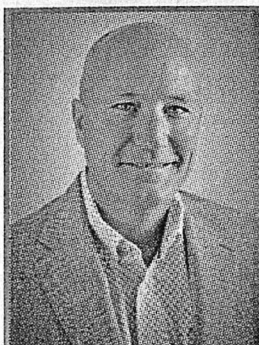
to drive home the importance of social distancing, masking if social distancing is not possible and hand washing."

Robison-Chadwell also revealed that an outbreak had been reported at Indian Oaks Living Center in Harker Heights on Wednesday, July 8. As of Tuesday, July 14, the facility has 10 employees and 21 residents who have tested positive for COVID-19.

Dr. Robert Greenberg, Chief Medical Officer of emergency services, Baylor Scott & White - Central Texas Division spoke to hospital capacity.

"Our total capacity is 550 beds, our ICU has 70 beds; currently, we have 16 patients in the ICU that have COVID, 11 of those are on ventilators," Greenberg said. "On our floors

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Public comments

Temple's Steve Wooley is a fifth generation Texan and fifth generation Bell County resident who spoke on behalf of his ancestors.

"The name 'Confederate Park' is not racist; racism comes from men's and women's heart and soul," Wooley said. "The only way that you can change is you can change your heart and soul."

Steve's wife, Linda Wooley, echoed her husband's sentiments, stating that Confederate Park holds personal significance to their family, as the pair was married on the land Steve's ancestors walked upon.

With that, Wooley recommended the placement of

educational Civil War signage at the park to allow its visitors the opportunity to learn about both the Confederate and Union sides and promote unity.

Dr. Joyce Jones, president of the Bell County Chapter 101 United Daughters of the Confederacy, offered the idea that the community should use the past to lead Belton into the future rather than destroying its past for the present.

"One of the dangers that our country is in right now is trying to rule out history and to deny history," Jones said.

Retired U.S. Lt. Col. Marvin Bell stated that changing the name of the park is not going to change the hearts and minds of the people;

however, he said racial injustice is problem that must be eliminated.

"I know change is hard for people to accept, but change will happen; either you lead, follow, or get out of the way," Bell said. "You may not change the name, but let's change the hearts and minds of the people."

Belton's Luke Potts concluded the public comments portion of the meeting by revealing that he and his wife, Kayla Potts, were shocked by the "political" response they received following their delivery of a request to rename Confederate Park.

"It's sad to see our fellow citizens, our taxpayers who are not enjoying our beautiful parks," Potts said.

He added that if Belton

were to do a referendum, or put keeping the name 'Confederate Park' to a vote, "...it would fail because we are a welcoming community, are a loving community, and symbols do matter."

Work session

City Manager Sam Listi then led a work session with the council to determine how to move forward with the proposed renaming of Confederate Park and Confederate Park Drive. He added that two separate names could be selected - one for the park, and one for the road - through this process.

A policy was passed in 2013 regarding how the potential renaming of the park should be handled, and the process is as follows: initiation by application (provided by the Luke and Kayla Potts' request) and the approval

ring this issue to the Parks Board.

"I think we need to push it down to the Parks Board, let it run its course, make sure we have good representation," Holmes said.

Councilmember Craig Pearson agreed with Holmes that the renaming of the park should occur in order for Belton to move forward and prefers the name "Veterans Park," as it honors all veterans.

Councilmember Dan Kirkley said that although the past must be preserved, the Belton community needs to band together to make progress for the future.

"I'm always concerned that in the process of doing something constructive that we hide history, and so I think we need to be very careful about those things," Kirkley said. "I think we've made some huge progress in

park while also representing the importance of gathering together.

Councilmember Wayne Carpenter agreed with Leigh's statement that it is the council's duty to decide on the renaming the park and employ a committee with citizen input to brainstorm potential names. As the great-great-grandson of two Confederate veterans, Carpenter said those men followed their conscience at that time, which he said he was called to do at Tuesday's meeting.

"My conscience in 2020 does not allow me to continue to support a symbol of Confederate racism that exists in our community; I just can't do that," Carpenter said.

Belton Mayor Marion Grayson acknowledged that although the renaming is necessary, the preservation