

**City Council Naming Committee**  
**Thursday, September 28, 2023**  
**Confederate Street Naming Meeting**

**Summary Meeting Minutes**

Naming Committee: Councilman John Taylor Chapman, Chair (virtual)  
Councilmember Sarah Bagley  
Councilwoman Aliya Gaskins

Staff: Jack Browand, RCPA, Staff Liaison to the Committee  
Dana Wedeles, City Manager's Office  
Gretchen Bulova, OHA  
Lindsey Dubin, City Attorney's Office

HARC Representative: Linda Lovell, HARC Street Names Committee Representative

Public Signed In:      Greg Paytin                              Kate Dell  
                                 Ann McCarthy                              Charles Enoch  
                                 Harrison Wadsworth                              J. W. Wilbor  
                                 Yvonne Collahan

1. Jack Browand, staff liaison to Naming Committee, announced Councilman Chapman, Chair will participate virtually consistent with the approved electronic meeting policy.
2. Meeting called to order at 6:04 p.m. by Councilwoman Gaskins. Councilwomen Gaskins named acting Chair for the meeting.
3. Historic Alexandria Resource Commission (HARC) list of potential street names
  - a. Linda Lovell, Co-chair of the HARC Street Names Committee, provided background on Mayor Wilson's request to HARC to research, compile, and submit a list of potential street names that could be used in the street renaming effort.
  - b. The committee solicited names from HARC members, Office of Historic Alexandria staff, and members of the public.
  - c. Councilmember Bagley complimented HARC on the list of street names suggested and thanked members of the committee for the context, detail, and thoughtfulness of the names listed.
  - d. Councilwoman Gaskins and Councilman Chapman echoed Councilmember Bagley's praise for HARC's hard work and thought this list could be used for other naming projects.
  - e. Councilman Chapman offered an additional remark that OHA use this list and elevate some of the people and stories.

4. Discussion on Names to Change
  - a. Begin with reflection on the task and guiding principles for the project.
    - i. Look initially at those streets changed by the 1953 Ordinance.
    - ii. This name changing process is equally as intentional as the 1953 process.
    - iii. Look at the number of households and businesses directly impacted by a street name change.
    - iv. Explore reframing an existing street name.
    - v. All Alexandria Resolution is a complete contrast to the 1953 Ordinance – should revisit this commitment before moving forward with a change.
  - b. Using the 1953 street names list
    - i. Map of streets shown, Confederate Streets identified in blue.
    - ii. Excel spreadsheet of streets, with name, miles, total addresses.
  - c. Discussion included the number of cross streets and fiscal impact of signage change.
  - d. Concluded that the five names to be considered and referred to City Council should include North Breckinridge Place (1 hotel – low impact, good test case), consider Forrest St (not on 1953 list and could be reframed as Forest) (21 houses), S/N Early Street (84 homes), S/N Jordan St and N Jordan CT (438) homes, and N Frost Street (3).
  - e. Mix of streets with houses/businesses, impacts.
  
5. Discussion of potential names, using the HARC potential names list:
  - a. Hughes (enslaved family in what is now Foxchase area), potentially for Jordan Street
  - b. Ona Judge (enslaved woman)
  - c. Benjamin Banneker (Free African American man)
  - d. Sarah Gray (African- American education, woman)
  - e. Harriett Jacobs (African American education, woman)
  - f. Forest (reframing Forrest)
  
6. Review of process and next steps:
  - a. Press release with recommendations, inviting community feedback.
  - b. Public feedback on suggested names or new names can be submitted.
    - i. Names need a justification, description
    - ii. Community discussion must take place
  - c. City will mail a postcard to those affected streets, detailing renaming process.
  - d. Yard signs with QR code for feedback will be posted on selected streets.
  - e. November public hearing on names and feedback.
  - f. No street names will be changed in 2023, especially close to the holidays.
    - i. Councilmember Bagley pointed out the USPS will deliver mail for two years to an old address

\*\*\* It was pointed out by staff that there is an existing Forest Drive in Fairfax.

7. Public Comment: Councilwoman Gaskins and acting chair allowed for the public to ask questions.
  - a. Kate Dell asked if the more egregious historical figures could be changed first. Also suggested Fillmore and Tanney Streets be changed.
  - b. Requested that the street names be fully documented.
  - c. Question that all parts of a street like Jordan (North, South, and Court) be changed? The answer was yes.
  - d. What if residents do not want their street names changed? What is the process?
  - e. Frank Fannon commented that he was not in favor of changing street names, suggested reframing names, and recommended listening to residents on the affected streets.
  
8. Adjournment at 7:07 p.m., a motion by Councilman Chapman and second by Councilmember Bagley.