



HEARING NOTES

Bill: 22-0218

City Property - Renaming Robert E. Lee Park to Lake Roland Park

Committee: Economic and Community Development

Chaired By: Councilwoman Sharon Green Middleton

Hearing Date: September 20, 2022

Time (Beginning): 3:06 PM

Time (Ending): 3:32 PM

Location: Clarence "Du" Burns Council Chambers / Virtual WEBEX

Total Attendance: Approximately 15

Committee Members in Attendance:

John Bullock Ryan Dorsey Mark Conway Antonio Glover Robert Stokes Odette Ramos

Bill Synopsis in the file?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> n/a
Attendance sheet in the file?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> n/a
Agency reports read?.....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> n/a
Video or audio-digitally recorded?.....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> n/a
Certification of advertising/posting notices in the file?	<input type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> n/a
Evidence of notification to property owners?.....	<input type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> n/a
Final vote taken at this hearing?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> n/a
Motioned by:.....	Councilmember Ryan Dorsey		
Seconded by:.....	Councilmember Odette Ramos		
Final Vote:.....	Favorable		

Major Speakers

(This is not an attendance record.)

- Liam Davis, Department of Transportation
- Hilary Ruley, Department of Law

- Pedro Aponte, Department of Finance
- Ivor Quashie, Department of Planning
- Nina Themelis, Mayor’s Office of Governmental Relations
- Dave Garza, Baltimore Development Corporation
- KC Kelleher, Department of Real Estate, and the Office of the Comptroller

Major Issues Discussed

1. Chairwoman Middleton opened the meeting, introduced committee members and City representatives and read the bill into the record.
2. Agency representatives testified on behalf of their respective agencies.
3. Ivor Quashie testified on behalf of the Department of Planning. He indicated that he researched the name of Roland Thornberry, but could not find any information about him.
4. The committee discussed the City’s street naming and building naming process. The Baltimore City Code outlines the process for naming streets and parks. The committee was interested in knowing the history of the Roland name. A similar bill had been previously introduced in 2015, but failed. The Roland Park Company had a history of prohibiting the transfer of deeds to people of color. Lake Roland is a National Historic District. The committee discussed the desire to have historical information about the Roland name. Councilmember Ramos has worked with the Friends of Lake Roland and indicated that the group did not find disturbing information. She will provide information to the committee.
5. Ms. Seltzer testified against the name change. She indicated that many of the streams or rivers were named after native tribes that lived nearby.
6. The committee requested the Mayor’s Office of Government Relations and Planning Department to work together to provide the committee with documents regarding naming of the Lake.
7. Councilmember Dorsey provided a 1991 article in the *Baltimore Sun* about The Roland Park Company which named the Roland Park area of Baltimore. The newly developed area was named after Lake Roland which was named after Roland Thornberry.
8. Councilmember Conway indicated the need to fully research names used for City properties.
9. The committee voted to recommend the bill as favorable.
10. The hearing was adjourned.

Further Study

Was further study requested?

Yes No

If yes, describe.

Committee Vote:

Sharon Green Middleton, ChairYea

John Bullock:Yea
Mark Conway:Yea
Ryan Dorsey:Yea
Antonio Glover:Yea
Robert Stokes:Yea
Odette Ramos:Yea

Jennifer L. Coates, Committee Staff

Date: September 20, 2022

cc: Bill File
OCS Chrono File