


FROM	NAME & TITLE	THOMAS J. STOSUR, DIRECTOR 	CITY of BALTIMORE MEMO	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING 8 TH FLOOR, 417 EAST FAYETTE STREET		
	SUBJECT	CITY COUNCIL BILL #18-0216 / CITY PROPERTY – RENAMING AMBROSE KENNEDY PARK TO HENRIETTA LACKS EDUCATIONAL PARK		

DATE:

TO

The Honorable President and
Members of the City Council
City Hall, Room 400
100 North Holliday Street

June 5, 2018

At its regular meeting of May 31, 2018, the Planning Commission considered City Council Bill #18-0216, for the purpose of changing the name of Ambrose Kennedy Park, located at 1002 Harford Avenue, to Henrietta Lacks Educational Park.

In its consideration of this Bill, the Planning Commission reviewed the attached staff report, which recommended approval of City Council Bill #18-0216 and adopted the following resolution; seven members being present (seven in favor):

RESOLVED, That the Planning Commission concurs with the recommendation of its departmental staff, and recommends that City Council Bill #18-0216 be passed by the City Council.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Eric Tiso, Division Chief, Land Use and Urban Design Division at 410-396-8358.

TJS/ewt

attachment

cc: Mr. Pete Hammen, Chief Operating Officer
Mr. Jim Smith, Chief of Strategic Alliances
Ms. Karen Stokes, Mayor's Office
Mr. Colin Tarbert, Mayor's Office
Mr. Kyron Banks, Mayor's Office
The Honorable Edward Reisinger, Council Rep. to Planning Commission
Mr. William H. Cole IV, BDC
Mr. Derek Baumgardner, BMZA
Mr. Geoffrey Veale, Zoning Administration
Ms. Sharon Daboin, DHCD
Mr. Walter Horton, Real Estate
Ms. Elena DiPietro, Law Dept.
Mr. Francis Burnszynski, PABC
Ms. Katelyn McCauley, DOT
Mr. Reginald Moore, Recreation and Parks
Ms. Natawna Austin, Council Services



Stephanie Rawlings-Blake
Mayor

PLANNING COMMISSION

Sean Davis, Chairman

STAFF REPORT



Thomas J. Stosur
Director

May 31, 2018

REQUEST: City Council Bill #18-0216/ City Property- City Property - Renaming Ambrose Kennedy Park to Henrietta Lacks Educational Park

FOR the purpose of changing the name of Ambrose Kennedy Park, located at 1002 Harford Avenue, to Henrietta Lacks Educational Park.

RECOMMENDATION: Approval

STAFF: Ivor Quashie

PETITIONERS: Councilmember Robert Stokes Sr.

OWNERS: Mayor and City Council

SITE/GENERAL AREA

Site Conditions: Ambrose Kennedy Park is a 1.75 acre public park in the Johnston Square neighborhood. The park is bounded by East Eager Street to the north, East Chase Street to the south, Harford Avenue to the west and Valley Street to the east.

General Area: This Park is in a predominantly residential area. It is surrounded by a mixture of single family homes, the Latrobe Homes public housing development and Johnston Square Elementary School.

HISTORY

There are no previous Planning Commission actions regarding this site.

ANALYSIS

Ambrose Kennedy Park contains two basketball courts, and a small community pool. In 2016, the park was chosen to undergo rehabilitation as part of a \$400,000 grant from the National Recreation and Park Association and American Planning Association. The vision for the park includes walking paths, an amphitheater, an open grass playing field, basketball courts bathrooms with changing areas, and a new swimming pool.

In January 1951, Henrietta Lacks, an African American woman, went to The Johns Hopkins Hospital because of abnormal pain and severe bleeding. Ms. Lacks was diagnosed with aggressive cervical cancer. During an exam some of Ms. Lacks' cancer cells were collected without her consent. These cells were cultured by cell biologist, George Otto Gey who created the cell line known as HeLa, which is still used today for medical research.

Jonas Salk, a medical researcher and virologist used HeLa cells to develop the vaccine for polio. HeLa cells have also been used for cancer research, AIDS research and the effects of radiation and other toxic substances on humans.

Councilman Stokes introduced this bill in recognition of Ms. Lacks' contributions to medical research.

For these reason staff recommends approval of City Council Bill #18-0216.

Notification: Planning staff notified the Monument East Tenants' Association, Re-BUILD Johnston Square, Latrobe Resident Council, Inc., Oliver Community Association, Inc. Councilmember Robert Stokes Sr. of this matter.



Thomas J. Stosur
Director