

CUMBERLAND COUNTY POLICY COMMITTEE
COURTHOUSE, 117 DICK STREET, 5TH FLOOR, ROOM 564
MAY 23, 2017 – 3:00 P.M.
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Commissioner Charles Evans, Chairman
 Commissioner Michael Boose
 Commissioner Larry Lancaster

OTHERS PRESENT: Amy Cannon, County Manager
 Tracy Jackson, Assistant County Manager
 Melissa Cardinali, Assistant County Manager for Finance/
 Administrative Services
 Rick Moorefield, County Attorney
 Jeffery Brown, Engineering & Infrastructure Director
 Judge Jim Ammons, Resident Superior Court Judge
 Lee Warren, Register of Deeds
 Candice White, Clerk to the Board
 Press

1. CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Evans called the meeting to order.

Amy Cannon, County Manager, requested moving Item 3. to Item 2. so naming of the courthouse could be considered first since Judge Jim Ammons, Resident Superior Court Judge, and Lee Warren, Register of Deeds, were present.

MOTION: Commissioner Boose moved to approve the agenda with Item 3. becoming
 Item 2. and Item 2. becoming Item 3.
SECOND: Commissioner Evans
VOTE: UNANIMOUS (3-0)

2. CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST TO NAME THE CUMBERLAND COUNTY
 COURTHOUSE IN HONOR OF JUDGE E. MAURICE BRASWELL

BACKGROUND

Superior Court Judge James Ammons, Jr. and others have presented a request and petition to name the Cumberland County Courthouse in honor of retired Superior Court Judge E. Maurice Braswell. This item was considered by the Facilities Committee on May 4, 2017, and Superior Court Judge James Ammons, Jr. and Register of Deeds Lee Warren both spoke briefly about the request at the May 15, 2017 Board of Commissioners' Meeting.

RECOMMENDATION/PROPOSED ACTION:

Staff presents this information for the Policy Committee's review and consideration.

Commissioner Evans recognized Judge Ammons and Mr. Warren and extended an opportunity for them to offer comments.

Mr. Warren spoke to Judge Braswell's military service stating he was a decorated World War II veteran, was awarded six Bronze Stars and was also a prisoner of war. Mr. Warren stated Judge Braswell never thought twice about serving his country because his country needed him. Mr. Warren stated Judge Braswell was a great mentor to kids in his neighborhood when he was growing up and he does not know of anyone finer or more befitting of this honor.

Judge Ammons stated the group making the request to name the courthouse in honor of Judge Braswell realizes the request is somewhat unusual because there are only two other courthouses in North Carolina named for someone; Franklin County for Judge Hamilton H. Hobgood and New Hanover County for retired District Attorney Allen Cobb, Sr. Judge Ammons stated there are scores of people who made this courthouse and judicial system what they are today and many others who served honorably and with distinction, but there is no one more deserving of this honor than Judge E. Maurice Braswell, a man of impeccable character and a public servant for fifty years.

MOTION: Commissioner Lancaster moved to name the Cumberland County Courthouse in honor of Judge E. Maurice Braswell.

SECOND: Commissioner Boose

VOTE: UNANIMOUS (3-0)

Ms. Cannon asked the committee to consider the request to have Judge Braswell's name added to the courthouse and stated Jeffrey Brown, Engineering and Infrastructure Director, prepared some options for the committee to consider. Mr. Brown displayed pictures of the E. Newton Smith building that has no exterior signage on the building but rather two street signs. Mr. Brown stated there is also a plaque located in the first floor conference room. Mr. Brown displayed images of the rear of the courthouse and two options for the front of the courthouse along with the estimated costs for each.

Option #1

Leave the current 16-inch letters in place with Judge Braswell's name above in 12-inch letters.....

- Materials - \$3,014
- Installation - \$2,700
- Total = \$5,714

Option #2

Lower the current letters and place Judge Braswell's name in 16-inch letters above it.....

- Materials - \$4,606
 - Installation - \$5,950
- Total = \$10,556

Mr. Brown stated Option #2 will present a problem because if the existing letters are lowered, the placement of the former letters and the patching of the holes in the facade will always be visible.

Questions and discussion followed.

MOTION: Commissioner Boose moved to select Option #1 with an interior brass plaque.

SECOND: Commissioner Lancaster

DISCUSSION: Judge Ammons stated Option #1 is acceptable and is cost-wise. Judge Ammons stated it is still the Cumberland County Courthouse but having Judge Braswell's name displayed accomplishes the group's request. Judge Ammons suggested the brass plaque could replace the map of fire exits thus allowing the original plaque on the opposite side to remain. Mr. Warren asked whether it would be possible in another budget year to do something similar on the rear of the courthouse because that is where 90% of people see the courthouse. Judge Ammons suggested using the larger letters on the rear of the courthouse above the current letters. Mr. Brown stated that would be at the discretion of the Board of Commissioners.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS (3-0)

Ms. Cannon stated this item will be brought before the full Board at the June 5, 2017 meeting as an item of business so Mr. Brown can display the images.

3. CONSIDERATION OF A FACILITIES NAMING POLICY

BACKGROUND:

At the May 4, 2017 Facilities Committee Meeting, the Committee received a request and petition from Superior Court Judge James Ammons, Jr. and others to rename the Cumberland County Courthouse after retired Judge E. Maurice Braswell. At present, Cumberland County does not have a formal process or policy for naming facilities owned by the County. Staff researched this topic and drafted the attached policy for the Committee's review and deliberation.

The E. Newton Smith Building is the only County-owned facility currently bestowed with the name of a public figure. As a precedent, signage for this facility is free-standing and not physically attached to the building.

RECOMMENDED/PROPOSED ACTION:

Review and consider the draft Facilities Naming Policy (recorded below), provide guidance to staff if any revisions are desired as well as consider the manner a memorial should be displayed at a County facility.

**COUNTY OF CUMBERLAND
FACILITY NAMING POLICY**

DRAFT #3 FOR REVIEW & DELIBERATION ONLY

I. PURPOSE

To establish a formal policy and process for naming public facilities owned by Cumberland County. A sound policy can add meaning and significance that embody the value and heritage of this ~~community~~ **County**.

II. AUTHORIZATION

~~Respective Boards, such as the Cumberland County Library Board of Trustees, shall be responsible for recommending to the Cumberland County Board of Commissioners the naming of any applicable facilities owned by Cumberland County subject to approval of the Board of Commissioners. For those facilities that are directly held by the jurisdiction of the County,~~ The Board of County Commissioners will be responsible for **considering and recommending the naming of facilities that are owned by the County.**

III. OBJECTIVES

- A. Provide name identification wherever appropriate for public buildings, structures, facilities, and specified areas.
- B. Provide for citizen input into the process of naming facilities as described above.
- C. Ensure control for the naming of facilities by the Cumberland County Board of Commissioners ~~through the recommendations of the respective advisory and/or governing board.~~

IV. QUALIFYING NAMES

Names should provide some form of individual identity related to:

- A. The geographic location of the facility
- B. A geologic, historical, botanical, horticultural, or scientific feature inherent to the area
- C. An outstanding feature of the facility
- D. Commonly recognized historical event, group, or individual
- E. An adjoining subdivision, school, or street

- F. An individual, donor, or group who contributed significantly to the acquisition or development of the individual facility
- G. An individual who provided an exceptional service in the interest of the ~~community~~ County as a whole
- H. An individual who has provided at least twenty-five years of service to the County
- I. An individual who has been deceased at least one (1) year

V. NAMING PROCESS

- A. At the time land or a facility is acquired, but before development or occupancy occurs, the County Manager will assign a non-descript working name for the area or facility.
- B. Once development is initiated, or occupancy of the facility occurs, the County Policy Committee will receive naming applications in writing for review ~~by any respective board as applicable.~~ If approved by the Policy Committee, the recommendation of a Qualifying Name will go on to the full Board of Commissioners for further consideration.
- C. For an individual (excluding historically significant individuals) to be considered, that person must have contributed significantly to the acquisition or development of the facility or the overall ~~community~~ County. ~~The individual contribution must compliment or support the mission of the respective Board or department.~~ Substantial contribution may consist of volunteer services, the provision of land, or a monetary donation. The recommended name must be submitted by a group and accompanied by 1) a biographical sketch which shall provide evidence of contributions to the department, facility, or ~~community~~ County overall, and 2) a petition demonstrating broad support for the person being recommended. The person must be of fine moral character with demonstrated leadership qualities.
- D. After a name is decided upon by the Board of Commissioners, public notice of the recommended Qualifying Name will occur twice in a sixty (60) day public-notice period.

VI. RENAMING

- A. The renaming of a facility is strongly discouraged. It is recommended that efforts to change a name be subject to the most critical examination so as not to diminish the original justification for the name or discount the value of prior contributors.
- B. Facilities named after individuals should never be changed unless it is found that the individual's personal character is or was such that the continued use of their name for a facility would not be in the best interest of the ~~community~~ County.

- C. In order for a facility to be considered for renaming, the recommended name must qualify according to Section V of this policy.

VII. OTHER NAMING ALTERNATIVES

- A. Facilities or land ~~that are~~ donated to Cumberland County can be named by deed restriction by the donor. The naming and acceptance of the facility or land is subject to approval by the ~~respective Boards as applicable~~ **Board of Commissioners**.

VIII. PLAQUES, MARKERS, AND MEMORIALS

- A. All plaques, markers, and memorials are subject to the same naming criteria in Section V of this policy.
- B. Because of their proneness to vandalism and maintenance, plaques, markers, and memorials should be used sparingly.
- C. ~~The respective Board, subject to the approval by the Cumberland County Board of Commissioners,~~ shall determine the style, size, and placement of all plaques, signs, or markers on a case-by-case basis. In general, the plaques, signs, or markers shall blend or compliment their environment.
- D. ~~The respective Board, subject to approval by the Cumberland County Board of Commissioners, shall decide upon all markers that are exceptions to the requirements listed above on a case-by-case basis.~~

Ms. Cannon stated the draft policy is for future requests the County may receive for the naming of a County facility, and it is the discretion of the Committee whether it wants to discuss and take action for a recommendation to the full Board today, or forward the draft policy to another meeting of the Policy Committee. Discussion followed. Consensus was to forward to the August 3 meeting of the Policy Committee to allow an opportunity for other commissioners to send highlighted modified versions of the draft policy and/or attend the August 3 meeting to provide input.

4. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.