

MEMORANDUM

To: Government Operations Committee
From: Norman S. Heitmann, III City Solicitor
Re: Naming of City Property
Date: February 10, 2015

The Code of the City of Bangor, §271-5, provides that the naming or changing of names of city properties including streets, parks and buildings are done by the City Council by Order. The Government Operations Committee has requested that staff provide information regarding standards and criteria for the naming of City property that may be included in a policy should the Council decide to adopt one. For the purpose of this discussion we have focused on buildings and parks.

A. Reasons that support having a policy:

1. Ensure that City-owned buildings and parks are given names which are consistent with the values and character of the neighborhood served.
2. Establish a process for naming City owned buildings and parks consistently.
3. Minimize conflict by providing a forum and parameters for discussions about naming City-owned buildings and parks.

B. Criteria to consider when naming a building or park:

1. name the building or park after any of the following:
 - a. Neighborhood
 - b. Boundary roads
 - c. Natural features
 - d. Significant historical events, attributes or figures
 - e. An individual who has:
 1. Been deceased for at least 5 years; AND
 2. Demonstrated outstanding civic service; OR
 3. Achieved public status worthy of long-term recognition

f. An organization or individual (living or deceased) who made an admirable and substantial land or monetary donation to the building or park, or name designated/requested by such organization or individual.

C. Conditions:

1. In order to minimize confusion, names should be assigned to parts of a building, but could be allowed for rooms/spaces within the building. The policy would allow for naming an entire building. This would result in only one name on the exterior of the building (name of the building itself) but allow for several names within the building for particular rooms/space.

2. In order to minimize confusion, names that are similar to existing names of buildings, parks, trails, or other properties in the City of Bangor should not be considered.