



OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Chairwoman Liz Seman and Members of the Roads, Infrastructure and Public Works Committee

FROM: Joseph Kernell, County Administrator

DATE: May 2, 2024

RE: Request to name the Mt. Pleasant Community Center Gymnasium after the late Rev. Furman P. Gatewood, Sr.

Greenville County has received a request to name the gymnasium at the Mt. Pleasant Community Center after the late Rev. Furman P. Gatewood, Sr., who served as a dedicated employee and manager of the center for many years. A copy of the written request is enclosed with this memorandum.

According to established protocol, the County Administrator reviews requests to name County-owned property to identify any potential concerns. The Greenville County Roads, Infrastructure and Public Works Committee will carefully consider the proposal and provide its recommendation to the County Council for final decision.

After reviewing the enclosed proposal, I have not identified concerns regarding the proposal to honor Rev. Furman Gatewood's legacy by naming the gym at the Mt. Pleasant Community Center after him, engraving the glass above the gym entrance with his name, and placing a plaque in the lobby detailing his contributions to the community.

If you need any additional information or further clarification regarding this matter, please feel free to contact me.



5-1-24

To: Joe Kernell, Greenville County Administrator

From: Ted Lambrecht, Assistant County Administrator, PRT

Subject: Naming of the Mt. Pleasant Community Center Gymnasium

Mr. Kernell,

Furman Gatewood was an employee of Greenville County Parks, Recreation, and Tourism for 31 years working as the Manager of our Mt. Pleasant Community Center. Furman began with Greenville County Recreation Commission on November 11, 1986 and retired on April 24, 2017. He passed away on July 22, 2023.

To honor his legacy and dedication to the Mt. Pleasant Community, we would like to name the Mt. Pleasant Gymnasium after Furman -- The Rev. Furman P. Gatewood, Sr. Gymnasium. We would add his name to the entrance to the gym and place a plaque in the lobby of the center. By naming the gym after him, we not only pay tribute to his legacy but also inspire future generations to embody his values of compassion, dedication, and community-mindedness.

Furman Gatewood epitomized qualities that are highly valued in our community. He was caring, devoted, trustworthy, and a man of integrity. Throughout his tenure as the manager of the Mt. Pleasant Community Center, he consistently demonstrated his unwavering commitment to the well-being and growth of our community.

Moreover, Rev. Gatewood's faithfulness and dependability were instrumental in the success of the Mt. Pleasant Community Center. He was a pillar of reliability, ensuring that the center operated smoothly and efficiently. His tireless efforts and love for mankind greatly impacted numerous lives, making him an irreplaceable figure in the community.

To immortalize Furman Gatewood's remarkable contributions, we propose that the Mt. Pleasant Community Center Gym be named in his honor. The gym, a space where individuals gather to engage in physical activities, represents the vibrancy and unity that Furman brought to our community.



ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, December 5th, 2023 at 12:00 pm

Administrative Office

4806 Old Spartanburg Road, Taylors, SC 29687

Call to Order

Board Chair Jack Puckett called the meeting to order at 12:07 pm.

Roll Call

Board Members Present: Jack Puckett, Frank Mansbach, Tamara Dwyer, Kristen Cassell, Judy Wilson, Tom Bates, David Edwards

Board Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Ted Lambrecht, Nancy Callahan, Don Shuman, Merv Faassen de Heer, Ty Houck, Colin Young, Lawanda Curry

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Chairman Puckett presented the September 12th, 2023 meeting minutes and asked for a motion to approve. Mr. Bates motioned to approve, Ms. Cassell seconded, and motion passed unanimously.

Appearance of Citizens

Lasonia Williams - 14 Wild Meadow Drive, Simpsonville, SC 29681

Ms. Williams addressed the board on the topic of improvements to Lincoln Park in Taylors.

Old Business

None

New Business

1. Recognition of Rev. Furman Gatewood

Ms. Callahan introduced Earline Gatewood, wife of the late Furman Gatewood who was a County Rec employee for 31 years and passed away in July. Ms. Gatewood shared Furman's background in the Mt. Pleasant Community, serving youth, seniors, and anyone needing a helping hand. Furman brought his expertise and passion for community to the Mt. Pleasant Community Center performing a variety of roles including Center Manager for a number of years. Ms. Gatewood met with recreation staff on options to recognize Reverend

Gatewood at the center and would like to name the gymnasium in his honor. The request would include text along the gymnasium entrance window and a dedication plaque in the lobby. If recommended by the board, the request could be recommended the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee of Greenville County Council that oversees recreation matters and dedications. Mr. Bates made a motion to recommend the matter move forward, Ms. Cassell seconded the motion, and it was supported unanimously.

2. Southside Park Playground Renovation

Mr. Young announced the department's intentions to replace and renovate the Southside Park Playground in the next fiscal year. Master plans, photographs and aerial footage were presented as well as a recent history of park improvements – new basketball, tennis and pickleball courts, new disc golf course and picnic shelters, and renovated restroom. The playground, installed in 2003, was the next park amenity for improvement and one of the most visible and well used facilities at the park. Board members were asked to provide feedback on playground features, amenities, styles, and features. Input included shaded areas, zip lines, and security features.

3. 2024 Meeting Dates

Mr. Lambrecht presented the proposed meeting dates for the 2024 calendar year based on the standard schedule. Mr. Bates and Ms. Dwyer expressed concern about June 11th because it was an election day. Staff will evaluate alternate options and present to the board at the next meeting.

Staff Report

1. Oakland Plantation

Mr. Lambrecht shared developing news of a potential, future county park in the Five Forks area of Greenville County. The Upstate Preservation Trust, a historical preservation non-profit, and the Greenville County Historic & Natural Resources Trust, a County appointed board, are working together to purchase the former YMCA of Greenville Hollingsworth Outdoor Center. The property, or a portion thereof, would be donated to Greenville County for future passive park development. The property is known as Oakland Plantation and has a number of historical and ecological features. It would preserve open space in one of the most populated areas of the County and meet several goals of the Five Forks Area Plan and Greenville County Comprehensive Plan.

Adjourn

Chairman Puckett made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:47 pm. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted:

Jack Puckett
Chairman, PRT Advisory Board

Ted Lambrecht
Assistant County Administrator

The Rev. Furman P. Gatewood, Sr. Gymnasium

The Mt. Pleasant Gymnasium is dedicated to Rev. Furman P. Gatewood, Sr. for his passion in working with the youth and seniors of the Mt. Pleasant Community.

Furman spent 31 years of exemplary service bringing life, light and hope to all through his selfless acts of kindness and commitment to mankind. He lived a life of service.

To a man who gave so much yet asked for so little.

Service to Greenville County Parks, Recreation, and Tourism

November 11, 1986 to his retirement on April 24, 2017

Dedicated on _____.