

PORTION OF MINUTES REGARDING THE RENAMING OF HILLSBORO INLET PARK

III. Renaming of the “Hillsboro Inlet Park” to “The Roger’s Family Park”

Mr. Bowman stated this is the 19th Item on our Local Register of Historic Places which is significant to our record here for the minutes. It is not on the local register because of its name, but because of what is in the park. If you are having any questions in your mind, we are not changing anything in the park, it is just about the name.

Rob Wyre thanked the HPC members and said in their packet there is a letter he had written requesting consideration for the name change of this park. He read the first paragraph: “Shipwreck Park, Inc. is recommending that the “Hillsboro Inlet Park” be renamed “The Roger’s Family Park.” Mr. Roy Rogers has done many things for the benefit of Pompano Beach and the South Florida Region. To begin, the Roy Rogers Family made a Hundred Thousand Dollar (\$100,000.00) pledge for the Wahoo Bay project and is aptly named the Hillsboro Inlet Park. Without this significant contribution from the Roger’s Family, the Wahoo Project would not have been able to secure the necessary materials to start this project.”

Mr. Wyre stated, “He has known Roy Rogers for 10 years, but there are people in this room who have known Roy a lot longer than him, having only moved to the area 12 years ago in 2010. He said he listed some of his accomplishments further on in the letter that he would be more than happy to talk about, but there are people in this room that can talk about much to the contribution that Roy has made to this community than can I, but I can specifically talk about the contribution that he has made to Shipwreck Park and specifically Wahoo Bay. He had provided the necessary funding to get this project off the ground and he is pleased to report to this board this evening, that we are very, very close to commencing construction on the actual infrastructure at Wahoo Bay. Roy also was very instrumental in introducing us to the President of FAU. Wahoo Bay has struck up a Memorandum of Understanding and a wonderful relationship with FAU, they are ones that have provided the water monitoring quality devices and the weather station in the park itself currently. But, more importantly, they have assigned instructors and students to help us in the development of the www.wahobay.net website. That website will be our curriculum development site. It will be the site that contains all of the data that is being recorded in Wahoo Bay and it will be used to develop age appropriate curriculum for children to understand what is going on in the world around them, not just Wahoo Bay, but what is going on in the oceans around them. It will also introduce them and include to some very important STEM curriculum by taking the information we are gathering from this park to allow for the further development and promotion of the Wahoo Bay itself.

Mr. Wyre asked with permission, he has two other gentlemen in this room that are much more capable of talking about Mr. Rogers’ other contributions to this community and asked that he be granted permission to let them speak to the other board members.

Mr. Bowman first asked if the committee members had any questions for Mr. Wyre?

Ms. Aycock asked Mr. Wyre to differentiate between Wahoo Bay and the Hillsboro Inlet Committee.

Mr. Wyre responded stating Wahoo Bay is a small body of water that sits in the inlet that abuts the Hillsboro Inlet Park. Mr. Wyre stated you can also find information and a graphic representation at www.wahoobay.org. that piece of property was acquired by the city and has received all of the necessary permitting approvals to offer this educational immersive experience for students. It actually adjoins the Inlet Park and is actually the seawall that abuts the inlet.

Mr. Bowman stated from a historian standpoint, there was a family that had the Wahoo Lodge is that on Wahoo Bay and the Historical Society has information on this family and the Wahoo Lodge.

Anthony Abbate thanked the members for allowing him to speak. He stated his relationship with Roy Rogers goes back to the 1980s when he just came out of grad school and he was an intern at his architect's office in Ft. Lauderdale. Mr. Rogers used to give helicopter rides across Broward County and especially, what later became the City of Weston. His vision for Weston, I think led to one of the best planned communities in the United States. Subsequent to Weston, he spearheaded several other movements, most important was the 'Eastward Ho Movement,' which has impacted not only our region but from Miami all the way up to Palm Beach and this transition and redevelopment of the Eastern Corridor.

When Mr. Rogers moved to Pompano, Mr. Abbate said he became involved with him at a level when he was working for the County doing the Community Design Guidebook and one of the demonstration areas was the City of Pompano. We focused on the downtown, as well as the historic areas on both sides of Dixie Highway. That demonstration project later became codified and led to the redevelopment plans that we are now witnessing throughout Pompano Beach. His contributions go beyond the City of Pompano Beach.

I think from a regional perspective, Mr. Abbate said he cannot think of anybody else more influential in terms of what has happened positively for our region so I would think the dimensions of naming a park in Pompano after Roy and his family recognizes his regional rapport and I would venture to say statewide because of his model for redevelopment.

Mr. Bowman asked if anyone else would like to say something.

Barbara Armbrister Boynton said she would like to say "kudos" to Roy. She met him on the Educational Advisory Committee and he has done work at two of our schools and helped support the Butterfly Garden. He has been very good friends with Lynne Warrick and they speak all the time. Mr. Boynton said we are all getting up in age and asked how Roy is doing?

Tom DiGiorgio stated Roy has had some health issues recently and that is why it has become a little bit urgent. Mr. DiGiorgio stated Mr. Rogers is doing well, his mind is completely there and he is having a hard time being mobile right now. He lost his wife, Mandy, a couple of years ago so he slowed him down a bit. Mr. DiGiorgio said he has lunch with him once every couple of weeks. He and Rob Wyre had lunch with him last week and he is sharp as a tack and he is always thinking about everybody else, never about himself.

Ms. Boynton said lastly, you talked about doing something in his honor. If you do, we would love to celebrate him and Ms. Warrick who will be 100 years old in April. If we could combine or do something for the two of them because they have been very inspirational in this city of Pompano Beach, especially in our lower performing schools where our kids don't get that exposure to the ecosystem and the marine life.

The Rotary Club also honored Mr. Rogers who was honored by the Rotary Club 4 years ago and is the highest honor for a non-Rotarian member to receive.

Chris Brown stated it would be a pleasure to have Roy Rogers name on that park. He has known Roy for 40 years and his brother was an architect who had an office on Las Olas. One day his brother took him to see Roy at a trailer up in Weston where he was developing property for the Arvida Corporation. It was a 20,000 acre subdivision and he was a master developer. To listen to all the great things, he has done over his life, he is a master of many, many things, so I think it would be a great honor to have him memorialized in Pompano Beach.

Dirk DeJong said he has known Roy for over 30 years. He was one of the first true business people when he first came to Pompano to work at Furman Insurance. With that, we have been able to work on a number of projects together. He was responsible for redoing a complete irrigation system at John Knox that was specialized because of the amount of water they used. Without him, it would never have been accomplished. He was involved in Centennial Park with all the landscaping we put over there. If you had a middle name for Roy, it would be "Parks". It was approximately, 11 years ago, when he got a call from Roy asking for help with a project he was working on. When asked, Roy told him he wanted to put together a foundation for Broward County Parks so we can raise money for areas in the City that don't have facilities a park needs for certain areas. He said, "I want you to be a part of that foundation so we can raise money." Because of him, the Foundation is 11 years old and it is an incredible piece of work and we work directly with Dan Weiss of the Broward County parks, all because of Roy. We would not have the windmill at the Sample-McDougall House if it weren't for Roy getting it moved as well as other around the county. He and his family truly deserve it.

Mr. Hobby said he has known Roy for 40 years and this is a great idea and probably too little for a person of his magnitude. Mr. Hobby said, "He would like to bring up is what everybody is saying here "... Roy did this and Roy did this...Roy did this" and I think it should be named "Roy Rogers Family Park" and not the Rogers Family Park. He never did shy away from using the name Roy Rogers.

Mr. Hobby said there are a lot of "Rogers" around. We have a congressman Paul Rogers, Ft. Lauderdale City Commissioner Romney Rogers and I'm sure there a ½ dozen Rogers in Pompano that deserves accolades. But I would really urge, to consider that it be "Roy Rogers" or if he has a middle name, "Roy L. Rogers" because I think it almost diminishes him a little bit to shy away from the name that he used all his life.

Mr. Wyre said he happens to agree with Mr. Hobby. There was a concern about confusion by putting the "Roy Rogers Family Park" that he would get lost in the hype in the movie star, Roy Rogers, and that may not pay the correct homage to the man. Secondly, Roy made it very, very clear when he made his contributions to Shipwreck Park, that it is not the Roy Rogers Foundation,

it is the Roy Rogers Family Foundation. Mr. Wyre said he is not opposed to the will of this group to amend the application to Roy Rogers Family Park. Then we will tell Roy and his kids will support this 100%. Mr. Wyre said they have been on the fence with this.

Micah Johnson said that sounds like a great idea and asked how years Mr. Rogers has been in the area.

Mr. DiGiorgio stated he has been here in south Florida since he got out of the Navy in 1960. Roy went to the Naval Academy, and he was one of a few individuals who enlisted without a high school degree. When the Navy found this out, he had to take his GED to actually join. He ended up being the head of his class and was on surface boats and submarines. He has just given back from the beginning and I think he learned that at the Naval Academy and probably learned that from his mom. Mr. DiGiorgio said he has known Roy as a family man and his son was his roommate.

Mr. DiGiorgio said one of the things on our list is the school system. When we started working on the projects, we had 3 "F" schools in Pompano Beach. Roy got involved with the school board, other folks and concerned citizens, and within 3 years, they were high "B's" and two of them became "A's". Whatever he touches and gets involved with, he puts everything into it and always has. The background of this is why not just name Wahoo Bay the portion of that where we are doing the project after him, and that was our first suggestion. Across the board, the City Commissioners, folks from the County said absolutely not. There are 2 inlets in Broward County, he deserves something that is the magnitude of what he has done for this community. That park kinds of helps us with that. He has done so much for this community worth millions of dollars, between his relationship with DOT, his work on Complete Streets, buying Dixie Highway, Butterfly World, the butterfly gardens he put in at the schools or the retirement homes and I think this is a way for us to show our appreciation like we did with the Fisher Family Pier and he was so pleased Betty was able to be there when they dedicated that.

Mr. DiGiorgio said Roy has a little trouble moving around, but he is in good enough shape and he is completely coherent and sharp as a tack, and I would like to see us get this done in his lifetime.

Mr. DiGiorgio said he likes what Dan Hobby said and if you would like to amend your Motion to make that recommendation and we would support that. I like the "Roy Rogers Family Park" better and I support what Dan says.

Mr. Wyre said and what we would like permission to do is inject a middle name or something to give it a little more separation. Mr. Wyre said they will do that research.

Mr. Bowman stated that is not their decision but we could amend something but our vote has to be on what we've been presented on your application.

Mr. Bowman stated the HPC is open for a Motion for the Application for this application to be approved on behalf of the HPC as an advisor to the City Commission. There is no question of the contribution of Mr. Rogers to the community and even to the historic aspect.

Mr. Hobby asked Ms. Barszewski if the HPC can approve this Motion and then make a second Motion and recommendation for it to be amended to Roy Rogers?

Motion made by Barbara Armbrister Boynton to approve the renaming of the "Hillsboro Inlet Park" to "The Roger's Family Park. Motion seconded by Mona Silverstein. All voted in favor of the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Bowman asked for another Motion if have an opinion or suggestion, he is open to the Committee making another Motion and that they consider "Roy (a middle name) Rogers Family Park."

MOTION made by Tobi Aycock to consider using Roy's first or full name. Motion seconded by Micah Johnson. All voted in favor of the motion. Motion passed unanimously.