

## **HOW TO APPLY FOR A PUBLIC PROPERTY NAMING/RENAMING**

A completed application, including the appropriate fee, shall be submitted to the Current Planning Division of the Planning Department. See Section 27-141 through Section 27-155 – Naming of Public Property for complete regulations and procedures.

If such request is for the renaming of a public street, the required petition forms must be included with the application. The petition must be signed by at least 60 percent of the number of owners of properties abutting the portion of the street to be renamed. Such petition forms can be picked up at the City of Omaha Planning Department.

Upon receipt of a completed application, the naming/renaming request will be reviewed and a written recommendation/report made by the following:

- ❖ Planning Director
- ❖ City Councilmember representing the City Council district in which the proposed request is located
- ❖ City Naming Committee\*
- ❖ Respective Board (Parks Advisory, Library or Planning)\*

\* If the naming/renaming application is for a commemorative designation, the request will not be forwarded to the City Naming Committee or respective Board (Parks, Library or Planning) for review. If the commemorative designation is approved by the City Council, the applicant shall contact the appropriate City department to determine the number of commemorative signs/plaques to be posted and the cost to be paid by the applicant to make and install such said signs/plaques.

### **CRITERIA – STREET RENAMING**

- ❖ Consideration shall be primarily given to the following purposes: to honor and commemorate noteworthy persons associated with the City; to celebrate local history, places, events or culture; to strengthen neighborhood identity; or to recognize native wildlife, flora, fauna or natural features related to the community and the City.
- ❖ If an application is made to rename a street after an individual, this person shall have: 1) Demonstrated excellence of contributions to the City's development, community service, personal sacrifice for public service or national defense, or efforts to foster equality among the citizens of the City; or 2) Historical significance locally, nationally or globally with significant local or regional ties.
- ❖ Denial of an application may be appropriate if the proposed renaming may tend to bring disrepute upon the community for any reason, or would not be looked upon favorably by a majority of City residents.
- ❖ In the case of renaming a street after any person, such renaming shall be prohibited until the person has been deceased for a period of at least five years, unless the application receives unanimous votes of approval by the Planning Board and the City Council.
- ❖ A street (or segment of a street), originally named after an individual, cannot be renamed unless historical context clearly indicates that such renaming is appropriate.
- ❖ Titles, rank, or religious designations shall not be allowed on a street named for an individual. A nickname shall not be allowed in a street name, unless such person is best known by that nickname.
- ❖ An unbroken, continuous street shall maintain the same name throughout the entire section.
- ❖ A proposed street name should not duplicate (written or phonetically) an existing street name in Douglas County or Sarpy County, or create confusion or problems for the City's emergency services.
- ❖ Street names shall not be longer than can be produced by the standard sign manufacturing capability of the Public Works Department.

## **CRITERIA – PARK PROPERTY**

- ❖ Consideration shall be primarily given to the following purposes: to honor and commemorate noteworthy persons associated with the City; to celebrate local history, places, events or culture; to strengthen neighborhood identity; or to recognize native wildlife, flora, fauna or natural features related to the community and the City.
- ❖ If an application is made to rename a street after an individual, this person shall have: 1) Demonstrated excellence of contributions to the City's development, community service, personal sacrifice for public service or national defense, or efforts to foster equality among the citizens of the City; or 2) Historical significance locally, nationally or globally with significant local or regional ties.
- ❖ Denial of an application may be appropriate if the proposed renaming may tend to bring disrepute upon the community for any reason, or would not be looked upon favorably by a majority of City residents.
- ❖ Titles, rank, or religious designations shall not be allowed on a public park property named for an individual. A nickname will also not be allowed, unless such person is best known by that nickname.
- ❖ In the case of naming or renaming a park or natural environmental feature after any person, such naming or renaming shall be prohibited until the person has been deceased for a period of at least five years. As an exception to this provision, the name of such person may be approved if such person shall have provided direct significant contributions of lands, funds, goods or services to the City, and/or Parks and Recreation Department, or is being recognized for a foundation gift(s), and if such naming or renaming receives unanimous votes of approval by the Parks Advisory Board and the City Council.

## **CRITERIA – LIBRARY PROPERTY**

- ❖ Generally, public library buildings will be named or renamed after a location, subdivision, neighborhood, well-recognized landmark or adjacent street.
- ❖ If an application is made to name or rename library property after an individual, this person shall have: 1) Rendered valuable service to and has had a positive influence on the development of the City's public library system, or was a literary or artistic figure of national prominence who has significant local or regional ties; or 2) Demonstrated excellence of contributions to the City's development, community service, personal sacrifice for public service or national defense, or efforts to foster equality among the citizens of the City; or 3) Historical significance locally, nationally or globally with significant local or regional ties.
- ❖ Denial of an application may be appropriate if the proposed renaming may tend to bring disrepute upon the community for any reason, or would not be looked upon favorably by a majority of City residents.
- ❖ Titles, rank, or religious designations shall not be allowed on a library property named for an individual. A nickname will also not be allowed, unless such person is best known by that nickname.
- ❖ In the case of naming or renaming a library property after any person, such naming or renaming shall be prohibited until the person has been deceased for a period of at least five years. An exception to this provision may be allowed if such person shall have provided a major donation of land and funds for the facility in an amount equal to at least 50 percent of the total cost of the project or is being recognized by a foundation gift(s), and if the naming or renaming receives unanimous votes of approval by the Library Board and the City Council.

## **CRITERIA – OTHER CITY PROPERTY**

- ❖ Consideration shall be primarily given to the following purposes: to honor and commemorate noteworthy persons associated with the City; to celebrate local history, places, events or culture; to strengthen neighborhood identity; or to recognize native wildlife, flora, fauna or natural features related to the community and the City.
- ❖ If an application is made to rename a street after an individual, this person shall have: 1) Demonstrated excellence of contributions to the City's development, community service, personal sacrifice for public service or national defense, or efforts to foster equality among the citizens of

the City; or 2) Historical significance locally, nationally or globally with significant local or regional ties.

- ❖ Denial of an application may be appropriate if the proposed naming or renaming may tend to bring disrepute upon the community for any reason, or would not be looked upon favorably by a majority of City residents.
- ❖ Titles, rank, or religious designations shall not be allowed on a public park property named for an individual. A nickname will also not be allowed, unless such person is best known by that nickname.
- ❖ In the case of naming or renaming a City property after any person, such naming or renaming shall be prohibited until the person has been deceased for a period of at least five years. As an exception to this provision, the name of such person may be approved if such person shall have provided contributions directly or through a foundation to a City facility when that facility would not exist without those contributions, and if such naming or renaming receives unanimous vote of approval by the Planning Board and the City Council.

## **CRITERIA – COMMEMORATIVE DESIGNATIONS**

- ❖ In the commemorative naming of public property, consideration shall be primarily given to the following criteria: to honor and commemorate noteworthy persons associated with the City; to celebrate local history, places, events or culture; or to strengthen neighborhood identity.
- ❖ If an application is made to commemorate a street or city property after an individual, this person shall have: 1) Demonstrated excellence of contributions to the City's development, community service, personal sacrifice for public service or national defense, or efforts to foster equality among the citizens of the City; or 2) Historical significance locally, nationally or globally with significant local or regional ties; or 3) In the case that such a person provided direct contributions or is being recognized for a foundation gift(s) to a City facility when that facility would not exist without those contributions, approval of that request requires unanimous vote by the City Council.
- ❖ Denial of an application may be appropriate if the proposed renaming may tend to bring disrepute upon the community for any reason, or would not be looked upon favorably by a majority of City residents.
- ❖ Titles, rank, or religious designations shall not be allowed in a street name or a public property commemorated for an individual. A nickname will also not be allowed, unless such person is best known by that nickname.
- ❖ A plaque or marker may be used on a facility to honor persons or individuals, even though the facility is not named after them.
- ❖ A commemorative name will be permanent as long as the person honored maintains the criteria stated in these standards: 1) If a commemorative sign/plaque falls into disrepair or is damaged, it shall be the responsibility of the applicant to pay the cost of repair or replacement. If the commemorative sign/plaque is not repaired or replaced, it shall be removed and 2) If the person does not maintain compliance with these criteria, the commemorative sign shall be considered null and void and shall be removed by the City.