



Takoma Park City Council Meeting – September 28, 2016 Agenda Item 1

Voting Session

Resolution Naming Parcel 3 of the Washington-McLaughlin Property “Dorothy’s Woods”

Recommended Council Action

Adopt the resolution.

Context with Key Issues

The City purchased Parcel 3 at a tax auction on January 22, 2015, with the assistance of contributions from a group of residents known as the “Plan B” group. The community has requested that the woods on Parcel 3 be named as “Dorothy’s Woods” for Dorothy Thomsen Barnes, a lifelong City resident and local historian, who lived all her life in a house by the woods.

Council Priority

Livable Community for All; Environmentally Sustainable Community; Engaged, Responsive, and Service-oriented Government

Environmental Impact of Action

N/A

Fiscal Impact of Action

N/A

Attachments and Links

Draft Resolution

[Resolution 2002-37](#) Recognizing City Resident Dorothy Barnes

[Resolution 2015-3](#) Expressing Support for Preserving the Wooded Area of a Portion of the Washington-McLaughlin School Property (Parcel 3)

[Resolution 2015-7](#) Expressing Deep Appreciation to those Who Contributed Towards the Purchase of the Washington-McLaughlin School Parcel 3 Property

[Historic Takoma, Inc. website](#)

Introduced by:

CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND

**RESOLUTION 2016-XX
NAMING THE CITY-OWNED PARCEL OF THE WASHINGTON-MCLAUGHLIN PROPERTY
“DOROTHY’S WOODS”**

- WHEREAS, the City Council expressed support for preserving the 2.68 acre wooded lot, Parcel 3 of the Washington-McLaughlin School property, by Resolution 2015-3 on January 12, 2015, while noting that some minimal development of the parcel may be able to be done while preserving the important natural features of the property; and
- WHEREAS, Parcel 3 was purchased by the City at a tax auction on January 22, 2015; and
- WHEREAS, the purchase was made with strong support from the community, including more than \$53,000 in contributions from the “Plan B” group of residents, to preserve a portion of the property as a wooded area because of the diversity of mature trees, birds and other wildlife, and its water resources including a natural spring; and
- WHEREAS, preservation of the natural area is important to the community, and naming the woods will help make it a special place that is known as more than just a portion of the Washington-McLaughlin school property; and
- WHEREAS, residents have requested that the parcel be named “Dorothy’s Woods,” in recognition of the association between Dorothy Barnes, lifelong resident, local historian, and avid lover of nature, with the property that was behind the house she lived in nearly all her life; and
- WHEREAS, Dorothy Thomsen Barnes was born at 419 Elm Avenue in 1922, in a house at the edge of the woods; and
- WHEREAS, she and her friends grew up playing in the woods behind the house and passed through the woods on their way to school, when the trees were small saplings and not the large trees we see today; and
- WHEREAS, during World War II, Dorothy’s mother and two neighboring women grew a victory garden there; and
- WHEREAS, Dorothy raised her own two daughters in the same house, with the woods behind them; and
- WHEREAS, naming the area as Dorothy’s Woods serves as recognition of the contributions that Dorothy has made to Takoma Park by telling our story and preserving our history and, moreover, the name will continue the lifelong association between Dorothy and the woods.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Takoma Park, Maryland that the woods on Parcel 3 shall be named “Dorothy’s Woods.”

Adopted this ___ day of _____, 2016.