



MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Rich Olson, City Manager
Dexter Harris, Director of Parks & Recreation

Thru: Angela Cole, Assistant City Manager

Date: November 27, 2017

Re: Public Hearing – Naming of the Educational Boardwalk at Charles Creek Park

BACKGROUND:

The Elizabeth City / Pasquotank County Parks & Recreation Department has initiated the construction of an educational boardwalk at Charles Creek Park. The boardwalk would consist of informative alcoves discussing vegetation, trees, and animals that are present in the wetland area within Charles Creek and the Park. During the November 13, 2017 Regular Meeting of the City Council, Councilmember Walton addressed Council and asked that the proposed educational boardwalk be named for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. During this same meeting, the Council called for a public hearing to be held during the November 27, 2017 Regular Meeting.

ANALYSIS:

Martin Luther King, Jr., was born January 15, 1929, in Atlanta, Georgia. Dr. King was a Baptist minister and social activist who led the civil rights movement in the United States from the mid-1950s until his death by assassination in Memphis, Tennessee on April 4, 1968. In 1944, at age 15, King entered Morehouse College in Atlanta. Before beginning college, however, King spent the summer on a tobacco farm in Connecticut; it was his first extended stay away from home and his first substantial experience of race relations outside the segregated South. Dr. King earned his doctoral degree, and taught Social Philosophy at Morehouse College. He is known worldwide for his leadership and teachings during the Civil Rights Movement.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC HEARING:

By motion, officially name the educational boardwalk feature at Charles Creek Park as the *Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Educational Boardwalk at Charles Creek Park*.