

Four Mile Run: Betty King Entrance

Request submitted by:
Hume Springs Civic Association

POC: Colleen Stover and Sarah Bergin

Attention:

James Spengler, Director
Department of Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities
1108 Jefferson St.
Alexandria VA 22314
Email: james.spengler@alexandriava.gov
And cc me (below)

CC: Jack Browand, Division Chief
Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities
Park Planning, Design & Capital Development
1108 Jefferson St.
Alexandria VA 22314
703.746.5504 (O)
202.497.7452 (C)
www.alexandriava.gov/Recreation
www.alexandriava.gov/SocialMedia



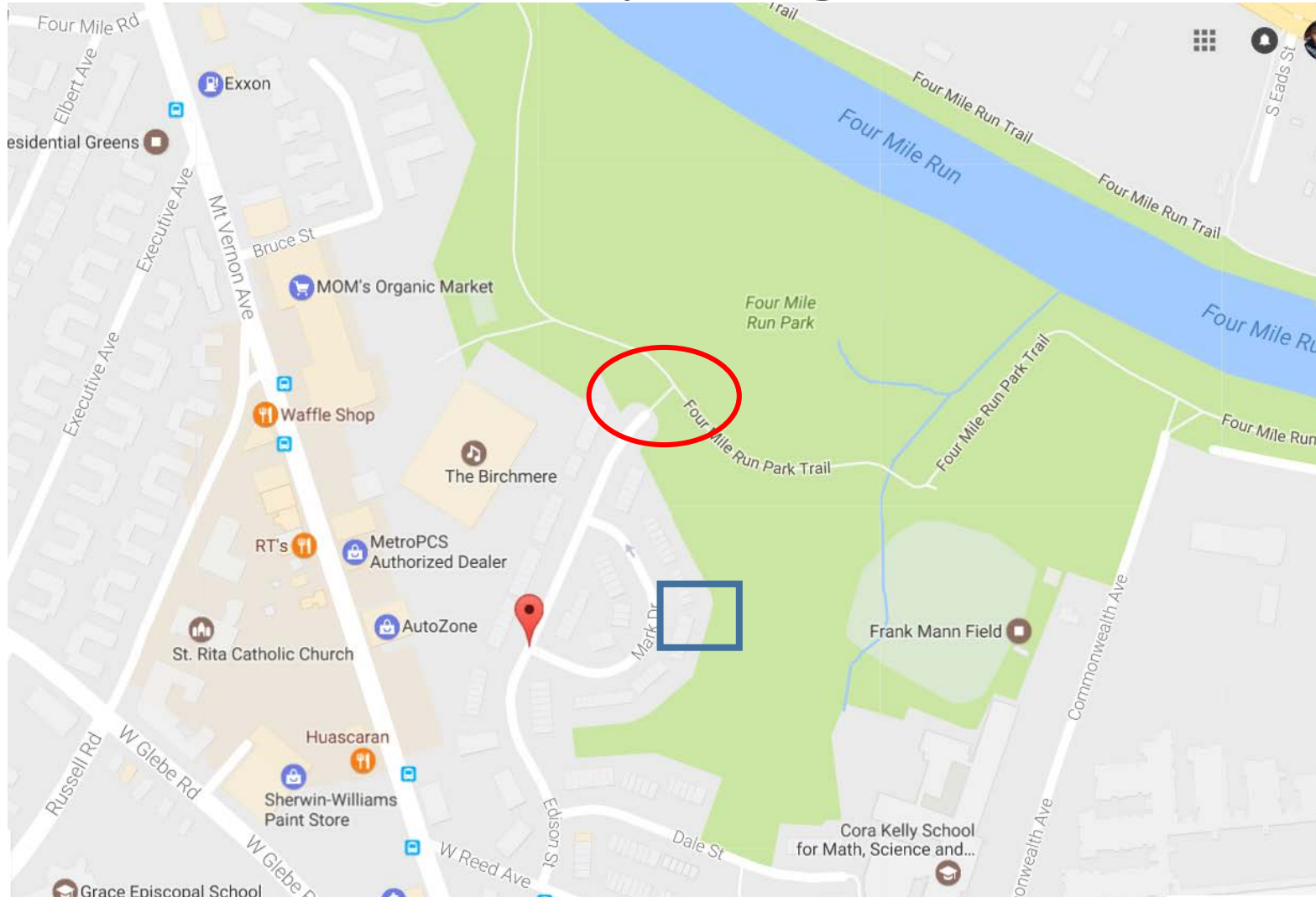
February 2017

Four Mile Run Betty King Entrance



Location of entrance 

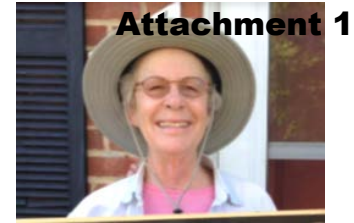
Location of Betty King's Home 



Background information

- Alexandria City currently has budget line item for Four Mile Run entrance improvements that include benches, signs and plantings
- Current entrance is unnamed
- Strong desire from residents to memorialize local history and figures while north Alexandria is being developed and modernized in the near future

Why name entrance after Mrs. Betty King?



- Betty King was a longtime resident of Hume Springs from 1985-2016. Her home overlooked Four Mile Run Park and she enjoyed long walks in the park on a daily basis
- Betty was involved in an official capacity with the City of Alexandria:
 - Member of the Arlandria Small Area Planning group
 - Member of the Four Mile Run Restoration Joint Task Force between Alexandria and Arlington
 - Ran for Alexandria City Council as an independent in 1991
 - Member of partnership between residents and Alexandria Police Department to eject drug dealers from the Hume Springs neighborhood in the 1990s
- Betty was deeply involved in her community:
 - Member and past officer of Hume Springs Citizens Association
 - Historical recorder of the Hume Springs area using photography and research
 - Volunteer science tutor to elementary and middle school neighborhood children for the Hume Springs Citizens Association's Thursday Night Tutoring Program
 - Biology professor (retired) at the Alexandria campus of NOVA influencing young adult Alexandrians pursuing STEM careers



Betty tutoring Hume Spring's children.

Betty running for City Council.



Attachment 1



Betty at a Hume Springs pumpkin carving event.



Betty volunteering at Hume Springs National Night Out.



Betty at a Hume Springs St. Patrick's Day Party.



Photos taken by Betty documenting Hume Springs history.

Attachment 1



Betty participating in Hume Springs National Night out Hula Hoop event.



Betty participating in a tree planting in Hume Springs Park honoring a fallen police officer.



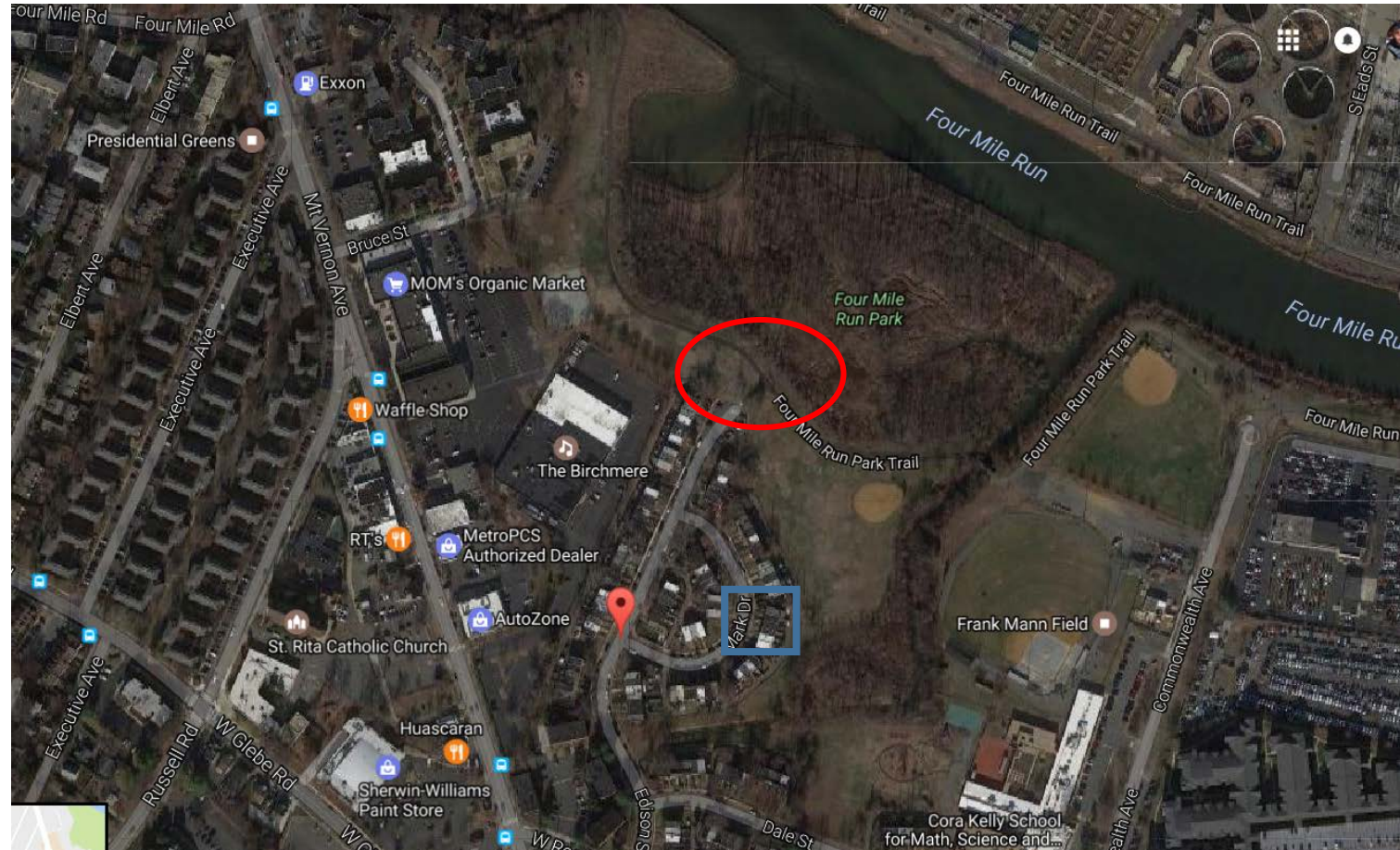
Photo taken by Betty documenting Hume Springs history.

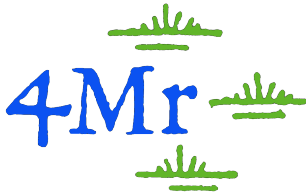
Letters of Endorsement

- From Hume Springs Civic Association
- Four Mile Run Conservatory

Back up slides

Location of Entrance & Betty's home





FOUR MILE RUN CONSERVATORY FOUNDATION

3905 Elbert Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22305

5 March 2017

James Spengler, Director
Department of Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities
1108 Jefferson St.
Alexandria VA 22314

Dear Mr. Spengler:

I am pleased to write a letter in support of naming the Edison Street entrance to Four Mile Run Park after Ms. Betty King, a long-time resident of Hume Springs and advocate for the Park. Betty was a member of the Four Mile Run Joint Task Force, involved even prior to its formation in the visioning for what this urban waterway could become. Day by day we are seeing this vision come to life in the reality of an improved and increasingly beloved Four Mile Run Park. Betty was instrumental in this success.

Betty personified the civic-minded and involved Alexandrian who works not just to improve parks, but to invigorate the tie between parks and community. The active park stewardship we see in Hume Springs today reflects the legacy of her work. It is especially appropriate to name the Edison Street park entrance for her. As this park entrance connects Hume Springs and the Park physically, Betty's energetic involvement helped forge the neighborhood's bond to Four Mile Run Park. Naming it in her honor would represent and reinforce the human connection to the park in the Hume Springs neighborhood.

We are grateful for the work RPCA has done to enhance Four Mile Run Park, and we hope you'll consider and support the naming request.

Sincerely,

Kurt Moser
President

To: James Spengler, Director
 Department of Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities
 City of Alexandria, Virginia



Mr Spengler, et al

On behalf of the *Hume Springs Civic Association I write this letter of endorsement for the naming of Four Mile Run park entrance located at the north end of Edison Street as the Betty King Entrance to Four Mile Run Park. Mrs King was a well-known, long-time resident in the area of this entrance according to multiple generations of Alexandrians who knew her to be an advocate for the surrounding neighborhoods, a teacher and mentor to youth, and a holder of historical knowledge for new residents.

Dr. Betty Louise Josephson King was the epitome of the citizen activist – community involvement in her Hume Springs neighborhood was a passion. She was a member and past Board Member of the Hume Springs Citizens Association, a member of the Arlandria Small Area Planning group and the Four Mile Run Restoration Joint Task Force between Alexandria and Arlington, and she even ran for Alexandria City Council in 1991. Betty had a concern for public safety and was part of a group of residents who were instrumental in ousting drug dealers from Hume Springs in the early 1990s. ([Washington Post link here](#)) Betty followed the community growth by taking professional photographs of families, children and the neighborhood. When the neighborhood had events or gatherings, Betty would display her beautiful framed pictures.

Betty's kitchen window overlooked Four Mile Run Park and her love for the parkland was apparent. Each day she would walk at least two miles in the park. She had a great love for animals and adopted several neighborhood cats and dogs over the course of her life. She loved all types of music, but her favorite venue was the Birchmere Music Hall. She enjoyed eating out and supported a variety of restaurants along northern Mt Vernon Avenue. After retirement from teaching she continued to tutor children in her Hume Springs neighborhood. As our "Biology Guru", her young students loved her!

Betty was a scientist, teacher, community activist, photographer, mother, grandmother, neighbor, and friend who lived in the Hume Springs neighborhood in north Alexandria from the early 1980's until she passed away in her home on Mark Drive last year on June 2, 2016. Betty attended McGill University and later graduated from Brandeis University with a degree in Russian. She went on to earn a Ph.D. in microbiology from [Harvard University](#). She taught biology at Bard College and Skidmore College in New York State for several years before returning to the Washington DC area, where she was involved in the early formation and development of Northern Virginia Community College's biology department and taught for more than three decades.

Betty gave so much of herself to Alexandria and so freely to others, her legacy should live on and be memorialized with the naming of the Edison Street entrance of Four Mile Run Park. Please consider the Betty King Entrance to Four Mile Run Park and if you have any questions regarding our endorsement or need further information on Mrs King's legacy, please let me know.

On behalf of the HSCA Board of Officers, kind regards
 Colleen Stover
 President
 Hume Springs Civic Association

**previously known as Hume Springs Citizens Association*

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