

BACKGROUND: The Simpson Triangle Improvement Group, comprised of several members of the Alexandria Beautification Commission and of the Del Ray community, submitted a proposal (Attachment 1) to name the Simpson Triangle (corner of E. Bellefonte Ave and Richmond Highway) Kettle Park (Attachment 2). This name was derived from an oral history that described an annual tradition for neighbors to bring food, put it in a big kettle in the yard, make a giant soup, and have a party. This tradition embodies the spirit of the Del Ray, to which togetherness and a sense of community are very important.

The Simpson Triangle Improvement Group issued a broad call for name suggestions on social media and at community meetings. Of the dozens of suggestions, we selected six names that we felt were viable. We then used Survey Monkey to poll the community on those six names and received 184 responses. The name "Kettle Park" received the most votes by far (47% of the vote, with "Bellefonte Grove" in second place with 21%).

DISCUSSION: On June 17, 2019, the City Council Naming Committee (Councilwoman Del Pepper, Chair; Councilman John Chapman; and Jack Browand, Division Chief, Department of Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities) voted unanimously to recommend to City Council to approve the naming of the Simpson Triangle to Kettle Park.

FISCAL IMPACT: None.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Simpson Triangle Site Map
2. Kettle Park Naming Proposal

STAFF:

Debra Collins, Deputy City Manager

James Spengler, Director, Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities

Jack Browand, Division Chief, Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities

Dana Wedeles, Principal Planner, Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities

Ana Vicinanza, Urban Planner II, Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities.