

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chairman and Members
Jacksonville Historic Preservation Commission

FROM: Christian Popoli, City Planner Supervisor – Planning and Development

RE: *Arnold Road to Gold Star Family Parkway*

DATE: February 24, 2021

Consistent with Chapter 745 of the Jacksonville Ordinance Code on addressing and street naming regulations, requests to rename streets require a review and recommendation from the Jacksonville Historic Preservation Commission. In making a report and recommendation, the Commission shall address the following criteria:

1. The origin of the street name
2. Any historical significance of the existing street name
3. Whether there are any historical structures or landmarks on the subject street
4. Whether the existing name is part of a common theme of street names throughout the community where such street is located
5. The age of the street name
6. Whether the street name is a duplicate street name

Present Street Name: Arnold Road

Proposed Street Name: Gold Star Family Parkway

Reason for Change:

The proposed street name change is designed to recognize the contributions of family members of fallen soldiers in the armed services. The portion of Arnold Road from Pecan Park Road to the existing Gold Star Family Parkway to the west will serve as a way finder on the way to the Jacksonville National Cemetery.

Background:

The designation of Gold Star Family was established by President Wilson at the suggestion of the Woman's Committee of the Council of National Defense. A Gold Star Family is composed of the immediate family members of a fallen service member who died in a time of conflict.

Arnold Road seems to have originated as a private and unimproved road around the 1920s. The earliest reference is to a quick Claim Deed between Rufus & Effie Wingate and Luvina Ogilvie transferred a 66 foot wide right of way for Arnold Road. At the time, and through 1948, maps indicated that Arnold Road ran from Pecan Park Road to an unnamed drainage ditch. After crossing the ditch, the road became an unmarked forest

trail road. This portion was marked as unimproved though 1971. In 1959, there was discussion at the county level of closing and abandoning Arnold Road due to flooding, but a recommendation by the County District Road Supervisor that an easement would be needed if the road was closed to access and maintain the drainage ditch led to no action of the closure. In 1950, a section of Arnold Road was paved. Sometime in the 1990s a three mile long section of road was constructed connecting the dead end of Arnold Road to Lannie Road.

Report and Recommendation:

The origin of the street name and any historical significance of the existing street name

Although Arnold Road appears to be the original name, and the road appears to be in its original location, no history could be found to show the origin of the name. The road is located adjacent to property belong to Luther H. and Winnie Hines Tison. The subdivision of the land of L.H. Tison which was recorded in May of 1898, does not depict Arnold Road. The origin is unknown.

Whether there are any historical structures or landmarks on the subject street

The Gillen-Wingate Cemetery is located north of Arnold Road along Williamson's Branch. The Cemetery is on private land and not accessible to the public. It does not have any known relation to Arnold Road.

Whether the existing name is part of a common theme of street names throughout the community where such street is located

As noted above, there does not seem to be any relation to the surrounding property or any other named streets within the County.

The age of the street name

As was previously referenced, the first known date at which the road is shown named is a deed dated from 1929.

Whether the street name is a duplicate street name

There is no other known Arnold Road in the County.

Recommendation:

Based on the best evidence available, the Planning and Development Department recommends that the proposed street name change from Arnold Road to Gold Star Family Parkway be approved by the Commission.

1 draws some attention to that that's been
2 missing for a long time. Locals here are
3 aware, but I know -- as a recent resident that
4 moved here in 2012, I had no idea that he was
5 really connected to the local history here at
6 all until I moved here. Hopefully, this will
7 help get the word out.

8 So those are the criteria that are in the
9 Code. This one is a little weird because we're
10 not actually renaming it. And this was really
11 structured to balance the old name versus the
12 new. We're adding a name here, so we are
13 recommending approval. I don't think there's
14 any conflict with what's being proposed here.

15 Hopefully, that gives you a little bit of
16 an overview of how this would work. And if we
17 get something that's a little bit more on point
18 with a renaming, it will probably make more
19 sense.

20 I'm happy to take any questions.

21 THE CHAIRMAN: Any questions for Christian?

22 COMMISSIONER STANSEL: No.

23 THE CHAIRMAN: Great. I will entertain a
24 motion.

25 COMMISSIONER LOPERA: Motion to approve
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1 the renaming of Hank Aaron Field at J.P. Small
2 Park.

3 COMMISSIONER STANSEL: Second.

4 THE CHAIRMAN: Comments, concerns?

5 COMMISSIONER STANSEL: None.

6 THE CHAIRMAN: All those in favor?

7 COMMISSION MEMBERS: Aye.

8 THE CHAIRMAN: Those opposed?

9 COMMISSION MEMBERS: (No response.)

10 THE CHAIRMAN: Hearing none, you have
11 approved the naming of Hank Aaron Field.

12 MS. WEST: And so what you have done is an
13 advisory recommendation to the City Council.
14 And the reason for this is that there's --
15 other than this one, there's going to be, like,
16 two or three other public hearings. They just
17 want to have greater transparency when we do
18 renaming or a naming.

19 THE CHAIRMAN: Let's do another renaming.
20 Road renaming from Arnold Road to Gold Star
21 Family Parkway.

22 MR. POPOLI: Through the Chair, this is a
23 request for a road renaming to rename Arnold
24 Road to Gold Star Family Parkway. The proposed
25 name change is twofold:

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1 One, to provide recognition to Gold Star
2 Families and to help serve as a wayfinder to
3 the National Cemetery.

4 Two -- I only received this e-mail today,
5 unfortunately -- the 911 Committee that relates
6 to addressing found that the road-naming scheme
7 for this area was a bit inconsistent. I did
8 not realize this at the time of the report
9 because, as I said, I just got this today, but
10 there is a second Arnold Road that is
11 located -- it's located at the southeast corner
12 of Atlantic Boulevard and Southside.

13 So one, to cure the confusion associated
14 with this for the sake of 911 dispatching; and,
15 two, the original request to address the
16 history and recognition of the Gold Star
17 Families are the reason for the request.

18 If you're not familiar with the term "Gold
19 Star Family," it basically refers to the family
20 members -- the immediate family members of
21 servicemen and women who died during an act of
22 conflict. So the expression that "a family
23 serves with the soldier" is kind of the origin
24 of this, but, in essence, Gold Star Families
25 are recognized by the military for their

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1 sacrifice overall as a family.

2 As I said, this eventually connects to the
3 Jacksonville National Cemetery, obviously where
4 veterans are buried, so there's a tie-in there.
5 And there's an active local group that's
6 working to bring more of these recognition
7 movements to the city. You may recall, a
8 couple years ago, you guys reviewed a name
9 change to POW/MIA Parkway. Same group.

10 So just to run through our criteria
11 briefly. Arnold Road dates back, as best that
12 we can tell, to 1898. It was shown in
13 reference to a deed from that period. We don't
14 actually know who Arnold was. The family is
15 associated with the area. None of them have
16 the last name of Arnold. There's no one we
17 could find that was a matriarch or patriarch,
18 so it is old, but we don't necessarily know the
19 provenance of it and what its significance may be.

20 The only known historical structure,
21 landmark, or site adjacent to this road is the
22 Gillen-Wingate Cemetery. It's located north of
23 Arnold Road, along the Williamson branch. The
24 cemetery is on private land and it's not open
25 to the public. So it doesn't have any

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1 connection necessarily to the history of Arnold
2 Road, and there's no public access that would
3 be off of Arnold Road. As I said, we had found
4 the existing name wasn't part of a common
5 naming scheme. Mostly because we don't know
6 necessarily what the history of Arnold Road is
7 other than being old.

8 The age of the name, the road itself dates
9 from 1898. The name first shows up on a deed
10 in 1929. So, as far as we know, that was the
11 first time it was named. Prior to that, it was
12 a basically just a dirt road that was unnamed
13 that led to a drainage ditch.

14 And then the issue of a duplicate name, as
15 I said. We weren't aware there was a duplicate
16 name because it wasn't -- we, frankly, didn't
17 have the application in front of us when this
18 started. This has been a bit of a start/stop
19 situation with this application, dating back to
20 late last year. So there is a duplicate name,
21 and this would remove that duplication, which
22 would help with dispatching for police and fire.

23 We are recommending approval of the name
24 change because we don't think that the name of
25 Arnold Road really has any direct ties to the

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1 area, and if it has historic significance, it's
2 not documented anywhere. So we're recommending
3 approval.

4 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

5 Any questions for Christian?

6 COMMISSIONER BRAMWELL: Any idea what the
7 name of the stretch east of Pecan Park Road is
8 going to be?

9 MR. POPOLI: East of Pecan Park Road --

10 COMMISSIONER BRAMWELL: I'm assuming it's
11 east. Like, is it still Arnold over there? So
12 we have a segment of Arnold over here --

13 MR. POPOLI: Yeah. That's one of the
14 things they were trying to -- so basically,
15 it's Arnold and then it transitions to Gold
16 Star Family, where it then connects up to the
17 cemetery, so -- and then this is also a part of
18 Arnold Road. So for simplicity sake, they
19 basically wanted to extend Gold Star Family out
20 to Pecan Park Road, leaving this Arnold Road
21 and leaving the other Arnold Road.

22 COMMISSIONER BRAMWELL: So we have three?

23 MR. POPOLI: Apparently. I think this is
24 a continuation of this. I don't -- limited
25 information, I apologize. But this is -- the

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1 highlighted portion here is what would change.

2 One other thing. The question of Gold
3 Star Family versus Gold Star Families,
4 according to the email I got today, has not
5 been settled, so it may be one or the other.
6 So what I would suggest when we finalize the
7 report to City Council, if you guys are
8 comfortable with approving it, that you approve
9 it as an option for one or the other -- or
10 both, rather.

11 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Any other questions
12 for Christian?

13 COMMISSION MEMBERS: (No response.)

14 THE CHAIRMAN: All right. Is anybody here
15 to speak on this? I don't see anyone.

16 I'll entertain a motion.

17 COMMISSIONER LOPERA: Motion to rename
18 Arnold Road to either Gold Star Family Parkway
19 or Gold Star Families Parkway.

20 COMMISSIONER BRAMWELL: Second.

21 THE CHAIRMAN: Anyone have any thoughts or
22 concerns?

23 COMMISSIONER BRAMWELL: Practically, it
24 seems like a bad idea, but from a historic
25 perspective, I don't see us having any reason

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1 to prevent it.

2 COMMISSIONER STANSEL: And you're still
3 going to have a 911 issue because there's still
4 a part of Arnold Road.

5 THE CHAIRMAN: Yeah. When I looked up
6 Arnold Road on my phone, it was not this Arnold
7 Road, but I digress.

8 All those in favor?

9 COMMISSION MEMBERS: Aye.

10 THE CHAIRMAN: Those opposed?

11 COMMISSION MEMBERS: (No response.)

12 THE CHAIRMAN: Hearing none, you have
13 renamed -- or suggested to rename.

14 And then, Christian, real quick, you've
15 got a little update on our room situation, I
16 understand.

17 MR. POPOLI: Yes. So at the request of
18 Councilwoman DeFoor, we were asked to look for
19 a way to resolve the issue of having a hybrid
20 meeting. This room is, unfortunately, not
21 equipped with the technology to do a hybrid
22 meeting involving people attending via Zoom as
23 well as in person.

24 So after talking with several other
25 agencies in the City, the library across the

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