

Township of Haverford  
ORDINANCE NO. 2998-2024

An Ordinance of the Township of Haverford, Delaware County, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, amending chapter 4, administration of government, to provide for the criteria and process for the naming of township property and establishing a township property naming committee

Whereas, Haverford Township (“Township”) is the legal owner of real property and associated public facilities, parks, recreational areas, fields, streets, and other similar township owned or controlled facilities throughout the Township (“Township Property”);

Whereas, the Township desires to recognize individuals who have made a significant contribution to the Township or otherwise brought honor to the Township through their works or deeds by naming or renaming Township Property in their honor;

Whereas, the Township also desires to recognize individuals, families, or organizations that have made substantial gifts or donations resulting in the Township’s acquisition or use of Township Property by naming or renaming the associated Township Property in their honor or as may be stipulated in a gift agreement;

Whereas, the Township desires to establish a fair, uniform, and consistent process for the naming and renaming of Township Property;

Whereas, the Township desires to establish a Township Property Naming Committee to assist the Township Board of Commissioners with the process of naming or renaming Township Property;

Therefore, be it enacted and ordained by the Board of Commissioners of the Township of Haverford, County of Delaware, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the Board has determined that the health, safety, and general welfare of the residents and guests of the Township will be served by this amendment to Chapter 4, as follows:

Section I. Code Amendment.

A. Chapter 4, Administration of Government, is amended to provide for a new Part 12 entitled “Naming of Township Property” to provide as follows:

Part 12. Naming of township property

Article XXXIII Criteria and Procedure

§ 4-1109 Purpose.

Haverford Township desires to provide a fair, uniform, and consistent process for the naming and renaming of certain Township owned or controlled properties including, but not limited to, Township facilities, parks, recreation areas, fields, streets, or other Township property or facilities deemed appropriate to be named or renamed by the Haverford Township Board of Commissioners.

§ 4-1110 Definitions.

The following words, when used in this Part, shall mean the following unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

Naming or name – The assignment or designation of a new name or a change in a previously established or known name.

Township property – Real property owned or controlled by Haverford Township and/or improvements or facilities located on property owned or controlled by Haverford Township including, but not limited to, buildings, rooms, recreation areas, parks, fields, open space, streets, and other property or facilities, or parts thereof, owned or controlled by the Township as deemed appropriate by the Haverford Township Board of Commissioners.

#### § 4-1111 Criteria for the Naming of Township Property.

- A. The Name given to Township Property should have geographic, historical, botanical, or agricultural significance in or for the Township. The significance of the Name should be recognized and known in the area or neighborhood in which the Township Property is located, and if possible, generally recognized and known throughout the entire Township.
- B. Township Property should only be given a Name if one or more of the following applies:
  - (1) The property was acquired or significantly enhanced by means of a substantial gift or donation by an individual, family, or organization associated with the Name or made pursuant to a gift stipulation or agreement, acceptable to the Board of Commissioners, that a certain Name is used to identify the property.
  - (2) The Name is to recognize an individual or family who has made a significant contribution to the Township, has brought honor to the Township through work or deed, or had a significant historical impact on the Township. In most instances, the person should be honored posthumously and should be deceased at least (3) three years before Naming consideration. The individual, or the living relatives of the individual if awarded posthumously, whose name is being considered shall be provided an opportunity to refuse the Naming.
- C. Township Property should not be Named after a person whose contribution to the Township was or is part of the person's normal, paid duties as an employee of the Township. An exception may be made for former Township employees who have contributed volunteer services of an exceptional nature beyond their normal duties as an employee. Further, a Township employee shall not be excluded from Name recognition if the recognition is for service, works, or deeds performed before or after such person's employment with the Township.
- D. The Name shall not be one that endorses or advocates for any religion or political party or specific religious or political belief; has an obscene connotation; malevolently portrays,

demeans, or intimidates any racial or ethnic group or other protected class; is the Name of an active political candidate; or is the Name of an adjudicated felon.

- E. The Naming of Township Property is intended for permanent recognition within the Township, and a change in the Name of Township Property without good cause is strongly discouraged once Township Property has been officially Named through the process established herein. As such, Township Property shall not be provided with a new or different Name without good cause, as determined by the Township Board of Commissioners. It is recommended that efforts to change a Name be subject to the most critical examination, so as not to diminish the original justification for the Name or discount the value of the prior contributions warranting the Naming.

#### § 4-1112 Procedures for the Naming of Township Property

- A. Applications for the Naming of Township Property should come from the public sector through local civic organizations or neighborhood associations. Individuals may not apply for the Naming of Township Property.
- B. A complete application must include a petition with at least one hundred (100) signatures from adult residents of Haverford Township signifying broad support for Naming of the Township Property. The petition must include:
  - (1) A clear description of the proposal to Name the Township Property with the Name proposed and the specific location of the Township Property.
  - (2) The names, addresses, and signatures of at least one hundred (100) adult Haverford Township residents signing in support of the application.
  - (3) A clear, detailed description as to the reason(s) why the Township Property should be given such Name.
  - (4) Whether the individual whose name is being considered, or the living relatives of the individual if the person is deceased, has been consulted with and approves of the petition.
- C. The completed application shall be submitted to the Township Manager. If the application is deemed complete, the Township Manager shall submit the application to the Property Naming Committee for review and consideration.
- D. Within (sixty) 60 days of the Property Naming Committee's receipt of application, the Property Naming Committee shall meet for the purpose of making a recommendation to the Board of Commissioners, along with a written explanation for the recommendation, which shall include background information of the Township Property and the person, family, or organization proposed to be honored by the Naming.

- E. If the request is to Name a park, ballfield, playground, open space, other athletic facility, or a portion of thereof, the Township Manager shall also submit a copy of the application to the Parks & Recreation Board. Within (sixty) 60 days of receipt of the application from the Township Manager, the Parks & Recreation Board shall meet for the purpose of making a recommendation to the Board of Commissioners, and provide a written explanation for the recommendation.
- F. The Board of Commissioners will consider the recommendations from the Property Naming Committee and, if applicable, the Parks & Recreation Board, at a public meeting of the Board of Commissioners.
- G. The recommendation(s) for Naming the Township Property shall be deemed approved by a majority vote of the Board of Commissioners.
- H. The process for reviewing and making a decision on an application for the Naming of Township Property is intended to take no less than three (3) months and no more than one (1) year.

B. Chapter 4, Administration of Government, Part 5, Advisory Boards and Commissions, is hereby amended to provide for a new Article XXI.I entitled "Township Naming Committee" as follows:

#### Article XXI.I Township Naming Committee

§ 4-522 Establishment; purpose.

In accordance with the ordinances and resolutions of Haverford Township, there is hereby recognized the existence of the Township Naming Committee of Haverford Township for the following purposes:

- A. To make recommendations to the Board of Commissioners regarding the naming of Township property pursuant to the criteria and process established under Chapter 4, Part 12, Naming of Township Property.

§ 4-523 Membership; Terms; Vacancy

- A. The Property Naming Committee shall consist of five (5) members consisting of

The Township Manager or their designee determined on an ad hoc basis when a completed application is submitted for review and consideration by the Property Naming Committee;

The Director of Parks and Recreation or their designee determined on an ad hoc basis when a completed application is submitted for review and consideration by the Property Naming Committee;

The member of the Township Planning Commission who serves as the liaison to the Township Historical Commission; and

Two citizens appointed by the Board of Commissioners.

- A. The citizen appointees shall be residents of Haverford Township, shall serve three (3) year terms, which may be renewed, and may be removed by a majority vote of the Board of Commissioners without cause.
- B. The Property Naming Committee shall meet only on an as-needed basis upon receipt of a completed application for naming or renaming of Township property.
- C. All appointed members shall serve without compensation.
- D. In case any vacancy occurs, the Board of Commissioners shall act expeditiously to fill the vacancy for the unexpired term.

§ 4-524 Powers and Duties.

- A. The Property Naming Committee shall receive applications for naming or renaming of Township property and shall make recommendations to the Board of Commissioners regarding the naming of Township property pursuant to the criteria and process established under Chapter 4, Part 12, Naming of Township Property.
- B. The Property Naming Committee shall perform due diligence related to the geographic, historical, botanical, agricultural, artistic, and/or cultural background of any Township property proposed to be named or renamed.
- C. The Property Naming Committee shall perform due diligence related to the individual, family, or organization proposed to be honored by the name recognition.
- D. To avoid duplication and confusion, the Property Naming Committee shall perform the necessary research to ensure that no other Township properties hold the name being considered.
- E. Within (sixty) 60 days of the Property Naming Committee's receipt of application for the naming of Township property, the Property Naming Committee shall meet for the purpose of making a recommendation to the Board of Commissioners, and provide a written explanation for the recommendation, which shall include background information of the Township Property and the person, family or organization proposed to be honored by the Naming.

Section II. Repealer. In addition to the above, all other ordinances or parts of ordinances that are inconsistent herewith, are hereby repealed. Further, it is understood and intended that all other sections, parts, provisions, and ordinances that are not otherwise specifically in conflict or inconsistent with this Ordinance, shall remain in full force and effect, the same being reaffirmed hereby.

Section III. Severability. In the event that any section, sentence, clause, phrase or word of this Ordinance shall be declared illegal, invalid or unconstitutional by any Court of competent jurisdiction, such declaration shall not prevent, preclude or otherwise foreclose enforcement of any of the remaining portions of this Ordinance.

Section IV. Failure to Enforce Not a Waiver. The failure of the Township to enforce any provision of this Ordinance shall not constitute a waiver by the Township of its rights of future enforcement hereunder.

Section V. Effective Date. This Ordinance shall become effective 10 days following final adoption by the Board of Commissioners and publication as required by law.

Adopted this        day of        , 2024.

Township of Haverford

By: C. Lawrence Holmes, Esq.  
President

Attest: David R. Burman  
Township Manager