

From: [Sue Lang](#)
To: [John Holic](#)
Cc: [City Council](#); citizensadvisoryboard@venicefl.gov; [Board and Council Messages](#)
Subject: Re: Park naming, renaming - addendum #2
Date: Friday, January 3, 2025 7:40:54 AM

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im glad to hear you are suggesting alternate locations, but i think you need to withdraw maxine barritt park, especially since i understand that vedder doesn't want his name there. Also i really think it is a bad idea to suggest renaming of any park. The exception would be one like Fountain Park where it was really just a nickname that became formalized. This would be a good one to rename.

That being said i am appalled at your remarks and Mike Pachota.s remarks re Maxine Barritt and im also very concerned that several members of the CAB initially voted to approve your proposal without doing any homework, due diligence and obtaining other opinions and input. This type of behavior by a City Board is inappropriate at best and these folks should resign because they obviously have no idea what their role and responsibilities are.

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy Note5, an AT&T 4G LTE smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: John Holic <ltgtroll@hotmail.com>
Date: 1/3/25 6:40 AM (GMT-05:00)
To: Kelly Michaels <KMichaels@venicefl.gov>
Cc: citizenadvisoryboard@venicefl.gov, Mikey Pachota <MVPSharky14@aol.com>, Bob Vedder <bavedder@verizon.net>
Subject: Park naming, renaming - addendum #2

Good Morning Kelly,

Happy New Year and I hope all is well with you.

I am suggesting two additional parks for the CAB consideration in naming a park in honor of Bob and Sue Vedder. I have received very reliable information about Centennial Park that should be shared with the CAB. I did not include Centennial Park for renaming as the City is approaching its Centennial and I thought the park might have name significance for that event. However, I have been told that the downtown Centennial Park was suggested by the Venice Historical Commission to council in June of 1988. The recommendation was based on the post office centennial celebration that occurred in 1988. This is another example of inadequate and readily available information on why our parks are named the way they are not being publicly displayed. If this information is accurate it should be obvious that the post office did not consider this as an important event as there is no known plaque commemorating this event and I would be willing to bet that not a single person at the post office knows anything about this naming.

The other park that could be considered is the Michael Biehl Park. The park description states it was named after Michael Biehl who donated money to the Sarasota Coonservation Fund for the purchase of the park. The park sits on land that was formerly a restaurant, and I think the dedication plaque states additional donors for the purchase of the land. I have no information on Michael Biehl and do not know if he was a Venice Resident or if he participated in any other areas of the city.

Since the last meeting of the CAB, I have informed Bob Vedder of the presentation we made to that board, so this project is no longer a surprise. Please let me know if the CAB is going to discuss this topic at their next meeting as I have notified Mr. Vedder of the posted date and time of the meeting in the event they have questions for him.

I have taken the liberty to include the CAB in this addendum and realize they will not reply to me due to Sunshine Law restrictions, however, I wanted them to have any information that they may find helpful with recommendations to City Council on this project.

Thank you for your help.

Sincerely,

John Holic

From: [John Holic](#)
To: [Kelly Michaels](#)
Cc: [Citizen Advisory Board](#); [Mikey Pachota](#); [Bob Vedder](#); [Board and Council Messages](#)
Subject: Park naming, renaming - addendum #2
Date: Friday, January 3, 2025 6:40:28 AM

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Good Morning Kelly,

Happy New Year and I hope all is well with you.

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John Holic

From: [John Holic](#)
To: [Kelly Michaels](#)
Cc: [Citizen Advisory Board](#); [Mikey Pachota](#); [Bob Vedder](#); [Board and Council Messages](#)
Subject: Park naming, renaming - addendum #2
Date: Friday, January 3, 2025 6:40:28 AM

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Thank you for your help.

Sincerely,

John Holic

From: [Jackie M](#)
To: [Citizen Advisory Board](#)
Subject: Proposal to rename Maxine Barritt Park
Date: Friday, December 13, 2024 2:22:17 PM

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Members of the Citizen's Advisory Board,

With the application before you, this Board finds itself in the position of having to decide under what circumstances it would consider recommending to the City Council the removal and replacement of a name to a Park that is named in honor of an individual and not a theme or location, ie: Centennial Park, Legacy Park, City Hall Park etc.

The proposal is done with good intent. It seeks to bestow an appropriate and deserved "naming" honor on two individuals who have devoted years of selfless contributions of work and time to the City of Venice. The problem is that the chosen Park is already named for a person and not that long ago. To remove the existing name for another would be hurtful and insulting to her memory, her friends and her family.

It's also bad policy.

If you do recommend this, it will significantly devalue any other future renaming the City does for individuals, either of a Park, a part of a Park or a building by removing any expectation of permanence to the tribute. This should be more important than a plaque on a bench. There are options that will not deface the tribute the City already gave to someone.

I hope you recommend a reconsideration and resubmission by the applicant.

Thank You,

Jackie Mineo

From: [Sue Lang](#)
To: [City Council](#); [Edward Lavalley](#); [James Clinch](#); [Citizen Advisory Board](#)
Cc: [Board and Council Messages](#)
Subject: Renaming of Parks
Date: Saturday, December 21, 2024 11:08:33 AM

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I understand the Citizen Advisory Board has asked staff to give them some guidance on their purview regarding requests to rename a park. Even if they have wide latitude in this regard, **it would set a very bad precedent because every time there are new Council Members they could rename existing parks and other public places, buildings, etc.**

I also understand that at a recent Citizen Advisory Board meeting disdainful remarks were made about Maxine Barritt for whom a park was named. This is reprehensible! Maxine Barritt was a full time resident and good citizen of Venice who spent hundreds of hours walking and knocking on doors with a petition and attending numerous Council meetings requesting to have the former wastewater plant made into a public park. Other residents joined in to support the park and prevent it from being developed, commercialized or turned into an RV park as some had suggested. At least 5 if not 6 members of Council including Mayor Martin and myself voted to name this park for Maxine after she passed away unexpectedly. It should also be noted that the **FAA released its lean on this property** which was part of airport property deeded to the City **for a nominal amount based on the City's decision to make this a public park instead of commercial or income producing development.** The park has been enjoyed by millions over the years especially the walking/jogging trail around the pond and the many picnic tables with grills and others with views of the Gulf.

It was also brought up that there is no plaque and not much information about Maxine Barritt. I'm not sure who is responsible for the paucity of info about her or installation of a plaque, but i can tell you that this can be rectified immediately. Both former Mayor Martin and myself will be glad to provide you with additional info and you will shortly receive a letter from the Unitarian Universalist Church of Venice of which Maxine was a member, offering to coordinate the funding and creation of a plaque for Maxine Barritt.

Sincerely,
Sue Lang former Venice Vice Mayor and Council Member

From: [James Clinch](#)
To: [Amanda Hawkins-Brown](#)
Cc: [Kelly Michaels](#)
Subject: FW: Maxine Barritt Park and general issue
Date: Thursday, December 26, 2024 9:31:03 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)

Hi Amanda –

Ed Martin reached out and asked that this message be forwarded to the Citizens Advisory Board. Evidently he mistyped their address on the original message.

Thank You,

James Clinch, PE

Assistant City Manager
City Manager's Office
City of Venice
401 W Venice Ave
Venice, FL 34285
Tel: [\(941\) 882-7397](tel:(941)882-7397)
Cell: [941-234-6059](tel:941-234-6059)
Email: JClinch@venicefl.gov
Web: www.venicegov.com



Need to Report an Issue? SeeClickFix Venice Connect is available as an app for Android and iPhone. Select SeeClickFix from your app store on your device and choose Venice, Florida. There is also a link to the program on the city's website, www.venicegov.com, or go directly to SeeClickFix at <https://venice.seeclickfix.com/venice>

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From: Edwin Martin <insidevenice@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, December 21, 2024 1:19 PM
To: City Council <citycouncil@venicefl.gov>; citizenadvisoryboard@veniceflorida.gov; Edward Lavallee <elavallee@venicefl.gov>; James Clinch <JClinch@venicefl.gov>; suelang99@hotmail.com
Cc: Board and Council Messages <boardandcouncilmessages@venicefl.gov>

Subject: Maxine Barritt Park and general issue

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I did not know Maxine Barritt, before the development interest expressed in developing the area. Two Council Members, (I see no reason to name them), who would have to vote on the proposal, expressed an interest, reported in media, in investing and seeing it developed.

I was writing a column for the Venice Gondolier at the time, as a part-time correspondent, concerning City Issues and her concern seemed valid to me.

Maxine and neighbors, at first in Pinebrook South, her home, and then across the City, set up petition card tables at the Libraries, etc. and this process resulted in an astonishing 4000+ citizens signing.

As part of this effort it was discovered that the wastewater site was on City Park land, stretching north and south, along the Gulf.

I spoke with Marty Black, then City Manager, previously Planning Director, asking about this. Marty said that was correct, and there never was a plan to have a referendum which would be necessary.

In 2007 I ran for Mayor, with Sue Lang and Ernie Zavodnyik.

During the next three years we approved and started building four parks: Maxine Barritt Park, Venice Myakka Park at the end of Laurel Road, Legacy Park surrounding the historic train depot, and a small park at the newly built Senior housing on E.Venice Ave and bypass 41. We also provided the School Board funds to build the Venice Performing Arts Center.

None of these and other projects, water filtration plant renewal, had any ties to a board member or political funding.

We accepted no contributions from anyone with City business that might come before Council.

I am relieved to learn that Mrs. Barrett's children who came to Venice for the naming in her honor, will not have the pain, of seeing the park renamed.

I hope you will make a park renaming a very rare, exceptional decision. Changing names passed by elected Council's whenever a new group is elected, will be a negative mark on Venice's history.

Thanks,

Ed Martin

From: [Olga Hebert](#)
To: rdupont@venicegondolier.com
Cc: [Citizen Advisory Board](#); [City Council](#); [Board and Council Messages](#)
Subject: Maxine Barritt Park
Date: Saturday, December 28, 2024 3:47:45 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from olga.hebert05@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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How fitting to have named a park after the woman who tirelessly advocated for and eventually found fruition for a beautiful gulfside park where we all are able to enjoy a piece of the "Paradise" that attracts so many and sustains those of us who are here year round. How very foolish to disrespect the historical significance of a tradition of civic pride. How irreverent and sad.

Olga Hebert
1191 Willow Springs Drive
Venice, FL 34293

From: [Beverly Lieberman](#)
To: [Citizen Advisory Board](#)
Cc: [Board and Council Messages](#)
Subject: Maxine Barritt Park
Date: Saturday, December 28, 2024 3:24:21 PM

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Hi,
Please keep the name of this park as is. Maxine was a huge positive influence in Venice.
Thanks,
Bev Lieberman
Sent from my iPad

From: jhsmunoz@gmail.com
To: [City Council](#)
Cc: [Board and Council Messages](#)
Subject: Maxine Barrett park
Date: Saturday, December 28, 2024 7:44:58 PM

[You don't often get email from jhsmunoz@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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Keep the name of this park as is.
No need to change it.
Name something else with the names you are looking at
Judy Munoz

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Judith Parker](#)
To: rdupont@venicegondolier.com
Cc: [City Council](#); [Citizen Advisory Board](#); [Board and Council Messages](#)
Subject: Maxine Barrett Park
Date: Saturday, December 28, 2024 3:05:25 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from jparker305@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Urging you to keep Maxine's park named for her. She worked tirelessly to make this the wonderful park that it is. Her memory should be cherished. Do not change the name.

Judith Parker

Cell 518-339-2151

Sent from my iPad

From: [Bill Dowling](#)
To: rdupont@venicegondolier.com
Cc: [City Council](#); [Citizen Advisory Board](#); [Board and Council Messages](#)
Subject: Maxine Barritt Park
Date: Sunday, December 29, 2024 4:36:20 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from wbd429@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Maxine Barritt Park Issue

The Citizen Advisory Board is being requested to consider a proposal for renaming Maxine Barritt Park. It would be an unwise precedent for the Citizen Advisory Board to permit this and future councils to alter the names of parks and other venues at their whim, influenced by personal preferences or biases.

In the case of Maxine Barritt Park, it is highly likely that the park would not exist without her contributions.

Maxine Barritt played a pivotal role in the establishment of a public park at the site of the relocated wastewater treatment plant, rather than commercial developments. She organized petitions, actively participated in City Council meetings, and collaborated with the Venice Taxpayers League and Venice Neighborhood Coalition to bring the public park to fruition.

Maxine Barritt was a visionary public servant who prioritized the interests of Venice residents over commercial interests. It is appropriate to honor her legacy by maintaining the name of the park she helped create.

While the wish to recognize the Vedder family for their community services is understandable, arbitrarily erasing the Maxine Barritt Park name and replacing it with the Vedder name is not a suitable solution. It is uncertain whether the Vedder family would accept such an unfair treatment.

Instead of disregarding the contributions of Maxine Barritt, the appropriate course of action would be to recognize the positive impact of the Vedder family on Venice by establishing another appropriate site for recognition.

William Dowling
332 Pensacola Road
Venice, FL

--

"We can either have democracy in this country or we can have great wealth concentrated in the hands of a few. But we can't have both." - Justice Louis Brandeis

From: [Sandy Gadzia](#)
To: rdupont@venicegondolier.com
Cc: [Citizen Advisory Board](#); [City Council](#); [Board and Council Messages](#)
Subject: Preserving Maxine Barritt Park
Date: Sunday, December 29, 2024 7:44:38 AM

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To Whom It May Concern:

Much of the reason people relocate to Venice, FL is the beauty, charm, uniqueness and history. An important element of this is the many preserved natural areas of our parks. It would be a dangerous precedent to allow this or future councils to rename parks and other unique sites for someone they choose.

The history of Maxine Barritt Park is integral and inseparable from the person whose hard work and determination was responsible for its creation. Her genius and vision enabled the community to benefit from the preservation of the site and as a result of her tireless grassroots efforts realized enormous savings in the process.

One person strongly advocating for the proposed change, Mike Pachota originally wanted the park to include commercial elements to be located adjacent to his business, Sharkys.

No one is minimizing the contributions the Vedders have made to the city. However, their work was not associated with the park and thus it would not reflect their work and consequently destroy the legacy of hard work that Maxine Barritt did to originally create the park.

Please continue to honor her memory and contributions to Venice, FL!

Sincerely,

Sandy Gadzia



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From: [Tom Hartley](#)
To: rdupont@venicegondolier.com
Cc: [City Council](#); [Citizen Advisory Board](#); [Board and Council Messages](#)
Subject: Maxine Barritt Park - proposed name change
Date: Sunday, December 29, 2024 5:52:02 PM
Attachments: [BarrittPark 1224.docx](#)

Some people who received this message don't often get email from hartley44@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Please see attached letter re the proposed name change of Maxine Barritt

Thank you

P. Hartley

Maxine Barrit Park

It would be a dangerous precedent to allow this or future councils to change the names of parks and other sites on a whim for someone they prefer.

Naming of parks does not have to be for an elected official. When someone devotes a lot of time to serving the city, even as a volunteer, that is important. The Vedders have devoted much time to the city, but their work did not involve this park nor was he a prominent public official. Starting in 2003, Maxine went door to door gathering petitions to create a public park there, instead of a hotel or other commercial interest, in place of the wastewater treatment plant, which was being moved.

After gathering 3,000 petitions toward creating a park, Maxine Barritt attended and spoke at many City Council meetings, served on the city's Citizen Tax Oversight Board and the oversight board for bond issues, and worked with the Venice Taxpayers League and Venice Neighborhood Coalition to bring the public park to fruition. By comparison, Michael Biehl, for whom a park is named at the corner of Tampa Avenue and Tamiami Trail South, basically wrote a check to have a park named after him. Michael Biehl did not have any official capacity in Venice.

One person lobbying most strongly to change the name of Maxine Barritt Park, appears to be Mike Pachota, father of Mayor Nicholas Pachota. From the outset, Mike Pachota wanted the park to have three pavilions, a band shell, and an RV park—right next to his family business, Sharkys.

The work that Maxine Barritt did along with other organizations and many residents of Venice to create a passive public park saved the City of Venice millions of dollars from the outset. The city would have had to pay an enormous amount of money to the FAA to release their lien if this beachfront property had been developed for commercial use. Maxine Barritt was a visionary public servant with the interests of Venice foremost in mind, not private gain. Let's keep honoring her name at the wonderful park she helped create.

Thank you for your consideration

P. Hartley
Venice resident

From: [Judy Heipel](#)
To: [Citizen Advisory Board](#)
Cc: [Board and Council Messages](#)
Subject: Maxine Barritt Park
Date: Sunday, December 29, 2024 12:51:36 PM

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Maxine Barritt Park

I am writing this letter concerning the renaming of Maxine Barritt Park.

May I remind everyone that the only reason that we have this wonderful seaside park is because of the tireless work of Maxine Barritt.

At one time this area was scheduled for commercial development but Maxine's persistence in going door to door to gather signatures on petitions created this beautiful park that everyone can now enjoy. Not only did she help create this park but she devoted her life to helping the citizens of Venice. This was why the park was originally named for her.

I ask "Why would you want to rename it?"

Since she is dead, I can assume that she has done nothing to disgrace the city of Venice.

Her work is just as valuable now as when she did it.

We all have benefited from her tireless work to preserve our wonderful coastline and beaches for all to enjoy.

So I ask "Why would you want to rename it?"

While the Vedders have contributed a lot of time and energy to the city Venice, it was not to create a beautiful park at the beach.

There are many parks in Venice which can be used to celebrate the Vedder's name without erasing Maxine Barritt's legacy.

Some suggestions include naming the gazebo in Centennial Park after the Vedders. Why not name Centennial Park or Fountain Park after the Vedders?

Why try to erase the name of a woman who has done so much for the people of Venice?

Yours truly,
Judy Heipel

From: [Maryanne Jacobsen](#)
To: rdupont@venicegondolier.com
Cc: [City Council](#); [Citizen Advisory Board](#); [Board and Council Messages](#)
Subject: Changing name of park
Date: Sunday, December 29, 2024 6:54:51 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from maryannejacobsen@aol.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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To whom it may concern,

When I read about the plans to change the name of Maxine Barrett Park, I was appalled. I totally agree with all of the following points outlined below. I walk at that park on almost a daily basis, have a small bible study there on Tuesday mornings, have painted sunsets there, and it has always been a very special place of refuge for me. I am sad that some of the fencing is still down or mangled, as well as the bat cage, and there is an awkward tree stump protruding from the ground almost three months after hurricane Milton. I have been looking forward to it being restored to its former beauty.

To find out there are plans afoot to change the name that has become a household word at our house, feels foreign and almost hostile to me. It appears there is no GOOD reason that was proposed to change the name other than what I suspect is more about political agendas than anything else. The park should remain under the name of the woman who worked tirelessly to see it come to fruition. Changing the name to someone else's name, people who had nothing to do with its founding, is disrespectful to Maxine and the community at large, who have come to know and love it as it is. It also sets a very bad precedent.

The Vedders are still alive and while I know they have done beautification projects around town, it doesn't entitle them to having a park named after them that someone else labored for. I'm sure there will be many more opportunities for the Vedders to have sites named after them in the future. As if the last hurricane didn't do enough damage to many of our beloved natural and historic sites, renaming a park on someone's whim is non-sensical. If certain individuals want to rewrite history, I hope they choose another city in which to do so. Venice is a special place, because people like Maxine helped make it so!

Key points;

1. It would be a dangerous precedent to allow this or future councils to change the names of parks and other sites on a whim for someone they prefer.
2. Naming of parks does not have to be for an elected official. When someone devotes a lot of time to serving the city, even as a volunteer, that is important.

The Vedders have devoted much time to the city, but their work did not involve this park nor was he a prominent public official. Starting in 2003, Maxine went door to door gathering petitions to create a public park there, instead of a hotel or other commercial interest, in place of the wastewater treatment plant, which was being moved. After gathering 3,000 petitions toward creating a park, Maxine Barritt attended and spoke at many City Council meetings, served on the city's Citizen Tax Oversight Board and the oversight board for bond issues, and worked with the Venice Taxpayers League and Venice Neighborhood Coalition to bring the public park to fruition. By comparison, Michael Biehl, for whom a park is named at the corner of Tampa Avenue and Tamiami Trail South, basically wrote a check to have a park named after him. Michael Biehl did not have any official capacity in Venice.

3. One person lobbying most strongly to change the name of Maxine Barritt Park, appears to be Mike Pachota, father of Mayor Nicholas Pachota. From the outset, Mike Pachota wanted the park to have three pavilions, a band shell, and an RV park—right next to his family business, Sharkys.
4. The work that Maxine Barritt did along with other organizations and many residents of Venice to create a passive public park saved the City of Venice millions of dollars from the outset. The city would have had to pay an enormous amount of money to the FAA to release their lien if this beachfront property had been developed for commercial use. Maxine Barritt was a visionary public servant with the interests of Venice foremost in mind, not private gain. Let's keep honoring her name at the wonderful park she helped create.

Thank-you for hearing my concerns,

Sincerely yours,

Maryanne Jacobsen

From: [Donna Jewett](#)
To: rdupont@venicegondolier.com
Cc: [City Council](#); [Board and Council Messages](#)
Subject: Maxine Barritt Park- Letter to Editor
Date: Sunday, December 29, 2024 6:30:52 PM
Attachments: [Ltr To Editor Maxine Barritt Park.docx](#)

You don't often get email from ddjewett711@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dec 29, 2024

To the Editor :

I am deeply concerned about the proposal to change the name of Maxine Barritt Park.

Firstly, this is the only park in our city named after a woman! Additionally, Maxine worked tirelessly in 2003 to gather signatures for 3,000 petitions to establish this park, successfully saving it from development and commercial use.

Allowing current or future councils to change the names of parks and other sites at their discretion would set a dangerous precedent. Maxine Barritt was a visionary public servant who prioritized the interests of Venice over private gain. It is important to continue honoring her name at this beautiful park that she helped create.

Yours,
Donna Jewett

756 White Pine Tree Rd
Venice, Fl. 34285

--

Yours,
Donna



Donna Jewett
Nutritional Educator
new email: ddjewett711@gmail.com
d-d-healthysolutions

From: [Bonnie Kivlan](#)
To: [Citizen Advisory Board](#)
Cc: [Board and Council Messages](#)
Subject: Saving Maxine Barrit
Date: Sunday, December 29, 2024 8:19:23 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from bonniekivlan@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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To Whom It May Concern:

Changing the name of Maxine Barritt Park is a decision that should be made for a good reason such as having new information about her integrity or contribution to our community. This is not the case.

It makes no sense to change the name and it is not what our community wants. We have not been asked for input on this matter. Is this in the interest of an individual or business that will profit monetarily? Why is this even being considered?

Bonnie Kivlan
343 Shore Road
Venice, FL
941-416-4049

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

From: [Marianne Koerner](#)
To: rdupont@venicegondolier.com
Cc: citicouncil@venicefl.gov; citizenadvisoryboard@venicefl.gov
Subject: Maxine Barrett Park
Date: Sunday, December 29, 2024 8:20:38 PM

[Some people who received this message don't often get email from sunnyup22@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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To change the name of Maxine Barrett Park is unthinkable!

Ms. Barrett worked tirelessly to save precious this waterfront property from the hands of developers. The people of the entire surrounding area are the beneficiaries.

For what possible reason would a name change even be considered?

May I ask : Is Sharkeys involved in this process for its own self interest?

With the hope that this ridiculous idea be shelved,

Marianne Koerner

Nokomis

From: [Marilyn Marcus](#)
To: rdupont@venicegondolier.com
Cc: [City Council](#); [Citizen Advisory Board](#); [Board and Council Messages](#)
Subject: The name of Maxine Barritt Park Must Not be Changed
Date: Sunday, December 29, 2024 4:51:48 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from marmarglen@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Apparently the City Council is considering a new name for Maxine Barritt Park, the beautiful, relatively new, public park on south Venice island across from Venice Airport. This must not happen.

The park would not even exist for our pleasure and recreation if Maxine had not rallied local citizens to create it! Originally this former wastewater treatment plant acreage was also under consideration for private investors to build a resort or condominiums. Maxine believed this city space should be turned into a seaside park for locals and tourists to enjoy. Always civilly engaged, in 2003 she and other friends went door to door, event to event, gathering 3000 signatures to build the park. She worked tirelessly, speaking before the City Council on this issue and also worked on the Venice Citizen Tax Oversight Board, the Venice Taxpayers League and Venice Neighborhood Coalition, among other civic activities. She loved this town.

Due largely to her efforts the space was transformed into the public green space we enjoy today. Tragically, Maxine did not live to see the completion of the park, dying suddenly and unexpectedly before it officially opened. The citizens of Venice then started one more petition drive to name the park in her honor. It succeeded!

Not even a generation has passed since the park was dedicated. There is no reason to change the name. We need to continue to honor her and tell her story.

Marilyn Marcus

Venice and St. Louis

From: [Marilyn Marcus](#)
To: rdupont@venicegondolier.com
Cc: [City Council](#); [Citizen Advisory Board](#); [Board and Council Messages](#)
Subject: Re: The name of Maxine Barritt Park Must Not be Changed
Date: Sunday, December 29, 2024 4:55:21 PM

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Also, as an addendum to my letter - my husband's memorial bench and my sister-in-law's bench (Marshall Marcus and Clare Baker) are both in this park overlooking the beach. They were friends with Maxine and would be pleased to know their memorials are in the park bearing her name.

On Sunday, December 29, 2024 at 04:51:32 PM EST, Marilyn Marcus <marmarglen@yahoo.com> wrote:

Apparently the City Council is considering a new name for Maxine Barritt Park, the beautiful, relatively new, public park on south Venice island across from Venice Airport. This must not happen. The park would not even exist for our pleasure and recreation if Maxine had not rallied local citizens to create it! Originally this former wastewater treatment plant acreage was also under consideration for private investors to build a resort or condominiums. Maxine believed this city space should be turned into a seaside park for locals and tourists to enjoy. Always civilly engaged, in 2003 she and other friends went door to door, event to event, gathering 3000 signatures to build the park. She worked tirelessly, speaking before the City Council on this issue and also worked on the Venice Citizen Tax Oversight Board, the Venice Taxpayers League and Venice Neighborhood Coalition, among other civic activities. She loved this town.

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Not even a generation has passed since the park was dedicated. There is no reason to change the name. We need to continue to honor her and tell her story.

Marilyn Marcus
Venice and St. Louis

From: [Matthew McHugh](#)
To: [Citizen Advisory Board](#)
Cc: [Board and Council Messages](#)
Subject: Maxine Barrett Park
Date: Sunday, December 29, 2024 10:55:01 AM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from mattmchugh4322@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Honorable members of the Venice Citizens Advisory Board

It would be poor public policy to rename Maxine Barrett Park to appease the vanity of some politician. If the city council wishes to honor one of their relatives or pals, there are plenty of other naming opportunities around Venice. Don't disparage the memory of a grass root activist that championed the preservation of this prime public beach front access.

Matthew J McHugh
4322 Corso Venetia Blvd
Venice, FL 34293
401-338-3338

From: [jeanne mcintyre](#)
To: rdupont@venicegondolier.com
Cc: [City Council](#); [Citizen Advisory Board](#); [Board and Council Messages](#)
Subject: Maxine Barritt Park
Date: Sunday, December 29, 2024 9:04:54 PM

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To the Editor:

Maxine Barritt put her heart and soul into creating the park named for her.
The area that became the park was threatened by developers and Maxine organized community support to preserve the land and create a park for all the people of Venice and residents of Sarasota County to enjoy. As a good friend of Maxine's, and a longtime Venice resident, I was asked to gather petitions to show popular support.
The park is in a beautiful location, a serene place for all to enjoy.
Changing the name of this park would dishonor the legacy of the hard work that Maxine put into protecting this community jewel from rapacious development.
Let us keep honoring the name of Maxine Barritt at this park that she created.

Sincerely,

Jeanne McIntyre

From: [Christina Piper](#)
To: rdupont@venicegondolier.com
Cc: [City Council](#); [Citizen Advisory Board](#); [Board and Council Messages](#)
Subject: Re: Letter to editor about the Maxine Barritt Park name
Date: Sunday, December 29, 2024 7:47:13 PM

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Here is a shortened version under 250 words. Thank you.:

Good afternoon,

Please keep the Maxine Barritt Park in her name. She did so much for the city of Venice and to make the park a reality. She does not deserve to have her memory and deeds stripped just because she's no longer here.

Naming of parks does not have to be for an elected official. When someone devotes a lot of time to serving the city, even as a volunteer, that is important. Maxine Barritt was a visionary public servant with the interests of Venice foremost in mind, not private gain. Let's keep honoring her name at the wonderful park she helped create.

Changing the name of Maxine Barritt Park would create a dangerous precedent to allow future councils to change the names of parks and other important sites. It is wrong for them to rename parks after their buddies instead. We will not stand for this.

I attend church in Venice, and this issue has been brought up and is being followed closely by us. Please do the right thing.

Thank you,
Christina Piper

> On Dec 29, 2024, at 16:01, Christina Piper <christinalpiper@gmail.com> wrote:

>

> Good afternoon,

>

> Please keep the Maxine Barritt Park in her name. She did so much for the city of Venice and to make the park a reality. She does not deserve to have her memory and deeds stripped just because she's no longer here.

>

> Naming of parks does not have to be for an elected official. When someone devotes a lot of time to serving the city, even as a volunteer, that is important. The Vedders have devoted much time to the city, but their work did not involve this park nor was he a prominent public official. Starting in 2003, Maxine went door to door gathering petitions to create a public park there, instead of a hotel or other commercial interest, in place of the wastewater treatment plant, which was being moved. After gathering 3,000 petitions toward creating a park, Maxine Barritt attended and spoke at many City Council meetings, served on the city's Citizen Tax Oversight Board and the oversight board for bond issues, and worked with the Venice Taxpayers League and Venice Neighborhood Coalition to bring the public park to fruition.

>

> The work that Maxine Barritt did along with other organizations and many residents of Venice to create a passive public park saved the City of Venice millions of dollars from the outset. The city would have had to pay an enormous amount of money to the FAA to release their lien if this beachfront property had been developed for commercial use. Maxine Barritt was a visionary public servant with the interests of Venice foremost in mind, not private gain. Let's keep honoring her name at the wonderful park she helped create.

>

> Changing the name of Maxine Barritt Park would create a dangerous precedent to allow future councils to change the names of parks and other important sites. It is wrong for them to rename parks after their buddies instead. We will not stand for this.

>

> I attend church in Venice, and this issue has been brought up and is being followed closely by us. Please do the right thing.

>

> Thank you,

> Christina Piper

>

From: [Christina Piper](#)
To: rdupont@venicegondolier.com
Cc: [City Council](#); [Citizen Advisory Board](#); [Board and Council Messages](#)
Subject: Letter to editor about the Maxine Barritt Park name
Date: Sunday, December 29, 2024 4:01:32 PM

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Good afternoon,

Please keep the Maxine Barritt Park in her name. She did so much for the city of Venice and to make the park a reality. She does not deserve to have her memory and deeds stripped just because she's no longer here.

Naming of parks does not have to be for an elected official. When someone devotes a lot of time to serving the city, even as a volunteer, that is important. The Vedders have devoted much time to the city, but their work did not involve this park nor was he a prominent public official. Starting in 2003, Maxine went door to door gathering petitions to create a public park there, instead of a hotel or other commercial interest, in place of the wastewater treatment plant, which was being moved. After gathering 3,000 petitions toward creating a park, Maxine Barritt attended and spoke at many City Council meetings, served on the city's Citizen Tax Oversight Board and the oversight board for bond issues, and worked with the Venice Taxpayers League and Venice Neighborhood Coalition to bring the public park to fruition.

The work that Maxine Barritt did along with other organizations and many residents of Venice to create a passive public park saved the City of Venice millions of dollars from the outset. The city would have had to pay an enormous amount of money to the FAA to release their lien if this beachfront property had been developed for commercial use. Maxine Barritt was a visionary public servant with the interests of Venice foremost in mind, not private gain. Let's keep honoring her name at the wonderful park she helped create.

Changing the name of Maxine Barritt Park would create a dangerous precedent to allow future councils to change the names of parks and other important sites. It is wrong for them to rename parks after their buddies instead. We will not stand for this.

I attend church in Venice, and this issue has been brought up and is being followed closely by us. Please do the right thing.

Thank you,
Christina Piper

From: [Bill Reynolds](#)
To: rdupont@venicegondolier.com
Cc: [City Council](#); [Citizen Advisory Board](#); [Board and Council Messages](#)
Subject: Maxine Barritt Park Re-naming
Date: Sunday, December 29, 2024 6:21:56 PM

[Some people who received this message don't often get email from billreynolds1281@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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I was saddened to learn about a movement to rename Maxine Barritt Park in Venice.

Maxine's advocacy and many hours of devotion to preserving this wonderful space as a park to be enjoyed by many led the City Council to recognize these efforts by naming the park for her many years ago. It was the right thing to do at that time and it is the right thing to do now.

At the time the park was named for her, was there intended to be a time limit as to how long that dedication would last or to have it named for her only until the City Council is persuaded by some vocal interests with influence to change the name in favor of another person who they like more?

Perhaps a more honorable approach might be to leave the name as Maxine Barritt Park and to honor Mr. Vedder with a different park being named for him. Both deserve recognition for contributions made to the community and one should not be canceled in favor of the other.

Bill Reynolds
610-360-1495

From: [Janice Riordan](#)
To: rdupont@venicegondolier.com
Cc: [City Council](#); [Citizen Advisory Board](#); [Board and Council Messages](#)
Subject: Maxine Barritt Park Benefits ALL...Please keep it that way.
Date: Sunday, December 29, 2024 8:19:17 PM

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A little history....

The "Maxine Barritt" Park area used to be known as the "Tremonta Vista" Park.

In April 2009 there was an article in the Herald Tribune about people up in arms that the Park was going to be named after an "activist," Virginia Maxine Barritt....However, when the Sewer Treatment Plant was decommissioned some in the City of Venice floated the idea of a Conference Center there. This triggered Maxine Barritt, and with the help of the UU Church of Venice Maxine went around door to door and collected over 3000 signatures to petition against the Conference Center, and the Park was named after her.

I'm sure Maxine worked real hard on this, and as a result of her passion and vision, all of us in Venice have benefitted from this "Green Gem" which is so rare in today's world. The Maxine Barritt Park currently benefits Wildlife, It's environmentally friendly, and is meant for small groups and their families to enjoy....It's also very safe to walk around by yourself, or sit and watch the birds and squirrels "quietly" surrounded by nature aside the Gulf of Mexico....So many people that may not have backyards or a safe place to walk, or need to practice rehab exercises, want to read a book in nature, do a little yoga, or have a picnic and play ball with their children and grandchildren cherish this "Green Gem." Maxine Barritt Park benefits ALL.

Obviously this was not what some folks wanted, and now a short 16+ years later, and in the era of cancel culture here we are...

On the contrary Sue and Bob Vedder, who it appears are involved in this requested name change have a history of deep pockets with Venice and Venice Mainstreet. Bob Vedder is a retired publisher of the Venice Gondolier. The Vedderts have been involved with many projects in Venice...They also fund Concerts in Venice...Together and with the Venice Pier Group, Mike Pachota, this would really benefit the nearby Pachota businesses, Sharkeys and Finn's, and their Catering Business, as with all of the Airport growth does. In addition, and what seems like a conflict of interest, our Mayor, Nick Pachota is the son of Mike Pachota....The City would also have another place for Venues and such. I'm not sure why our former Mayor, John Holic is pitching for this, but please everyone get over yourselves, and stop patting backs! This seems to be all about... Money, money and more money, along with cronyism, and it does NOT benefit ALL as the Maxine Barritt Park currently does now.

I am totally against renaming this park after another person or persons...How dare anyone have such hubris to even pander or pitch such an idea. Have we no shame?!

This does not set good precedent, and in another 15 years or so someone else wants to pat their buddy on the back or honor themselves this could happen again. The Vedderts have done a lot in Venice, and we are thankful for that. However, until I did a little research on the Vedderts I had no idea who they were, and I'm sure no one else does either. They also did not do all the volunteer work with the passion and vision that Maxine Barritt did as she went door to door petitioning for what the Park is today....I am most thankful for that.

If renaming the park is what everyone wants, call it, "The Vista Park"...with a Memorial for Maxine Barritt. However, we do not want it to become another noisy place with Concert Amphitheater Seating, areas for Catering, and more crowds of people ruining the natural Gulf Side environment to benefit surrounding businesses. If renaming the Park allows for any iota of a change to restructure the land use, or costs more than a new sign...It's a Big No!!! In addition, I do not trust The City of Venice. They have a way with change. First it's an office for the Airport

Manager, and now it's a 6 Million Dollar Building...

How old are all of you guys that are pitching for this? SHAME on all of you...Can we leave some morsels for the children and wildlife, and the future please?! In 50 years no one will know who any of us are. We will all be forgotten. Some day we will all have Memorials, and if you have a lot of money you can afford to have a real big one.

We also do not need more traffic on the Island. Can we try to be forward thinking and acquire more green-space that benefits ALL instead of self-fulfilling, legacy selfishness. I'm very dismayed.

Janice Riordan

From: [Linda Underwood](#)
To: rdupont@venicegondolier.com
Cc: [City Council](#); [Citizen Advisory Board](#); [Board and Council Messages](#)
Subject: Naming of City Buildings and Parks
Date: Sunday, December 29, 2024 11:52:17 PM

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I was so dismayed to hear once again the talk of renaming Maxine Barritt Park. Ms Barritt worked tirelessly to turn the former waste water plant into a park that all could enjoy. Other plans were put forward at the time but Ms Barritt worked for a natural setting that allowed all the citizens of Venice to enjoy this prime spot.

We have had this recurring issue in Venice about naming/renaming parks/buildings and recently in 2024 the ordinances were updated to indicate the Citizens Advisory Board would be the body to consider naming/renaming parks and making recommendations to the City Council. I believe it was a good decision to have a named group responsible for a thoughtful review of naming/renaming parks. However I cannot find on line any guidelines that said group will use or are using to make such decisions.

I suggest that renaming parks is a potentially costly and alienating endeavor and should be minimized for rather obvious reasons. We do not want parks renamed everytime there is a change in the politics of our town. Naming of a park should be carefully considered and should, if done well, stand the test of time. If we feel the need to honor someone surely we can identify an unnamed building or park to bestow this honor. But to initiate renaming of parks seems unnecessary. And not a good idea.

Linda Underwood, 332 Pensacola Road, Venice, FL.

The secret to having it all is knowing you already do.

From: [Pat Wellington](#)
To: [Citizen Advisory Board](#)
Cc: [Board and Council Messages](#)
Subject: Maxine Barritt Park
Date: Sunday, December 29, 2024 6:00:54 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from dpwelli@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Below is a letter I just emailed to Editor at the Venice Gondolier Sun.

Maxine Barritt Park should stay named for Maxine, the woman who started the movement to make park a reality and not the site of a hotel or other commercial enterprise. I like the idea of naming the gazebo in Centennial Park in downtown Venice or Fountain Park (on So. Nokomis) for Bob & Sue Vettters. Those are more fitting locations for their honor, in the midst of all the beautiful flowers and plants that the Bloom Team care for, and in the downtown area (since Sue Vettters was president of Venice Mainstreet).

Thank you for your consideration,
Patricia P. Wellington
20169 Pezzana Drive, Venice FL 34292



From: deebradhardin@netzero.net
To: rdupont@venicegondolier.com
Cc: [City Council](#); [Citizen Advisory Board](#); [Board and Council Messages](#)
Subject: Maxine Barritt's must not be renamed
Date: Monday, December 30, 2024 12:05:53 PM

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Editor Dupont. The following note is being sent out of a concern that I know is shared by a vast number of Sarasota County citizens.

Venice City Council and Venice Advisory Board -

I have learned that there has been a proposal to rename Maxine Barritt Park. If the people who are suggesting that change were here when Maxine Barritt did the several years of work to get the approval for that area to become a public park as opposed to being commercialized, I would at least hope that they would understand that changing the name would be a terrible mistake.

Those of us who have enjoyed the park and saw how difficult it was for Maxine to get it approved and planned are horrified to hear that the name be changed. The couple that are being considered for the new name are certainly deserving of having some feature of this area named after them, but absolutely not that park. There are alternatives that would be much more appropriate for them being honored. Please turn your attentions to those alternatives, and I and I am sure many other citizens will gladly support their being honored for a project that they were specifically involved in.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Brad and Darlene Hardin 447 Zephyr Rd, Venice, FL 34293 941-223-6849

deebradhardin@netzero.net

From: [Sue Lang](#)
To: [Janice Riordan](#); rdupont@venicegondolier.com
Cc: [City Council](#); [Citizen Advisory Board](#); [Board and Council Messages](#)
Subject: Re: Maxine Barritt Park Benefits ALL...Please keep it that way.
Date: Monday, December 30, 2024 10:09:02 AM

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One correction: The property was never known as Tremonto Vista Park. This was a name that then City Mgr Marty Black suggested but it was never approved and in 2009 Council officially named the park Maxine Barritt Park

From: Janice Riordan <jmriordan@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, December 29, 2024 8:18 PM
To: rdupont@venicegondolier.com <rdupont@venicegondolier.com>
Cc: City Council <citycouncil@venicefl.gov>; citizenadvisoryboard@venicefl.gov <citizenadvisoryboard@venicefl.gov>
Subject: Maxine Barritt Park Benefits ALL...Please keep it that way.

A little history....

The “Maxine Barritt” Park area used to be known as the “Tremonta Vista” Park. In April 2009 there was an article in the Herald Tribune about people up in arms that the Park was going to be named after an “activist,” Virginia Maxine Barritt....However, when the Sewer Treatment Plant was decommissioned some in the City of Venice floated the idea of a Conference Center there. This triggered Maxine Barritt, and with the help of the UU Church of Venice Maxine went around door to door and collected over 3000 signatures to petition against the Conference Center, and the Park was named after her.

I’m sure Maxine worked real hard on this, and as a result of her passion and vision, all of us in Venice have benefitted from this “Green Gem” which is so rare in today’s world. The Maxine Barritt Park currently benefits Wildlife, It’s environmentally friendly, and is meant for small groups and their families to enjoy....It’s also very safe to walk around by yourself, or sit and watch the birds and squirrels “quietly” surrounded by nature aside the Gulf of Mexico....So many people that may not have backyards or a safe place to walk, or need to practice rehab exercises, want to read a book in nature, do a little yoga, or have a picnic and play ball with their children and grandchildren cherish this “Green Gem.” Maxine Barritt Park benefits ALL.

Obviously this was not what some folks wanted, and now a short 16+ years later, and in the era of cancel culture here we are...

On the contrary Sue and Bob Vedder, who it appears are involved in this requested name change have a history of deep pockets with Venice and Venice Mainstreet. Bob Vedder is a retired publisher of the Venice Gondolier. The Vedders have been involved with many projects in Venice...They also fund Concerts in Venice...Together and with the Venice Pier Group, Mike Pachota, this would really benefit the nearby Pachota businesses, Sharkeys and Finn’s, and their Catering Business, as with all of the Airport growth does. In addition, and what seems like a conflict of interest, our Mayor, Nick Pachota is the son of Mike Pachota....The City would also have another place for Venues and such. I’m not sure why our former Mayor, John Holic is pitching for this, but please everyone get over yourselves, and stop patting backs! This seems to be all about... Money, money

and more money, along with cronyism, and it does NOT benefit ALL as the Maxine Barritt Park currently does now.

I am totally against renaming this park after another person or persons...How dare anyone have such hubris to even pander or pitch such an idea. Have we no shame?!

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How old are all of you guys that are pitching for this? SHAME on all of you...Can we leave some morsels for the children and wildlife, and the future please?! In 50 years no one will know who any of us are. We will all be forgotten. Some day we will all have Memorials, and if you have a lot of money you can afford to have a real big one.

We also do not need more traffic on the Island. Can we try to be forward thinking and acquire more green-space that benefits ALL instead of self-fulfilling, legacy selfishness. I'm very dismayed.

Janice Riordan

From: [Tina Putney](#)
To: rdupont@venicegondolier.com
Cc: [City Council](#); [Board and Council Messages](#)
Subject: Re: Saving the name of Maxine Barrett Park
Date: Monday, December 30, 2024 10:16:43 AM

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Sent from my iPhone

> On Dec 30, 2024, at 10:15 AM, Tina Putney <atputney@gmail.com> wrote:
>
> Why in the world should a precedent be set here in Venice about changing the *earned and respected*name of a public place?!
>
> Please do not allow Maxine Barrett Park to be renamed for someone who had nothing to do with its creation.
>
>
> Sent from my iPhone

From: [Barbara Desmond](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Cc: [Board and Council Messages](#)
Subject: Maxine Barritt Park
Date: Tuesday, January 7, 2025 9:53:03 AM

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Maxine Barritt deserves to have the park named after her. Her tireless work was responsible for the park. The Vedders deserve to be recognized as well for their contributions to the community. I urge the Council to find a deserving community park or building to honor them. Let's start 2025 on the right foot. Bring the community together when recognizing the good work of Venice Citizens. Don't let this very special honor drive us apart.
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