

**APPLICATION FOR NAMING/RENAMING
OF A PARK, PORTION OF A PARK, DESIGNATED FACILITY, OR PUBLIC AREA**

The naming or renaming of a park, portion of a park, designated facility or area of public property is an important and meaningful community event. The naming or renaming of a park will be based on the strictest standards and highest criteria.

The naming or renaming of a park, portion of a park, designated facility or area of public property will be considered for the purposes of the application only and it will not be the purpose of the Parks and Recreation Board to choose the level at which the naming should be done.

Application will be considered for a) naming/renaming of a park, b) naming/renaming of a portion of a park, c) naming/renaming of a designated facility or area of public property i.e. arboretum, garden, walkway, etc.

Criteria for consideration of proposed change:

- 1) The candidate or active organization for which the park is to be named can be either living or dead.
- 2) The candidate or active organization must have contributed **significantly** to the City of Venice and its citizens.
- 3) The name of the candidate or active organization and his/her/their accomplishments must be presented to the board in writing and in person by a nominator.
- 4) The person/organization nominating the candidate must be responsible for all reasonable costs associated with the naming/renaming and would include but not be limited to signage, public notices, etc. The naming/renaming ceremonies will take place only after the payment of all associated costs.
- 5) Each request will be considered at the time of application only and there will be no waiting list of names to be assigned.
- 6) Applications must be submitted to the City Clerk's Office at least two weeks prior to the meeting at which the naming is to be discussed.
- 7) The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board will consider the application and make a recommendation to City Council. Please be prepared to have a personal representative present at a Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting to discuss the merits of this application. You will be contacted as to the time and place of the meeting.
- 8) City Council will have the final decision as to the naming/renaming of a park, portion of a park or designated area of public property.

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- 1) a. Park
 b. Portion of a park (circle one)
 c. Designated Facility
 d. Public area
- 2) Name of person/organization for which the area is to be named:
 The Dale Laning and Julia Cousins Laning Archives and Research Center
- 3) Location of the area to be named and specific details of request:
 224 Milan Avenue West. The future home of the Venice Museum's Storage and Research facility to which Dale Laning and Julia Cousins Laning contributed the funds to purchase and renovate the building. Due to the donor's age, we would like to see this recognition happen the sooner the better as we begin budgeting and bidding out the work.
- 4) Is this person, or was this person a resident of Venice or the Venice area? ☒ Yes No
- 5) What significant contributions did this person/organization make to the Venice area?
 Please see attached.
- 6) Please be prepared to have a personal representative present at a Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting to discuss the merits of this application. You will be contacted as to the time and place of the meeting. Applications must be submitted to the City Clerk's office at least two weeks prior to the meeting at which the naming is to be discussed.

(Please attach additional pages if more room is needed.)

Julia Cousins Laning has a history of supporting history and the arts in Venice, Florida through the resources provided by her late husband Dale Laning. In addition, Julia Cousins Laning was an early resident of the city.

Julia Cousins Laning was born in 1921 in Norton, Virginia. Her family moved to Florida in 1926 to find work in the booming land and housing industry and eventually settled outside of Venice (now currently within the city limits) a year later. Julia noted that when she moved here it was love at first sight with the architecture. Her family would eventually move into the Triangle Inn where her mother worked. Her father worked for the Kentucky Military Institute and became mayor of Venice during WW II. Ms. Cousins Laning attended school in a building near the location of the current Venice Theater and Hamilton Building and graduated from Venice-Nokomis High School at age 16. She attended Florida Southern where she took classes in English, Science, and Art. Soon after graduating, she moved to New York landing a job as an illustrator for *Reader's Digest*. While living in New York she became an acquaintance of Dr. and Mrs. Fred Albee where she learned about his accomplishments in WW I. Ms. Cousins Laning retired from her work and moved back to her hometown of Venice in 1970.

Dale Laning was born in St. Louis, Michigan in 1915. He was an accountant and veteran of General MacArthur's headquarters in the Pacific during World War II. After the war, he married and became an office manager for an international law firm in New York. After 33 years of service and years of successful investing, he retired with his first wife to Venice in 1982 where she eventually passed away. Dale and Julia met in their 60s and were soon married.

When Julia Cousins Laning returned to Venice, she was surprised to learn that so few people in the City knew about the accomplishments of Dr. Albee. This was the first spark in her interest of collecting and preserving Venice's history for future generations. She had to put this idea on hold while she attended to her husband's failing health. Mr. Laning passed away in 2008. After his death, Mrs. Cousins Laning added philanthropy to her volunteer work, supporting and assisting many historical and cultural organizations in the community. She became a long-time volunteer with the Venice Museum and Archives. She also supported the Laurel Community Center, the Venice Area Historical Society, the Venice Theater, Venice Symphony, and the Sarasota Opera. Along with her service, she has also helped the museum by supporting the Triangle Inn's facility and staffing needs for years. Finally, Mrs. Cousins Laning made possible a new facility to collect all of Venice's historical records in one place so that future generations will not be as uninformed as those she encountered in 1970.