

Maggie,

I'm confused and concerned about this announcement. Our last emails about this topic were early September 2020. My email responses, and our subsequent phone call on September 8 that included Jehanne Arslan, documents the public acknowledgement that "FCPA does NOT name bridges." The Park Policy Manual states "Indiscriminate exceptions to Park Authority policies are to be avoided".

In an email dated Sept. 7, 2020 you attached a copy of the **Park Policy 404 Memorials and Commemorations**. I suggested that if the HVRC would like to honor the Burnet's contributions towards the Hunters Valley Association (HVA)/HVRC, it would be more appropriate for them to do so with a nice plaque, *near the jumping ring*, acknowledging their gracious efforts to help preserve equestrian facilities for HVRC members' use and extensive support for the HVA. I have reiterated this suggestion to the HVRC members copied on this announcement, and also queried them why the HVRC had not proposed any such commemorative plaques during the past twenty-five years of the jumping ring's existence.

The appropriate process for any commemorative efforts should have been a formal request from the HVRC to the Hunters Valley Association (HVA) for public discussion and approval. Unfortunately, this has not happened. The HVRC is a club that operates under the umbrella of the HVA Corporation. As such, it is subject to the HVA Corporation By-laws Article VI Clubs and Organizations. The 99 year lease for the jumping ring near the bridge site is with the HVA, not the HVRC. To put the inappropriateness of what has occurred into perspective, the HVRC members copied on this announcement are not Resident Members of the HVA/HVRC, so they are *not even voting members of the HVA* when/if this is put forth for an official vote.

As a member of the Sully District Citizen Council Association (SDCCA), I must also express my great disappointment surrounding the lack of full public disclosure during the "Gabrielson Bridge Update" that you presented to us at our January 28, 2021 meeting. Just thirteen days after your presentation to the SDCCA you sponsored a Board Action to propose that the new bridge in Gabrielson Gardens Park be named "The Burnet Bridge." Such lack of transparency only emphasizes how this was in no way a public process.

Your Board Action justification does not mention any official request by the HVRC, HVA, Sully District Citizens Council, or even the Coalition to Replace Gabrielson Bridge that represents the larger "**Hunters Valley/Sully/Fairfax County community**" made up of hundreds of citizen volunteers and organizations (Sierra Club Great Falls Group, Mid-Atlantic Off-Road Enthusiasts (MORE), Washington Area Bicyclist Association (WABA), Hunter Mill Defense League (HMDL) as well as many surrounding HOAs) that worked tirelessly together, and eagerly looked forward to, the completion of *their* new "Gabrielson Bridge". The "background" justification for this proposed action indicates it is to commemorate Thornton & Mary Elizabeth's tireless work "to ensure that the community developed into a cohesive, caring, and environmentally aware association to assist and represent all members." Unfortunately, the well-intended rogue efforts to commemorate the Burnets were neither transparent nor publically endorsed. If the current naming was to go forward it would act to undo the larger community spirit and pride that the "Gabrielson Bridge" had come to symbolize.

According to **Park Policy 304 Naming of Parks and Facilities**, the Park Authority Board has the authority to rescind the naming of a park or facility without prejudice. I ask that this been done immediately. The next HVA meeting is scheduled for February 22, 2020. I will notify the HVRC and HVA Board that this topic will be on our HVA agenda for discussion. I think it is a nice idea for the Burnet's to receive public acknowledgement for their contributions that have benefited the HVA/HVRC, which are both private entities. Therefore, such efforts should be kept separate from a public facility intended for public use located within a Fairfax County Park. A plaque could be approved and appropriately placed within our private easement *near the riding ring*, once it receives both approvals from the HVA and from the current property owner of record. I will also be forwarding this communication onto the Sully District Citizens Council for discussion. Our next scheduled meeting is our Joint Sully Land Use and Transportation Committee on Monday, February 15, 2021.

Sincerely,

Sheila Dunheimer
President, Hunters Valley Association