



Mayor & Council Meeting Date: October 16, 2017
Agenda Item Type: Recognition
Department: City Clerk/Director of Council Operations Office
Responsible Staff: Kathleen Conway

Subject

Certificate of Recognition - New Mark Commons 50th Anniversary

Recommendation

Present the New Mark Commons 50th Anniversary Certificate of Recognition to New Mark Commons Board of Directors President John Daroff.

Discussion

New Mark Commons, the 96-acre subdivision that was Rockville's fifth Planned Unit Development (PUD), was incorporated in September 1967. The community is celebrating its first 50 years and its efforts to live up to the vision stated by developer Edmund J. Bennett.

The New Mark Commons community was conceived by Edmund J. Bennett, a Montgomery County native whose firm received over 35 national and local awards for innovative architectural techniques, building design and site planning. New Mark Commons was his first Planned Unit Development (PUD), intended to take advantage of Rockville's Planned Residential Unit (PRU) ordinance adopted in 1964.

In Mr. Bennett's October 28, 1965 application to the City of Rockville for approval, he stated, "In our plan, a most important aim is the establishment of a community with which its residents can identify, and which provides an all-important sense of 'place' for them." Mr. Bennett had previously developed Carderock Springs in Potomac, now listed on the National Register. The design for New Mark Commons emphasized the natural topography of the land, retaining mature trees and innovative architecture, resulting in careful house siting throughout the development.

On August 4, 2017, New Mark Commons was listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The U.S. National Park Service cited the design leadership of developer Edmund Bennett and architects Keyes Lethbridge and Condon (KLC) in creating a mix of town and detached houses, open space and tree preservation on a rolling site. The Rockville Mayor and Council supported the nomination of New Mark Commons to the National Register of Historic Places.

Attachments

Attachment 6.A.a: New Mark Commons Certificate Final.docx (PDF)

Stephen A. Conway

Stephen A. Conway, City Clerk/Director of Council Operations 10/11/2017



Mayor and Council – Rockville, Maryland

CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION

New Mark Commons

On the 50th Anniversary of this special planned community

New Mark Commons, the 96-acre subdivision that was Rockville’s fifth Planned Unit Development (PUD), was incorporated in September 1967. The community is celebrating its first 50 years and its efforts to live up to the vision stated by developer Edmund Bennett. In his October 28, 1965 application to the City of Rockville for approval, he stated, “In our plan, a most important aim is the establishment of a community with which its residents can identify, and which provides an all-important sense of ‘place’ for them.”

New Mark Commons gained recognition in August 2017 when it was listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The U.S. National Park Service cited the design leadership of developer Edmund Bennett and architects Keyes Lethbridge and Condon in creating a mix of town and detached houses, open space and tree preservation on a rolling site. The Mayor and City Council supported the nomination of New Mark Commons to the National Register of Historic Places.

With this Certificate of Recognition, the City of Rockville honors and acknowledges the community’s cultural, ethnic, demographic, and socioeconomic diversity, reflected in its broad array of community activities, including formal Board committees, an MCSL swim team, grassroots interest groups ranging from book clubs to play groups, and annual community social events, including an International Dinner. New Mark Commons reflects the spirit of inclusiveness for which our City has become well known.

Bridget Donnell Newton
Bridget Donnell Newton, Mayor

Beryl L. Feinberg
Beryl L. Feinberg, Councilmember

Virginia D. Onley
Virginia D. Onley, Councilmember

Julie Palakovich Carr
Julie Palakovich Carr, Councilmember

Mark Pierzchala
Mark Pierzchala, Councilmember