

April 25, 2019: Public Hearing for the

“Jim Billen Trail” Naming Petition

Who submitted the petition?

The request and petition were submitted to the County Clerk on Nov. 14, 2018 by resident Irene Powell. She submitted a petition of at least 25 Los Alamos registered voters as required under County Code Article V, "Special Recognition of Persons and Historical Events and Naming of Public Facilities," Sections 2-421 and 2-422.

The Parks and Recreation Board considered Powell's request at its December 13, 2018 Board meeting and took action to support the naming of a portion of Pueblo Canyon Rim Trail in memory of Jim Billen. On Feb. 12, 2019, the County Council subsequently considered Powell's petition and requested that the County convene a public hearing to consider comments "for" and "against" the petition, as defined in the Code.

Why do the petitioners want to name a segment of the Pueblo Canyon Rim Trail after Jim Billen?

The below information was supplied to the County by the Petitioner:

Jim moved to Los Alamos in 1983 and was a resident for 35 years. He worked on this segment of trail for at least six years. According to his wife, Mary, Jim also worked across the canyon on a trail, but Craig Martin wanted him to work on this other trail. He served on the Los Alamos Opera Guild. He was an employee of LANL.

Who are the Committee members?

In accordance with the requirements of the County Code, an impartial committee shall be convened for the Public Hearing, representing the following:

Julie Habiger, County Public Information Officer (for the County Manager – non voting)

Terry Priestley (for the Planning & Zoning Commission)

Don Ulrich (for the Parks & Recreation Board)

Kyle Wheeler, citizen

Steve Whittemore, citizen

David Jolly, business owner

What is the next step after the Public Hearing?

The Committee will consider all comments and vote to make a recommendation at the close of the public hearing. The Committee's recommendation and minutes of the hearing will be submitted to the Council at their Tuesday, May 7th Council meeting (6 p.m. in Council Chambers, Los Alamos).

Has the County named other trails after a deceased individual?

Yes. A portion of the Quemazon Nature Trail was re-named the Satch Cowan Trail in 2012.