

Resolution #21-0283
2021 Resolution Book, Page 135

**RESOLUTION APPROVING NAMING OF THE FOOTBRIDGE ACROSS SALEM
CREEK AT THE END OF LIBERIA STREET IN HONOR OF WADE BITTING**

WHEREAS, The Recreation and Parks Commission, at its June 1, 2021 meeting, received a request from Council Member Annette Scippio, East Ward, to name the footbridge across Salem Creek at the end of Liberia Street in honor of Mr. Wade Bitting; and

WHEREAS, he was an advocate for his community; and

WHEREAS, in the 1930's, Mr. Bitting approached Salem Ward Alderman J. Wilbur Crews about the need for a footbridge after a woman fell and broke her leg trying to get across the creek from the Happy Hill neighborhood to Salem and downtown; and

WHEREAS, Langdon E. Opperman wrote in her report, *Winston-Salem's African-American Neighborhoods: 1870-1950*, "The creek and all the low area was excessively overgrown, and the neighborhood was frequently flooded. Residents had no screens in windows and so slept under the constant attack of mosquitoes and rats from the creek. Wade Bitting organized the men of his church and drew up a petition to have the undergrowth cleared and a playground made for children, which they presented to Mayor, R.J. Reynolds, Jr."; and

WHEREAS, additionally, Mr. Bitting was instrumental in having street names put up and numbers on the houses which lead to mail being delivered to the houses instead of residents having to walk to the Salem post office for their mail; and

WHEREAS, this tribute is a lasting testament to one man's efforts to improve the condition of his neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, although it's been more than seventy years, Mr. Bitting's community engagement and social action is a shining example for others to follow; and

WHEREAS, as required by the City Council adopted policy on naming of City-owned buildings and facilities, the advisory body overseeing the facility, in this case the Recreation and Parks Commission supports a resolution recommending the naming of the Footbridge across Salem Creek at the end of Liberia Street be named in honor of Mr. Wade Bitting.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Winston-Salem that the footbridge across Salem Creek at the end of Liberia Street, be named in honor of Wade Bitting.