

## **#1-R-16**

### **Mann, Meltzer, Martin & Williams**

#### **Renaming the Fox River Properties to the **Ellen Kort Peace Park****

**WHEREAS**, Ellen Kort, named Wisconsin's first poet laureate in 2000 by Governor Tommy Thompson, is revered and regarded by many residents of Appleton as a cherished author, teacher and mentor, having played a significant role in the founding of the **Fox Cities Book Festival**, authoring 11 books and 8 collections of poetry as well numerous parochial books, including **The Fox Heritage: A History of Wisconsin Fox Cities**, **The Art of Labor: Building the Fox Cities Performing Arts Center** and **Wisconsin Quilts: Stories in the Stitches**, named an Outstanding Book of Wisconsin by the Wisconsin Library Association, having received numerous awards, including the Wisconsin Sesquicentennial Poetry Award, and the 2001 "Excellence In The Arts" Award among others, having taken part in Appleton's Compassion Project and having had her poetry installed in a number of public venues in Appleton including the Fox River Mall, the Appleton Heart Institute, City Center Plaza, and Appleton Public Library; is shown to have substantially contributed to the cultural significance and richness of Appleton; and

**WHEREAS**, Ellen used her skills as a poet and teacher to reach out to the Fox Valley community in numerous ways, teaching at local universities and schools and conducting writing workshops for at-risk teens, nurses, physicians and for survivors of cancer, AIDS and domestic abuse by sharing the fundamental tenants of her core beliefs, reflected in her indelible spirit of compassion and deep understanding of the human condition which manifested in aspirations of tolerance, acceptance, forgiveness and peace in her healing prose; and

**WHEREAS**, On March 3, 2015, The City of Appleton voted unanimously to move the land formerly known as the Appleton Water Treatment Plant on Water Street, the Fox River Properties, to the Parks and Recreation Department; and

**WHEREAS**, the City's Master Plan for Jones Park and the Fox River Properties, adopted in 2006, envisions this segment of prime public waterfront as the primary pedestrian nexus of Appleton's Fox River presence with arterial connections to Downtown and the expanding Fox River Corridor's trails and parkways; and

**WHEREAS**, the naming of the Fox River Properties is in accordance with the NAMING OF PUBLIC PARK LANDS policy adopted by the City in 1997, satisfying #1 and #6 of the acceptable naming criteria, as well as written approval and support of Ellen Kort's next of kin; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2001, Mayor Hanna presented a Proclamation to Ellen Kort - State of Wisconsin Poet Laureate – and designated February 27, 2001 as "Ellen Kort Day"; now, therefore, **BE IT RESOLVED**, that **on February 27th, Ellen Kort Day 2016**, the Fox River Properties be officially named the **Ellen Kort Peace Park**.