



Wednesday, December 7, 2022 – 4:00-6:00 PM
In-person Meeting Location: Tempe History Museum
Community Room, 809 E. Southern Ave., Tempe, AZ 85282

STREET AND PARK RENAMING AD HOC COMMITTEE MINUTES

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Meeting called to order, Wednesday December 7th at 4:17 p.m. by Chair Andrew Ching with a quorum.

Committee Members in Attendance:

- Andrew Ching (Chair)
- Hannah Moulton Belec
- Justin Stewart
- Reylynne Williams
- Monica Trejo
- Lauren Kubby
- Mel Kessler
- Isabel Ruiz
- JoAn Cooks
- Phil Kraft
- Teri Metros
- Shereen Lerner
- Julie Kent

Staff: Keely Varvel Hartsell, Madalaine McConville, Jared Smith, and Brenda Abney

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2A. Approval of Ad Hoc Committee minutes from 10/18/22 meeting

Minutes approved unanimously.

3. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Members of the public provided comment on the renaming of city-owned locations.

4. ITEMS FOR REVIEW AND DISCUSSION

4A. Community Outreach Report

Staff discussed the community outreach that was conducted, including the Tempe Forum, flyers/postcards sent to impacted communities, and meetings with various stakeholders. Staff shared the feedback received from various stakeholders such as the Four Southern Tribal Communities. Staff also compiled and shared the most updated results of public submissions of renaming options and presented a comprehensive list of names for both individuals and nonindividuals.

4B. Consideration of suggested names

Staff asked for clarification on if the committee wants to pick 5 or 6 names, as West and East Laird Streets are separated. There was a consensus from the committee to recommend to City Council 6 names and provide other names for future consideration if there are left over names that were not chosen.

Chair Ching vocalized that the other names not chosen tonight could be sent to City Council to use for future renaming of City facilities, parks, etc. in the future.

Staff discussed the proposed names and how many votes were received from the committee members.

Committee members discussed various suggested names and background information on the people, places, etc.

Committee members discussed name formatting and what language they would like to use when renaming the streets and parks (i.e. various names are longer than others and may have to be shortened for street names due to space on signage).

Committee members vocalized again they would like to see plaques or a QR code near the renamed areas with information and context on why the Streets and Parks were named and history/background.

Committee members emphasized the role of the restorative approach and who was most impacted by the KKK. Another member mentioned the restorative approach can also include people who are important to the community and helped build The City of Tempe.

Staff provided additional background and information about newly mentioned names and new information on previously suggested names.

Committee members suggested to focus the recommended names for people who lived in Tempe or made a big impact or broad influence on the City of Tempe in some form.

The Committee then decided to focus on narrowing down the names from the restorative list to a final list. Committee members focused on matching the new parks and street names with the rough geographical location of where the people chosen for the new names lived or made an impact. Staff then clarified the rough geographical location of the proposed names and what current street or park they would be connected to and what street or park the new name could replace.

Committee members asked about reaching back out to the communities impacted to get their feedback. Staff then responded with previous public comment requests from various neighborhoods. Staff also mentioned they sent out postcards to the impacted neighborhoods and asked for their input. Staff also provided context on the School Board's process on how they handled public input. Chair Ching asked for clarification on how the committee wants staff to conduct additional outreach.

Committee members continued to correspond the proposed names with a location and narrow down the list. Staff and committee members continued to provide additional information on the various names and why they should correspond with a various location. Chair Ching asked the committee to finalize name recommendations for certain locations. The following proposed names were discussed to recommend to City Council to replace the current street and park names.

- Proposed name, Romo-Jones Street to replace West Laird Street;
- Proposed name, Michelle Brooks-Totress for Redden Park;
- Proposed name, Parque de Sotelo-Soza to replace Hudson Park;
- Proposed name, Mary & Moses Green Park to replace Harelson Park;
- Proposed name, Thomas Lane (for Maggie and Theodore Thomas) to replace Hudson Lane;
- And tentatively proposed name, Ragsdale Street (for Lincoln J. Ragsdale) to replace East Laird Street.

Chair Ching and committee members reiterated again that the final names chosen, and names not chosen can be brought to City Council as potential options for future uses for city locations and discussed other ways these names could be used.

Chair Ching mentioned that the Committee no longer has quorum and could have one final meeting to make finalize the recommendations to City Council.

4C. Budget and Resident Cost Reimbursement

Staff went over the budget and reimbursement costs for renaming the city streets and parks. This included cost estimates from the Community Services (Parks) Department and the Engineering and Transportation Department. Research was also discussed by staff for what costs would be incurred by community members and how to reimburse those costs.

Committee members asked about the costs of the plaques or supplemental information near the streets or parks. Staff will follow-up with the various departments and work on this. Committee members also asked about having one central person to answer questions and assist impacted community members with questions regarding the renaming of their streets.

4D. Future meeting schedule

Since quorum was lost, the committee will need to finalize the recommendations to City Council. A last meeting of the committee will be scheduled, and staff will send out further information.

5. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Members did not suggest any presentations for the final meeting.

6. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CITY MANAGER OR COMMITTEE MEMBERS

There was no announcement by the City Manager or Committee Members.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Committee meeting adjourned at 6:28 p.m.

Next meeting to be determined.

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