



City of Stevenson

Leana Kinley, City Administrator

Phone (509)427-5970
FAX (509) 427-8202

7121 E Loop Road, PO Box 371
Stevenson, Washington 98648

To: City Council
From: Leana Kinley, City Administrator
RE: Rock Creek Access
Meeting Date: February 18, 2021

Executive Summary:

The City received two petitions for road vacations in the area near Iman Cemetery which are used to access Rock Creek via private property. At the December 10th Public Hearing on the vacation of No Name Rd. Council directed the creation of the Rock Creek Access Committee to find solutions ahead of the summer.

Overview:

There have been increasing complaints about parking and trespassing around Iman Cemetery to access a historic swimming hole along Rock Creek which has been published on Google and other public outlets. The Cemetery District is also running into conflicts with the lack of parking for events due to right of way encroachments and increase use of the area. The city has received two petitions to vacate rights of way. No Name Rd. is highlighted in yellow on the attached map and had a public hearing on December 10th. Iman Cemetery Rd. is highlighted in blue, abuts a body of water and has not yet had a public hearing.

There have been two meetings of the Rock Creek Access Committee. The notes from the first meeting are attached. The second meeting was to get a better understanding of the issue and viable options. Without knowing the resources council wants to use to provide access, there is not much else the committee is able to accomplish.

There also remains the concern about cemetery access. A copy of their discussion and request is attached. There are encroachment issues of brush as well as infrastructure (a retaining wall, fence and possibly a portion of a garage). One question for council is, if No Name road is not vacated, how far does council want Public Works to go in re-establishing the right of way. There are many areas around the city where the city has undeveloped sections of right of way and does not enforce full development or clearing.

The resolution setting a public hearing for the vacation of Iman Cemetery Rd. sets a date of March 18th for a Public Hearing and has language specific to rights of way which abut bodies of water. RCW 35.79.035 Limitations on vacations of streets abutting bodies of water-Procedure (attached), guides the vacation of this section of road. In general, the question is whether the street provides a public view. If it does provide a public view, then the street cannot be vacated.

Action Needed:

Motion to approve Resolution 2021-374 setting the date for a public hearing on the vacation of Iman Cemetery Rd.

Direction on whether or not to move forward with vacating No Name Rd.

Direction on ROW maintenance along No Name Rd. and Holly Ave.