



CITY OF ST. HELENS PLANNING DEPARTMENT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Planning Commission
FROM: Jacob A. Graichen, AICP, City Planner
RE: Renaming of “Mill Street” in the Riverfront District
DATE: March 13, 2023

As part of the Riverfront District redevelopment, the street stub next to property addressed as 330 S. 1st Street that will be extended to the southerly extension of Strand Street needs to be renamed.

ORS 227.120 provides the procedure for renaming streets. This includes:

1. **Review and recommendation from the Planning Commission.**
2. Public hearing before the City Council
3. Adoption of street rename by Ordinance.
4. Filing with the County (Clerk, Assessor, Surveyor)

Your recommendation is the first official step in the processes, though staff presented the issue to the Council at their March 1, 2023 work session to inform and for initial feedback (and name suggestions—see below).

Per Ordinance No. 707, which vacated some of this street right-of-way in 1941, this street was sometimes called Mill Street. It is also labeled as Mill Street on approx. 100-year-old Sanborn fire insurance maps. There is already a Mill Street within St. Helens city limits off N. Vernonia Road and pursuant to SHMC 17.152.030(12):

No street name shall be used which will duplicate or be confused with the names of existing streets in Columbia County emergency communications district, except for extensions of existing streets.

Based on this code provision, we consult with Columbia 9-1-1 to ensure new street names are not duplicative and this is a similar situation. Mill Street is clearly duplicative (and thus won't work) and any new name will need Columbia 9-1-1's consent.

As a minor street not aligned with the overall street grid (i.e., it is a midblock street), it will be most appropriate to call it “_____ Way” based on typical street naming conventions, similar to “John Gumm Way” between S. 3rd and 4th Streets within the 200 block. **So, it is a question of what word to put before Way.**

Name ideas:

1. Pumpkin Way

City Engineering suggested something Halloweentown related; this is an example.

2. McCormick Way

Council President Chilton suggested this. This was one of the potential names suggested by the Museum Association (Les Watters) at the March 1st Council work session. Charles McCormick

is an important industrial figure for St. Helens in the early part of the 20th century 1900's. There is a Wikipedia entry: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles_R._McCormick_Lumber_Company

3. Wapato Way

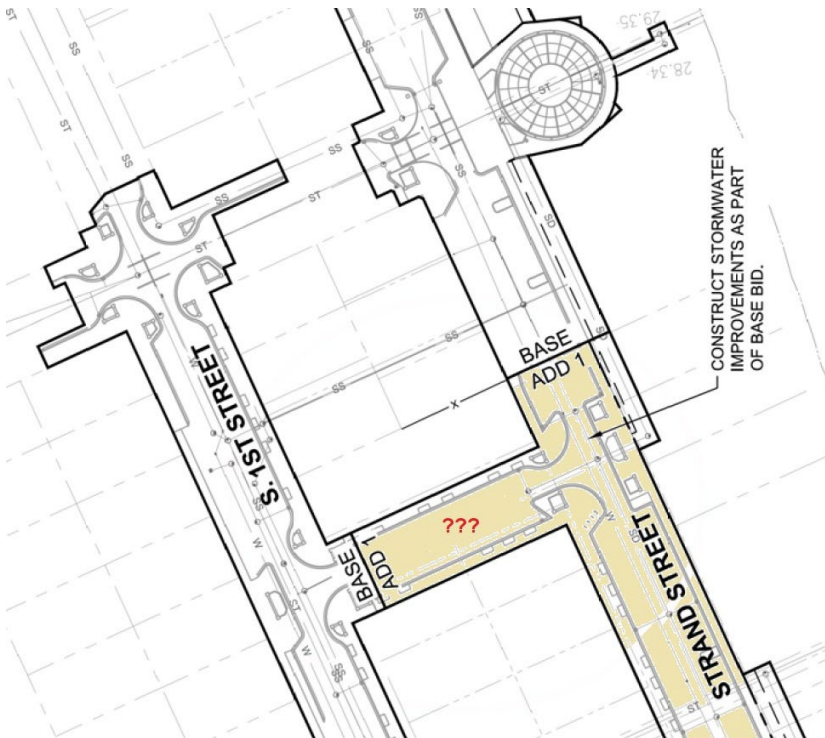
Councilor Birkle suggested something related to indigenous populations such as this. Wapato was an important food source for indigenous populations.

4. Wapama Way

Les Watters from the Columbia County Museum Association provided several ideas; his favored name is Wapama after a ship built here. It has a Wikipedia entry:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wapama_\(steam_schooner\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wapama_(steam_schooner))

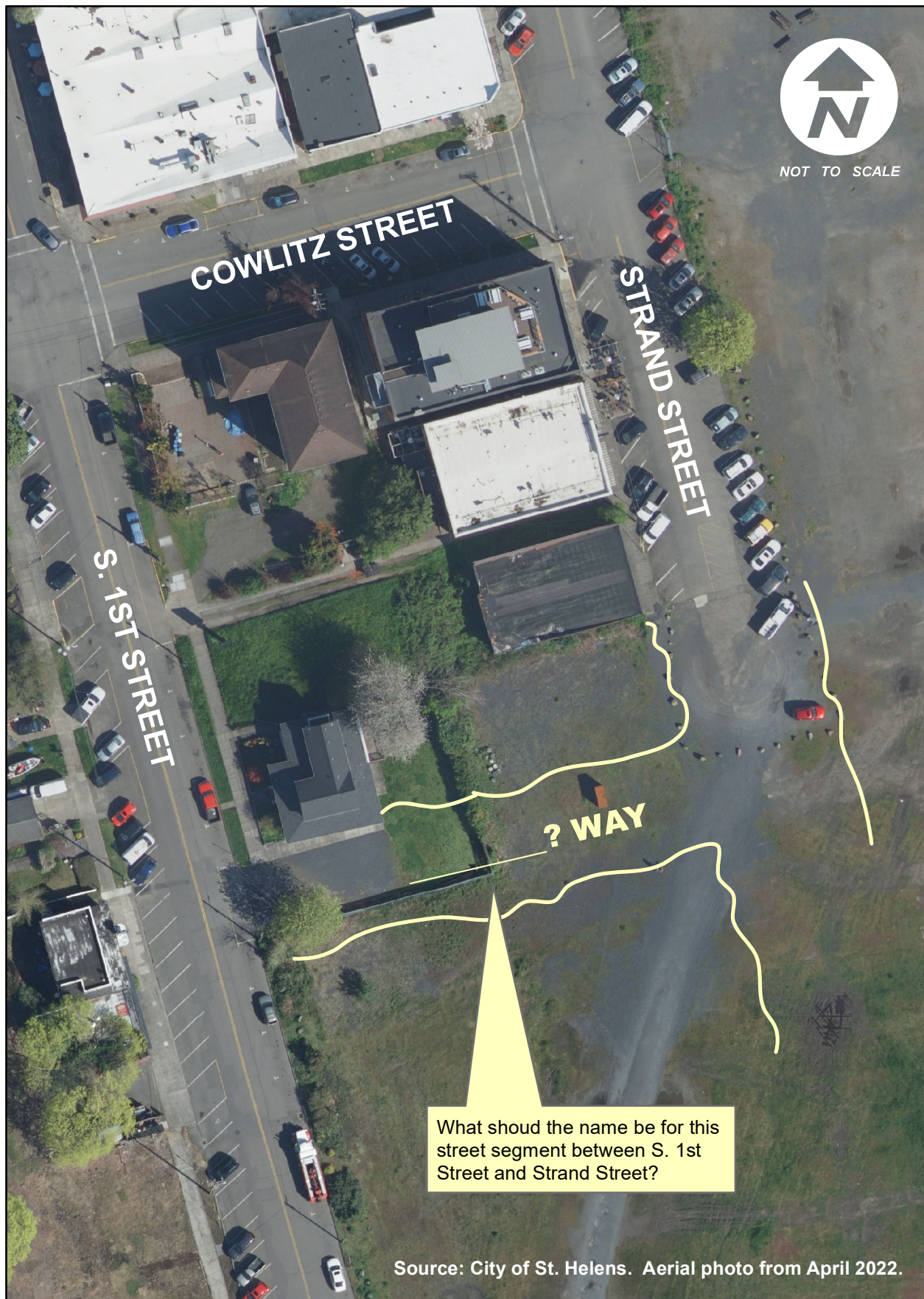
You could choose from these or recommend others. Ultimately, I recommend the Commission choose a main name with an alternate or two, or just recommend a few for council consideration. We need to make sure a selected name is unique so Columbia 9-1-1 will accept it; this is why alternates are wise.



Left: The yellow highlighted streets are areas to be extended, eventually, as part of the Riverfront District redevelopment.

The midblock street segment, known as "Mill Street" needs to be renamed to *something* Way. For example, "Any Way."

Attached: aerial photo map



NOT TO SCALE

COWLITZ STREET

STRAND STREET

S. 1ST STREET

? WAY

What should the name be for this street segment between S. 1st Street and Strand Street?

Source: City of St. Helens. Aerial photo from April 2022.