



Memorandum

DATE: February 2, 2024

TO: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee

FROM: Sarah Pearlman, Assistant Planner
Amy Pepper, PE, Development Engineering Manager
Miranda Bateschell, Planning Director

RE: **Town Center Plan Street Naming- Staff Recommendation**

At the January DEI Committee meeting, staff presented the two main themes based on prior ideas from the DEI Committee for a street naming scheme in Town Center: Recognition of Leaders from Diverse Backgrounds (Theme A) and Recognition of Oregon's Diverse Landscape (Theme B). The DEI Committee invited Mr. Peter Hatch, History & Archaeology Specialist with the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians (CTSI), to provide insight and feedback on the theme options during the meeting. Prior meeting materials have been provided as attachments for the Committee's convenience.

On January 31, 2024, staff met with Mr. Hatch, to further discuss feedback for a Town Center-specific street naming scheme. Mr. Hatch shared that the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians appreciated the opportunity to comment and be included, but felt that the planned workflow for how names will be brought into use did not offer certainty about whether streets named for tribal leaders would be prominent or aesthetically pleasing in a way that would confer the honor that the City and Committee intend, and therefore it does not make sense for CTSI to suggest tribal leaders as potential street names at this time.

Mr. Hatch shared additions to the existing native plant list that had significance to the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, including elderberry, tarweed, and juncus and wishes to compliment the City and Staff on the excellent list already prepared. Staff plans to update the citywide list based on these recommendations. The option of pulling significant native plants to the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians for use in Town Center was explored. However, the DEI Committee expressly communicated a desire for names in Town Center to be inclusive of native peoples as well as other cultures and peoples present in the community today. In addition, the use of native plants is already in the street naming policy and prevalent in the community, and one goal of the Town Center Naming scheme is to differentiate the area from the rest of the City.

At this February meeting, staff recommends that the DEI Committee choose Theme B: Recognition of Oregon’s Diverse Landscape to move forward with a street naming scheme for Town Center that reflects the diverse landscape of Oregon. This option aligns with the community desire for the design on Town Center to reflect Wilsonville’s connection with the Willamette River and nature as communicated in both the Town Center Plan and its Streetscape Plan. It reflects the vibrant and varied backgrounds of the physical landscape of the state and of those who spend time in Town Center. Mr. Hatch offered to review the draft list of street names of this theme (Attachment 1) and provide input on landscapes and features that have significance to CTSI, thus incorporating some indigenous cultures and people. Furthermore, this option limits some of the challenges inherent in using the names of individual people, including the intensive research and vetting process that would be needed and the concerns that individual people won’t fully encompass the diversity of backgrounds and experiences that the future of Town Center aims to represent.

Discussion Questions:

- Which option would the DEI Committee like to move forward?
- What additional input or ideas do members of the DEI Committee have on that selected option?
- Which members of the DEI Committee would be interested in providing feedback before the March meeting?

Based on input from the DEI Committee, Staff will work with Chair Pham, Mr. Hatch, and other interested members of the Committee who identify themselves at the February meeting to draft a Town Center Street Naming Policy for review at the March meeting and subsequent adoption as a modification or attachment to the existing Resolution (Attachment 4).

Attachments:

1. Town Center Street Naming: Summary of Options dated January 5, 2024
2. Town Center Street Naming Community Development Memo dated January 5, 2024
3. Town Center Street Naming Community Development Memo dated September 1, 2023
4. Resolution 1924
5. Approved Street Name List