



Memorandum

DATE: August 13, 2024

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

FROM: Sarah Pearlman, Assistant Planner
Zoe Mombert, Assistant to the City Manager
Amy Pepper, PE, Development Engineering Manager
Miranda Bateschell, Planning Director

RE: **Town Center Plan Street Naming- City Council Feedback**

The Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Committee has been discussing the street naming convention for a number of months. Over the past few months, the DEI Committee has chosen a theme, proposed names, and adopted criteria to research and assess those names.

On August 5, 2024, staff, Chair Brashear, and Vice Chair Pham presented the Town Center Street Naming Project to the City Council for additional feedback. Key feedback and recommendations are as follows:

- It may be difficult to manage a list that includes living individuals based on one's elected official status (current or future). It is recommended that a criterion be added that all persons be added posthumously. Mayor Fitzgerald specifically requested that her name be removed from the list.
- Consideration of names of the fallen at the Korean War Memorial in Town Center Park, Chinese laborers who contributed to the development of farmland and construction of railroads and industry in Oregon history, and the consideration of the Kitakata Committee.
- The creation of a website or posting at the library to provide background for chosen street names.
- Recommendation to exercise caution in using Indigenous names. Ensure that the process for obtaining tribal authority approval is clear and not prohibitive.
- Should future developers want to add a name to the list, staff should work with the DEI Committee to research and vet the name.

The research on the list of names recommended in June has been completed by the Summer Admin Intern, Aria Azizi, and will be shared at this August meeting with the Committee. Staff recommends that the DEI Committee strike living persons from the list and include a criteria for posthumous consideration based on City Council feedback. Staff discussed the Council's

suggested additions and will provide names of Chinese Laborers who made contributions to Oregon’s history. The Wilsonville Historical Society has referenced the significance of Chinese Laborers in Wilsonville; however, the historical records have not identified the names of these individuals.

The Korean War Memorial and the new interpretive center honor the fallen Korean War veterans in a meaningful way. The street naming project will allow the city to honor additional individuals who made meaningful contributions to the community from historically underrepresented groups. Staff could add the past Mayors who served the City in the creation of the Sister City partnership, however, this also appears to be outside of the scope of the “significant leaders from historically underrepresented communities” scope.

Staff also requests feedback on other names to be struck from the list and modification of criteria for the final policy.

Discussion Questions:

- Which names would the DEI Committee like to strike or move forward with the final recommendation to City Council?
- Are there additional modifications to the policy criteria that the DEI Committee would like to consider?

Based on input from the DEI Committee, Staff will create a final draft policy and list of names for final consideration at the September meeting. These materials will be shared with the Planning Commission as an informational item in September as well. Staff plans to return to City Council for adoption of a Resolution for the Town Center Street Naming project on October 7, 2024.

Attachments:

1. Resolution 1924
2. Additional Names for Consideration- Chinese Labor Representatives.