



Memorandum

DATE: September 11, 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**

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. At this meeting, the DEI Committee will put forth a recommendation to the City Council regarding the Town Center Street Naming Policy and List of Names. The Summer Admin Intern, Aria Azizi, has provided research on the list of names and prior to this meeting, DEI Committee members sent in select names for a prioritized list.

The prioritized list is included in the September 10, 2024 meeting packet. Staff has conducted a final round of vetting and recommends that the attached additional information be considered in the DEI Committee's recommendation.

At this meeting, staff seeks a final recommendation on the list of names to be included with the policy and a final recommendation to City Council. These materials will be shared with the Planning Commission as an informational item at the September 11, 2024 meeting. Staff plans to return to City Council for adoption of a Resolution for the Town Center Street Naming project on October 7, 2024.

Attachment:
Additional Vetting and Research on Prioritized List

Additional Research Prioritized Street Name List

(September 2024)

Individuals to include as a street name Prioritized by more than one committee member

(Summary and potential concerns)

Deiz

From a large family, although she did not believe in such large families (first of 10 children). Divorced when she came to Oregon (divorce was not legal in New York where she was from). Advocated for children and minorities. First female lawyer and judge in Oregon.

Notes: Raised funding for the Scottsboro Boys (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scottsboro_Boys) . “I didn’t know who they were, but I just knew there were some terrible things going on down South.”

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mercedes_Deiz

<https://womenofportland.wordpress.com/women-of-portland-mercedes-deiz/>

<https://www.ohs.org/blog/tales-from-the-oral-history-collections-mercedes-deiz.cfm>

https://digitalcollections.ohs.org/uploads/r/oregon-historical-society-library/2/1/2/212afa227c686f7906e891bd5d8c7f4c78b0527b3c439ab63e04670c5400957e/61ee69d4-b36f-47ce-bcd3-47c505203ba2-SR1256_Transcript.pdf

<https://digitalcollections.ohs.org/sr1256-transcript>

Cannady

Notes: Managing Editor of the Advocate (Portland’s only African American Newspaper at the time) ,used the opportunity to write editorials against segregation and discrimination in Portland. Included stories of Black leadership and history, a leader in the black community and NAACP. Advocate African American Civil Rights. First black woman to graduate law school in Oregon.

Corvallis SD Research Paper

Yasui

Japanese American who protested against the unfair treatment / internment of Japanese Americans. He was the first male Japanese American lawyer in Oregon. He tried to report for military duty in 1941 but was turned down. He challenged the constitutionality of Executive Order 9066, which allowed the military to set up exclusion zones, establish curfews and intern Japanese Americans during World War II. He ended up being arrested and served jail time for defying these regulations and appealed his case the US Supreme Court. They ruled he was a US Citizen but during war times these rules were permissible. After serving a year in Jail he was released and then went to an interment camp in Idaho. During the summer of 1944 he was allowed to leave the internment camp. He spent the rest of his life seeking redress for Japanese Americans who lived in internment camps and fighting for the rights of other minorities. Two

years after his death the Civil Liberties act of 1988 was signed which granted redress for all Japanese Americans during WWII.

He has been honored by the City and County of Denver own a building named after him and the University of Oregon recently dedicated Yasui Hall in June 2024.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Minoru_Yasui

Corvallis SD Research Paper

York

Important member of the Lewis and Clark expedition. Not a lot is know about him except he was Clark's slave. He helped to navigate trails and hunt. As a black man, Native American's were awestruck by his appearance which might have helped Clark with their interactions with the tribes they encountered. He had a vote on decisions during expeditions but returned to a life of slavery when the expedition ended. He was likely freed between 1811 – 1815 but it is unclear. The era did not provide many opportunities to African Americans.

<https://www.nps.gov/lecl/york.htm>

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/york-explored-west-lewis-and-clark-his-freedom-wouldnt-come-until-decades-later-180968427/>

Green

She was the second Oregonian Woman to be elected to the US House of Representatives and served 10 terms. She focused on education, social reform and women's issues. She proposed the Equal Pay Act (Equal pay for men and women for equal work) which became a law eight years later. She helped to develop title IX to correct inequalities in the school system for boys and girls. When she left congress she became a professor and was appointed to the Oregon State Board of Higher Education. (She lived in Wilsonville during the later portion of her life.)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edith_Green

https://www.oregonencyclopedia.org/articles/green_edith_starrett_1910_1987/

https://digitalcollections.ohs.org/uploads/r/oregon-historical-society-library/6/e/4/6e49a958da3155546c761561f43e34345115a231279bcbe375d132754bbe9a83/7e3396ad-7759-4893-925e-d14ada38f5de-SR9036_Transcript.pdf

Harrison

A member of the Confederated tribes of Grand Ronde (tribe was terminated from 1954-1983) and attended "Indian Boarding School" where they were assimilated into American culture. She helped to restore the Siletz (her parents tribe) and Grand Ronde's tribe. At the time there were concerns about sport fishing and logging industries. In order to restore the Grand Ronde tribe and receive logging rights for 20 years, they had to give up hunting and fishing rights. She was the only person to serve on two different tribal councils or Oregon and help two tribes get restored. She also help lead efforts to expand Indian gaming with the opening of Spirit Mountain Casino. She also worked to restore tribal culture and history. (Died in May 2023)

Corvallis SD Research Paper

<https://www.oregonlive.com/news/2023/05/kathryn-harrison-influential-oregon-tribal-leader-dies-at-99.html>

Barrow

Led demonstrations of rural African American schoolchildren against segregation. She was a social and spiritual advocate.

“She was a field organizer for Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, where she was responsible for the organization of transportation, shelter, meetings and rallies for demonstrations, including the 1965 March on Selma, Alabama.”

Participated in the Vietnam Peace Treaty. She worked to assist people in need. She was the co-chair of the Rainbow/ PUSH Coalition (organization fighting for social change)

She did move to Portland, OR when she was 16 and returned to Chicago in the mid – 1940’s.

<https://www.thehistorymakers.org/biography/reverend-willie-t-barrow>

<https://www.npr.org/sections/codeswitch/2015/03/14/392858516/reverend-willie-t-barrow-a-little-warrior-for-civil-rights-dies>

Furse

Naturalized US Citizen born in South Africa. She was an anti-[apartheid](#) activist (Black Sash member). Eventually, she moved to the united states. Worked on women’s self help project, worked with Cezar Chavez to unionize farmworkers. She was also involved in Native American rights including fishing and treaty rights.

“ led the efforts of several Oregon-based American Indian/Native American tribes to win federal recognition, successfully lobbying the U.S. Congress to restore federal recognition of the [Coquille](#), [Klamath](#), [Lower Umpqua Tribe](#),^[6] [Coos Tribe](#), and [Grand Ronde](#) tribes. In 1986, she co-founded the Portland-based Oregon Peace Institute,^[7] establishing a mission to develop and disseminate conflict resolution curriculum in Oregon schools.”

She served in the Oregon Congress and was a member of the ReFormers Caucus of [Issue One](#).

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elizabeth_Furse

Hillard

He was the first black employee of the Oregonian and eventually became the first editor – in- chief of the newspaper. He advocated for tolerance of other races, sexual orientation as well as removing native American mascots from Oregon schools (now illegal) in his articles. He assisted with the merger of the Oregonian in the 1980s and served as the first black president of the American Newspaper Association. Continued in the journalism profession even after being encouraged to take another path due to his race.

Corvallis SD Research Paper

McCoy

William McCoy served in the Navy during World War II and moved to Portland following his service. He served in the Oregon Legislature and “introduce(d) House Resolution 13, ratifying the [Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution](#), which Oregon had never formally ratified after rescinding a previous ratification.”

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_McCoy_\(Oregon_politician\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_McCoy_(Oregon_politician))

Redmond

She could not participate in many of the formal women’s suffrage movement activities due to her race. She was the president of the Colored Women’s equal suffrage movement and was only recognized in 2012 for her efforts. Her “work for voting rights helped lay the groundwork for the Black Civil Rights movement of the mid-twentieth century”.

“In the summer of 2018, [Oregon State University](#) President Ed Ray announced that three campus buildings would be renamed to better reflect the history of the area and the ideals of the university. The exhaustive research project was part of a national movement to rename buildings that had been named after individuals who had “racist legacies.” At OSU, the building that housed the Women’s Center was changed from the Benton Annex to the Hattie Redmond Women and Gender Center. “

<https://sos.oregon.gov/archives/exhibits/suffrage/Pages/bio/redmond.aspx>

https://www.oregonencyclopedia.org/articles/redmond_harriet_hattie/

Carson

She was a black woman, who traveled to Oregon with David Carson, it is unclear if he claimed her as property but they never married and had two children. They settled in Benton County on 320 acres. After David died the neighbor was named the executor of the estate rather than Letitia. The neighbor claimed that she and her children were property and could not claim the land. She sued and although she was awarded some money for labor on the land and her lost cattle but not the property. In 1862, the federal Homestead Act was passed and she filed for a 160 acre land claim. She filed as a widow and single mother of two children and was one of the first 71 claimants in the US and the only Oregon Black woman to have a claim certified.

Corvallis SD Research Paper

Equi

She was a doctor who served the working poor. She advocated for civic and economic reform including women’s right to vote and the eight – hour work day. She was very influential during the 1913-1914 unemployment crisis in Portland. She was one of the first 60 women to become a doctor in Oregon and the first publicly known lesbian on the west coast. Equi's activist friend [Julia Ruuttila](#) described her as "a woman of passion and conviction (and) a real friend of the have-nots of this world."

Note: She provided birth control education and abortions when they were both illegal. Equi aligned herself with [anarchists](#) and the [radical labor movement](#) after being clubbed by an officer. She

had a temper when she was mad that she said made people think she was crazy. “For her radical politics and same-sex relations, Equi battled discrimination and harassment. In 1918, Equi was convicted under the [Sedition Act](#) for speaking against U.S. involvement in [World War I](#). “

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marie_Equi

<https://www.opb.org/article/2023/03/13/portland-oregon-history-dr-marie-equi-lesbian-labor-activist/>

Kalapuya

Tribe know to be in the Wilsonville area.

“The best documented of the Kalapuyan tribes is the [Tualatin](#). Unlike [Tualatins](#), interior Kalapuyans did not flatten the foreheads of freeborn infants, nor were they as active in the regional slave trade. At the same time, the practice of selling orphans and children of poor parents into slavery is noted only for interior Kalapuyans.”

https://www.oregonencyclopedia.org/articles/kalapuyan_peoples/

Tualatin

Modern Washington County area Kalapuyan people.

https://www.oregonencyclopedia.org/articles/tualatin_peoples/

Wells-Barnett

She was an educator and activist. She often spoke out against the lynching of African American people. She also called out white women for not addressing the issue. She participated, with other African American leaders, calling for the boycott of the World’s Columbian Exposition. The boycotters accused the exposition committee of locking out African Americans and negatively portraying the black community. She was active in the women’s rights movement and the founder of the National Association of Colored Women’s Club and although not listed, she was in Niagara Falls for the founding of the NAACP.

<https://www.womenshistory.org/education-resources/biographies/ida-b-wells-barnett>

Bonnin

She fought for women’s rights and voting rights for indigenous people as a writer, musician and activist. She attended an assimilation boarding school as a child. She witnessed and spoke out about the unjust treatment of indigenous people and was a member of the Society of American Indians. After the 19th Amendment was passed, she still fought for indigenous people’s right to vote as many were not us citizens. She urged American women to use their vote to pass the Indian Citizenship Act which gave Native American’s born in the United States the right to vote.

<https://www.womenshistory.org/education-resources/biographies/zitkala-sa>

<https://www.nps.gov/people/zitkala-sa.htm>

Chief Tican and Second Chief Alquema

As a part of the Santiam Treaty, maintained desire to stay in their traditional territory. Expressed the importance of their land to their people.

https://www.oregonencyclopedia.org/articles/willamette_valley_treaties/

<https://ndnhistoryresearch.com/2016/05/12/santiam-band-of-indians-under-chief-jo-1855/>

Weeks

She organized black women in Portland and encourage them to become registered voters. She was the first African American woman employed as a matron at the Frazier Detention Home, a juvenile facility in Multnomah County. She was then appointed as a probation officer for juvenile court even though there were objections from white social workers. “She is remembered for organizing African American women and working to strengthen her disenfranchised community.”

<https://sos.oregon.gov/archives/exhibits/suffrage/Pages/bio/weeks.aspx>

https://www.oregonencyclopedia.org/articles/weeks_lizzie/

Individuals to include as a street name Prioritized by one committee member

Only includes proposed changes to the biographical information on the Excel sheet (bolded and italicized) including potential concerns.

Chung, Louie

Bio: Worked as a field and railroad laborer in the Portland Metro, became a part-owner in a company and was granted merchant status. Became a successful businessman who gave back to his community, ***advocated for other Chinese residents, and worked to stop gang violence in his community.***

Other considerations: He managed a gambling (and possible sex work) side business, but this was par for the course among Chinese business owners and seemed to be a major part of surviving as a Chinese immigrant at the time.

Cleary, Beverly

Bio: Oregon children’s book author ***whose books were among the first in children’s literature to feature complex girls as main characters.*** (<https://magazine.washington.edu/feature/beverly-cleary-has-spent-a-lifetime-telling-stories-for-kids-like-us/>)

Other considerations: Some critiques of lack of racial diversity represented because her writing was based in a fairly white Portland neighborhood (<https://theconversation.com/beverly-cleary-refused-to-teach-kids-how-to-be-good-and-generations-of-young-readers-fell-in-love-with-her-rebel-ramona-158354#:~:text=The%20lack%20of%20racial%20diversity,or%20ethnically%20diverse%20cast%20of>) . A note about racist illustrations in early copies of Henry Higgins book with the character in

feathered headdresses. It seems like new editions no longer have that imagery though (<https://americanindiansinchildrensliterature.blogspot.com/2023/02/stereotypes-in-beverly-clearys-henry.html>).

Holmes, Robert

This may be a typo for Robin Holmes as there is not a Robert Holmes on the list to date. No further information or red flags could be found for Robin Holmes.

Robert D. Holmes (1909-1976) was the Governor of Oregon from 1957-1959. He worked to improve the state's educational system, fund social welfare, improve wages and working conditions, and abolish capital punishment.

<https://www.nga.org/governor/robert-denison-holmes/>

Robin Holmes

Fought an unprecedented legal battle for his children to be freed after he, his wife and infant were granted freedom when their slave owner brought them to Oregon. The Oregon Territory Supreme court Justice ruled the children would be freed since slavery was not allowed in Oregon without special legislation. Robin and wife Polly operated a successful nursery in Marion County.

<https://sos.oregon.gov/archives/exhibits/black-history/Pages/families/holmes-robin.aspx>

Keller, Helen

Other considerations: Keller's public and media perception was that of a kind of "model minority." She did not endorse this perception. Throughout her life, she was politically radical, which may be controversial, and fought for racial equity, disability rights, and more.

<https://disability-studies.leeds.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/40/library/Crow-Rethinking-icon.pdf>

Rankin, Jeannette

Other considerations: In a 1918 speech to Congress she stated that giving women broadly the right to vote would allow white women's votes to overtake the votes of Black men and women. Staff could only find one mention of this sentiment, which means it could have been a political maneuver, but it was still expressed.

<https://awpc.cattcenter.iastate.edu/2024/03/04/jeannette-rankin-woman-suffrage-january-10-1918/>

Resmond, Harriet

*This may be a persistent typo and should be Harriet “Hattie” Redmond, who is already on the list. No information could be found for Harriet Resmond.

Thompson, Mary Ann Cooke

*It looks like the bio in the excel sheet may need to be updated. It appears to be Lizzie Weeks’ bio.

Bio: Mary Anna Cooke Thompson was “Portland’s first woman physician” and broke barriers for women in the medical field. She also advanced sanitation and rest for patients giving birth. She advocated for women’s suffrage as well as the rights of African American people and workers.

https://www.oregonencyclopedia.org/articles/thompson_mary_anna_1825_1919/

<https://sos.oregon.gov/archives/exhibits/suffrage/Pages/bio/thompson.aspx>

Tualatin

*Staff recommends that this option be removed due to overlap with the existing policy and representing a group of people rather than an individual.

Harrison, Kathryn (Second review)

Bio: Former member of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Rhonde Tribal Council. *Harrison worked to achieve official recognition of the tribal status of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Rhonde and was instrumental in restoring the tribal land base. She played a vital role in establishing Spirit Mountain Casino as well as the Spirit Mountain Community Fund which has distributed funding to non-profit agencies in northwest Oregon.*

https://www.oregonencyclopedia.org/articles/harrison_kathryn_1924/

<https://www.oregonlive.com/news/2023/05/kathryn-harrison-influential-oregon-tribal-leader-dies-at-99.html>

<https://www.nativeartsandcultures.org/remembering-kathryn-harrison>

Names Added to the Prioritized by one committee member that Were Not Previously Identified

Pruitt, Dr. Clarence O.

*This individual was not on the list to date, but staff uncovered no notable concerns.

Bio: Dr. Pruitt was the first Black person to graduate from and later teach at the University of Oregon Dental School (now OHSU). He faced significant discrimination and exclusion both in school and as a practicing dentist, but worked to mentor and encourage black students pursuing dentistry. He volunteered dental services at school clinics and provided free care to low-income families in northeast Portland.

https://www.oregonencyclopedia.org/articles/pruitt_clarence_1927_2009/

<https://obits.oregonlive.com/us/obituaries/oregon/name/clarence-pruitt-obituary?id=14102897>

Social Justice: African American Rights

Sex: Male

Oregon Connection: Yes

Alive: Dead (1927-2009)

Reynolds, Dr. Walter

*This individual was not on the list to date, but staff uncovered no notable concerns.

Bio: Dr. Reynolds was the first African American graduation of the University of Oregon Medical School (now OHSU) and one of only two Black doctors practicing in Portland in the mid-twentieth century. He treated everyone who came into his clinic and cared for Portland's Romani population when other doctors refused. He worked with a number of community organizations to advance opportunities for Black medical students and practitioners as well as his community.

<https://www.oregonencyclopedia.org/articles/reynolds-walter/>

<https://news.ohsu.edu/2020/03/24/centenarians-wisdom-remains-a-lesson-today>

Social Justice: African American Rights

Sex: Male

Oregon Connection: Yes

Alive: Dead (1920-2020)

Additional Suggestion provided by Staff regarding the Korean War Memorial

Don Cohen

Fought in the Korean war and received a purple heart and bronze star after being receiving an honorable discharge. He was instrumental in fundraising and planning the Oregon Korean War Memorial in Town Center park. He is a past President of the Oregon Trail Chapter of the Korean War Veterans Association.

He is inspirational for his efforts to create the Oregon Korean War Memorial (honor veterans) and served in the Korean War.

He lived in Oregon and passed away in 2020.

Social Justice: Honoring Korean War Veterans

Sex: Male

Oregon Connection: Yes

Alive: Dead

Newspaper/ newsletter information provide by Brian Stevenson, Parks and Recreation Staff