



NOTICE OF MEETING
CIVIC ASSET NAMING COMMITTEE
AGENDA

DATE: Monday, March 3, 2014
TIME: 5:30 pm
PLACE: Business Centre Meeting Room
Second Floor, Vancouver City Hall

PLEASE NOTE:

- *If you are unable to attend this meeting, please advise Laura Kazakoff at 604.871.6353 or e-mail laura.kazakoff@vancouver.ca*
 - *Agendas and Minutes are available on the City of Vancouver civic agencies' web site at: <http://vancouver.ca/your-government/advisory-boards-and-committees.aspx>*
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Roll Call

Introductions

Leave of Absence Requests

Election of Vice-Chair

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held November 25, 2013, to be approved.

1. Naming in the News
2. Review of Naming Proposals Submitted by Public
 - (a) Trutch Street - Renaming Request (see attached)

3. Civic Asset Naming Requests

(a) Rolston Street and Continental Street - Naming of extensions of public streets

See attached graphics.

(b) Naming of Public Streets in River District - Background and Overview

4. Naming Processes and Policies

As requested at the November 25, 2013, meeting, the staff liaison will provide an update regarding working with the Park Board to name green spaces within the River District.

5. Correspondence

A folder of received correspondence, if any, will be circulated at the meeting.

6. New Business

Next Meeting:

DATE: Monday, June 23, 2014
TIME: 5:30 pm
PLACE: Business Centre Meeting Room
Second Floor, Vancouver City Hall

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CIVIC ASSET NAMING COMMITTEE
Monday, March 3, 2014

Agenda Item No: 2(a)

Suggestion for renaming Trutch Street:

Quoting from a letter submitted December 29, 2013, to City Archivist:

I am writing with a somewhat unusual request: that is that you strike from the city streets the name of a notorious racist and replace it with a name that honours an individual whose historical record aligns with the intention of the Year of Reconciliation to help build empathy and understanding between Aboriginal peoples and Vancouverites.

There is a street in my neighbourhood of Kitsilano whose name commemorates a man whose policies continue to inflict injustice and economic privation on First Nations peoples. I am referring to Joseph Trutch, first Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia, and the man for whom Trutch St. is named. To give you a brief account of his history Trutch succeeded Governor James Douglas as the chief administrator of B.C. Here is a brief synopsis of his career:

Throughout his political career, Trutch was noted for his hostility to land claims by First Nations peoples, and demonstrated contempt for their concerns. In a letter to his wife, Charlotte, regarding the Indians of the Oregon Territory he wrote, "I think they are the ugliest and laziest creatures I ever saw and we should as soon think of being afraid of our dogs as of them." (23 June 1850, Joseph Trutch Papers, UBCL, folder A1.b.) And in a letter to the Secretary of State, "I have not yet met with a single Indian whom I consider to have attained even the most glimmering perception of the Christian creed." (26 September 1871, BC Papers Connected with the Indian Land, p. 101). In 1867 Trutch refused to recognize the legitimacy of the reserves established by former Governor James Douglas and had them re-surveyed, reducing their size by 91%.

His memorandum of 1870 denied the existence of aboriginal title, setting the stage for the colonial assembly to prohibit aboriginal people from pre-empting unoccupied, unsurveyed, or unreserved land without special permission; this decision effectively established a 10-acre (40,000 m²) maximum and denied natives the right to acquire lands held by non-natives (A Sto:lo-Coast Salish Historical Atlas, page 164). These policies have had lasting repercussions in modern British Columbia politics with respect to the ongoing process of resolving native land claims (Wikipedia).

I hope you agree that given his contempt for native peoples, and the inequity his policies created that continue to reverberate into the present, that Trutch is not someone we want to remember as bringing distinction to our city. Therefore, in the interests of marking our civic commitment to justice and a renewed relationship with First Nations peoples I am asking that you remove his name from the street and replace it with either "Khatsahlano Street," in honour of August Jack Khatsahlano, chief of the Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation) who worked with Euro-Canadian settlers to document in written form the history of the Squamish Nation (and whose name is already on your Reserve List), or "Douglas Street" in honour of the governor who established the first reserves in B.C.

Staff comments:

The Civic Asset Naming Committee's mandate does not currently include the renaming of existing assets. The City's street naming guidelines state that existing civic streets will not be renamed unless the renaming generally improves public safety. The mandate and guidelines have been prepared with the understanding that renaming streets can have considerable cost and consume resources.

The renaming of streets outside the need to improve public safety would best be done in the context of a wider community or neighbourhood plan, or similar initiative, where street renaming, and the consultation and feedback necessary to build community support, can be managed efficiently and effectively. This approach would also allow for any risks to be appropriately evaluated and mitigated. In the case of Trutch Street, 71 residential addresses would be affected if the street were renamed.

Revising either the Committee's mandate or the City's policy on renaming assets would require direction from City Council.

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PLAN TO ACCOMPANY A BY-LAW TO
AMEND STREET NAME BY-LAW No. 4054.

DRAWING NOT TO SCALE



