



Civic Asset Naming Committee

VanRIMS No.: 08-3000-11

MEMORANDUM

September 26, 2022

TO: Mayor and Council

CC: Paul Mochrie, City Manager
Rosemary Hagiwara, Acting City Clerk
Tina Penney, Director, Legislative Operations
Kevin Burris, Manager, Civic Agencies

FROM: Civic Asset Naming Committee

SUBJECT: Civic Asset Naming Committee Report of Activities, 2021–2022

PURPOSE

To provide Vancouver City Council with a report on the activities of the Civic Asset Naming Committee for the period of May 18, 2021 to November 6, 2022.

BACKGROUND

The Civic Asset Naming Committee was established by Council to advise Council on matters pertaining to the naming of City-owned assets, with the exception of assets operated by City of Vancouver Parks and Recreation and Vancouver Public Library.

DISCUSSION

1. Significant Activities

- **Approved recommendations to City Council for 2 street names** (Kobayashi Crescent in the Plaza of Nations redevelopment and Bass Mews in the Oakridge redevelopment) with naming intended to increase the proportion of civic assets named after under-recognized groups, and connected to the specific area of the city where the asset is located.

- **Approved recommendation to City Council for 1 street name extension** (West 35th Ave.)
- **Recommended that the Host Nations name (or be involved in naming)** new street names for Indigenous-led redevelopments such as the Heather Lands.
- **Added 3 names suggested by the public to the Reference and Reserve Lists** (“Siamelaht” was added to the Reference List, and “Peter Wohlwend” and “Joyce Drohan” were added to the Reserve List.)
- **Investigated how to approach Indigenous naming** via discussions with council and staff liaisons (including by reaching out to the City of Vancouver’s UNDRIP Task Force) and Park Board liaisons (who presented about their experience naming the new Smithe/Richards park sθəqəlxenəm ts'exwts'áxwi7).
- **Reviewed all of the street names in Vancouver, identified problematic names,** and compiled them in a spreadsheet.
- Participated in surveys and training to review and improve the advisory body system (including providing feedback on the Diversity on Advisory Boards Policy).

2. Future Directions

- **Continue investigating how to approach Indigenous naming,** as above.
- **Explore the feasibility of developing a framework for addressing problematic names** through renaming, educational signage, or other remedies.
- **Review non-street assets like plazas** and add problematic names to the above-mentioned spreadsheet.

CONCLUSION

The foregoing information is presented to Vancouver City Council for information.

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