

**Friday, September 30, 2022 – 1:00-3:00 PM**

**In-person Meeting Location: Don Cassano Community Room**

Tempe Transit Center, 2nd Floor, 200 E. Fifth St., Tempe, AZ 85281

(Validated public parking available in the Tempe City Hall parking garage at 117 E. Fifth St., Tempe)

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## **STREET AND PARK RENAMING AD HOC COMMITTEE AGENDA**

*Members of the Committee may attend in-person, virtually or by electronic means.*

Ways to connect virtually to this meeting:

1. On your computer/tablet (*Recommended*)

- a. Click this link or copy and paste it into your browser:

<https://tempe.webex.com/tempe/onstage/g.php?MTID=e5249a8d0db64d2a0f70428e65ecee944>

- b. Click "Join the Virtual Meeting"

- c. Enter "12345" in the prompt "enter the meeting password"

2. On your phone – Dial in +1 408-418-9388; access code: 12345

For further accommodations or information please contact, Ad Hoc Committee Staff Liaison, Keely Varvel Hartsell, at (480) 350-8553 or Keely\_Varvel\_Hartsell@Tempe.gov.

## **AGENDA**

### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

### **2. INTRODUCTIONS OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

**Members in Attendance: Chair Andrew Ching, Teri Metros, Monica Trejo, Jerry McPherson, Shereen Lerner, Phil Kraft, JoAn Cooks, Julie Kent, Lauren Kuby, Mel Kessler, William Ortega, Reylynn Williams, Hannah Moulton Belec, and JC Porter.**

### **3. ITEMS FOR REVIEW AND DISCUSSION**

#### **3A. Historical research findings and overview of key research documents**

Brenda Abney, Museum Manager, Josh Roffler, Senior Curator, and Jared Smith, Senior Curator, presented on background information and research of the Renaming Project. The background and research included archival sources (local newspaper clippings, files from the Arizona Historical Society, documents from the County Recorder's Office, etc.). Research was provided in regard to the people the parks and streets were named after (West and East Laird Streets, Hudson Lane, Hudson Park, Harelson Park, and Redden Park).

Lauren Kuby thanked staff for their work, and discussed the process of Renaming, and the School Districts process.

Shereen Lerner, asked about other information the History Museum staff found about the KKK's activity in Tempe and surrounding areas.

Museum Staff responded with additional information they found about the KKK's actions in Maricopa County and the City of Tempe (Court records, financial records, etc).

Julie Kent asked if the schools still receive desegregation funds.

Monica Trejo discussed the School Districts process and asked about public input.

Members of the committee also discussed the African American Advisory Committee book and court cases in Tempe.

**3B. Review of the Ad Hoc Committee's charge from the City Council**

Keely Varvel Hartsel, Chief of Staff discussed additional background information including the Tempe Elementary School District's action and process, Tempe City Council's direction, members of the Ad Hoc Committee, and how the Committee will proceed.

Lauren Kuby discussed that new names could honor the diversity of the City of Tempe.

Julie Kent asked what the purpose is to rename after landmarks.

Keely Varvel Hartsel noted that she was capturing the main sentiments of what City Council members said at the October 21, 2021 meeting.

We invited everyone who provided public comments from the October 21, 2021 meeting to this meeting and provided them additional information.

Mel Kessler asked if there are other cities we could look at who have went through the same process.

Keely Varvel Hartsel will send out information on what the City of Phoenix did.

**3C. Public input process**

Keely Varvel Hartsel discussed the webpage content, public online survey, media releases, and additional public input options.

Monica Trejo said to add a tentative timeline on the project.

Lauren Kuby said to make it more representative of the community and make sure people have the opportunities to provide feedback.

Shereen Lerner asked if the staff could provide feedback on the potential names that might come forward.

William Ortega mentioned the lack of representation of people that were impacted by the KKK, and ensure the names brought forward help restore. Asked the staff to provide the race of the current streets and parks that exist.

Julie Kent asked if research also included Indian Boarding Schools and if this process would include that also.

Brenda Abney said there was one Indian Boarding School in Phoenix, but nothing in Tempe.

Keely Varvel Hartsel asked members of the committee to provide us information of members or community groups staff should engage with.

Lauren Kuby mentioned the African American Experience book, if those names can be brought forward.

Reylynne Williams asked if the public forum is the way we want people to put names forward. Some members of the indigenous communities

do not access the internet. Is there another way to incorporate their input into the renaming process? If the committee wants indigenous community input, the City needs to make a presentation to the communities interested to let them know what is going on. Four Southern Tribes Working Group. Prehistoric sites that are within the areas in the streets and parks that need to be renamed to understand what was there before the City of Tempe.

Chair Andrew Ching- Asked staff to follow-up with Reylynne on this. Wanted to get the committees input on what they want to do with public input.

Committee members said there is support for comment cards and public comment in the meetings. Put call to the public at the beginning of next meeting, give 3 minutes per speaker.

Monica- The most critical part of the process is the public input process. Live town halls would also be a good idea.

Mel Kessler- He is concerned about the potential length of the meetings if they open it up for public comments. Impose a time limit.

Shereen Lerner- If there is significant interest, then we could possibly add another meeting.

Chair Andrew Ching- Could allow people public comment in item number 5.

Committee members agreed.

Julie Kent- asked for clarification on who would be speaking to different groups in the community.

Keely Varvel Hartsel clarified that it would be staff probably doing the outreach and presentations.

Chair Andrew Ching- said the workload could be divided up.

#### **4. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Members of the Ad Hoc Committee may request that an agenda item be added to a future meeting agenda. In accordance with the Open Meeting Law, there should be no discussion on the item, other than to clarify the request.

No future agenda items.

#### **5. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CITY MANAGER OR COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

The City Manager or members of the Ad Hoc Committee may make announcements regarding relevant events that are not on the agenda at this time. No discussion or legal action will be taken regarding these announcements.

**No Announcements.**

**Public Comment was added at the end of the meeting by an overwhelming majority of the committee.**

Several community members in attendance provided public comment.

## 6. ADJOURNMENT

The next scheduled meeting of the Street and Park Renaming Ad Hoc Committee is Tuesday, October 18 from 4-6 p.m. in the Don Cassano Room of the Tempe Transit Center, 200 E. Fifth St., Tempe, AZ 85281. Validated public parking is available in the Tempe City Hall parking garage at 117 E. Fifth St.

**PUBLIC COMMENT AND INPUT:** Though there is no “Call to the Public” on this specific meeting agenda, the Street and Park Renaming Ad Hoc Committee welcomes public input on potential new names for streets and parks to be renamed. Name ideas can be submitted online through Oct 17, 2022 at:

<https://www.tempe.gov/government/communication-and-media-relations/tempe-forum>

**For more information, visit:**

<https://www.tempe.gov/government/street-and-park-renaming>

According to the Arizona Open Meeting Law, the Ad Hoc Committee may only discuss matters listed on the agenda. The City of Tempe endeavors to make all public meetings accessible to persons with disabilities. Special assistance can be provided for sight and/or hearing impaired persons at public meetings. To accommodate attendees with allergies, breathing conditions, or multiple chemical sensitivities, please do not smoke or wear scented products when attending this meeting. To request an accommodation to participate in the Ad Hoc Committee meeting, please contact the City Clerk’s Office with 72 hours’ notice to ensure availability at (480) 350-4311 (voice), 7-1-1 (Relay users), or [clerk@tempe.gov](mailto:clerk@tempe.gov).