

**Street and Park Renaming Ad Hoc Committee meeting
Tuesday Oct. 18, 2022 4 p.m. – 6 p.m.
Don Cassano Community Room, Tempe, AZ**

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Meeting called to order, Tuesday Oct. 18 at 4:07 p.m. by Andrew Ching with a quorum

Committee Members in Attendance:

- Andrew Ching (Chair)
- Justin Stewart
- Hannah Moulton Belec
- JC Porter
- Shereen Lerner
- Will Ortega
- ReyLynne Williams
- Phil Kraft
- Kim Dartez
- JoAn Cooks
- Monica Trejo
- Julie Kent
- Mel Kessler
- Jerry McPherson
- Lauren Kubby

Staff: Kelly Varvel Hartsell, Madalaine McConville, Joshua Roffler, Jared Smith and Brenda Abney

2. Approval of Minutes

Minutes approved unanimously.

3. Call to the Public

Members of the public provided comment on the renaming of city-owned locations.

4. Items for Review and Discussion

4A. Community feedback and proposed names from the online survey form

Staff compiled current results of public submissions of renaming options and presented a comprehensive list of names for both individuals and nonindividuals. Staff shared approaches for the renaming which ranged from clarifying names of assets to feature more appropriate individuals recognized, to new individuals or landmarks, and/or use of restorative practices as the guiding principle to the renaming process to recognize past societal inequities of Tempe's past.

Staff has not yet connected with the Four Southern Tribal communities however outreach is taking place to meet with tribal leaders.

Chair Ching asked for feedback from committee members on the current submissions.

Discussion of clarification of names and how it would assist in keeping the overall costs of the process down as assets would not need complete overhaul or address changes. If names are clarified and not changed completely, a member cautioned that residents would not recognize the difference and the task of eliminating KKK clan members would not be fulfilled.

There was suggestion that committee avoid using individual persons in hopes it may eliminate future controversies if discrepant research is discovered about individuals in the future.

Members discussed the restorative opportunity of this process despite it not being easy. There is opportunity to recognize Tempe's diverse history previously erased over time and include individuals who were in the past not welcome in Tempe due to its history of racism and specifically for being a "sundown" community.

Discussion on how to filter the options of names by placing criteria of importance of the submissions, for example, being alive or dead or impact on Tempe would assist committee members in raising certain submissions to higher consideration. Members cautioned that impact to Tempe was affected by laws and regulations and certain communities were unable to make a historical impact in this community since they were not allowed in the community. Members also mentioned individuals with impact nationally or regionally could be considered as the impact of their work affected Tempe (i.e. Martin Luther King, Jr.).

A committee member asked if staff would be vetting the individual and nonindividual names through research of the historical context. Brenda Abney from Tempe History Museum replied that the Tempe History Museum can do research and/or a background checks to the best extent for top name submissions but there are no guarantee full comprehensive findings for each name.

The committee decided to prioritize names that were restorative in nature and to make names of persons who are still living the lowest priority for consideration.

Chair Ching suggests each committee member provide up to 10 names to staff and at next meeting, staff can determine if committee shares majority support for names or landmarks provided. Members can email their suggestions to [Keely Varvel Hartsell@tempe.gov](mailto:Keely_Varvel_Hartsell@tempe.gov).

4B. Expanded community outreach strategies

Staff presented recommendations on further outreach to the public for renaming suggestions.

- Staff recommends extending the online form to end of November. Member suggested adding the criteria discussed in today's meeting to the form to assist public with their suggestions.
- Staff recommends extra public and media promotion about the request for names including adding to Tempe Today and other City of Tempe communication channels.
- Staff would like to establish more avenues for submittal of name options through nontraditional outreach list. Please send community organizations or groups that staff should contact to [Keely Varvel Hartsell@tempe.gov](mailto:Keely_Varvel_Hartsell@tempe.gov).
- Committee strongly support "going to where people are" at community events, church, tabling events or forums. City Staff is working to set up a meeting with the four Southern tribal communities. Member suggested staff provide information at upcoming G.A.I.N. events scheduled for Saturday Oct. 22.
- Committee discussed hosting of a town hall. A member suggested it may be retraumatizing to members of the community or will continue to limit certain voices from the process. It was suggested to place more effort on the nontraditional outreach and community events.
- Staff suggested mailing post cards to residents affected by the street name changes. Member suggested also sending a communication to residents surrounding the affected City Parks to provide awareness and opportunity to be a part of the process. Member asked if the print collateral and online communication can be offered in Spanish. Member suggested also researching possible businesses on the affected streets which may be affected by the renaming process.
- Staff requests assistance from committee members to be active in the collection and submission of names including outreach to network.

Member inquired about an end date for the committee to provide recommendations to Council. Discussion on the process timeline concluded the committee will likely extend to March 2023 to insure comprehensive outreach to key constituents. To ensure more time for outreach, Committee agreed to cancel Nov. 1 meeting and convene at the Dec. 7 meeting to further sort the list of submissions. Due to lengthened timeline, Chair Ching asked staff to recommend a budget placeholder.

At next meeting, staff will provide a proposed budget for the renaming street process and will sort list of submissions based on criteria outlined during the meeting with filters to assist committee with categorizing entries.

Staff will also create a possible timeline for committee meetings including options for outreach like meeting with Four Southern Tribes.

5. Future Agenda Items

Member suggested adding a presentation from staff with research on the budget implications of the process utilizing benchmark data from neighboring City of Phoenix and provide committee options for possible compensation levels to residents.

6. Announcements from Committee Members

There was no announcement by City Manager or Committee Members.

7. Adjournment

Committee meeting adjourned at 6:08 p.m.

Next meeting will be Dec. 7, 2022, from 4 p.m. – 6 p.m. at Tempe History Museum.