

**Members**

Mark McIntire, *Chair*  
Bret Maddox, S.E., *Vice Chair*  
Edward Echtle  
Ken House  
Jonah Jensen  
Megan Luce  
Daniel Rahe  
Duke York

Marshall McClintock, North Slope Ex-Officio

**Staff**

Reuben McKnight, Historic Preservation Officer  
Tonie Cook, Landmarks Coordinator



# MINUTES

## Landmarks Preservation Commission Community and Economic Development Department

Date: January 11, 2012

LPC14/12

Location: 747 Market Street, Tacoma Municipal Building, Room 248

**Commission Members in Attendance:**

Mark McIntire, *Chair*  
Bret Maddox, S.E., *Vice Chair*  
Edward Echtle  
Ken House  
Jonah Jensen  
Megan Luce  
Marshall McClintock  
Daniel Rahe

***Staff Present:***

Reuben McKnight  
Tonie Cook

***Others Present:***

Larry Dahl, Victoria Geehan Shilley, Doug McArthur,  
Tony Anderson, Ron Crowe, Bill Baarsma, Tim Waer

**Commission Members Absent:**

Commissioner Duke York

Chair Mark McIntire called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

### 1. CONSENT AGENDA

#### A. Excusal of Absences

Commissioner Duke York was excused.

### 2. PUBLIC HEARING: Name Change

Chair Mark McIntire opened the public hearing and asked for the Staff Report.

Mr. Reuben McKnight presented the Notes on General Order for hearing public comments regarding name changes to existing municipally owned property pursuant to City Council Resolution 38091 on Place Names and Name Changes, which is included in Tacoma Landmarks Preservation Commission Rules and Regulations (Bylaws).

He described the procedures, whereby the Commission reviews the name change proposal for completeness, and if considered complete, schedules a public hearing to receive comment on the proposal. Following the public hearing, there shall be a mandatory 30 day comment period. After the close of the comment period, the Commission shall write findings based on the criteria contained within this policy, and forward a recommendation to the appropriate City Council Committee for further consideration.

He noted the purpose of the hearing is to receive public comments regarding the proposed changes based on criteria on Name Changes.

A. Renaming a portion of South Cheyenne Street to Clay Huntington Way

Mr. Reuben McKnight continued by presenting the background on the proposal, subsequent review of the request by the Commission on December 14, 2011, and schedule for the public hearing. In addition, the letters and comments received were noted and follow:

1. Letter of support, dated October 24, 2011, was submitted by Mayor Marilyn Strickland.
2. Letter of support, dated November 29, 2011, and resolution, dated November 14, 2011 adopted by Board of Commissioners of the Metropolitan Parks District Tacoma.
3. One phone inquiry to Staff on the specific location of the proposed name change was received on 01/03/12.
4. Copies of recent emails of written support were circulated to the Commission/

Staff recommended holding open the public comment period for the next 30 days ending on February 10, 2012, and review of the findings on February 22, 2012.

Chair Mark McIntire invited public testimony.

Public Hearing Testimony:

1. Larry Dahl, 1117 So 64<sup>th</sup> St, Tacoma WA 98408; Board, Metropolitan Parks District

*"Good evening, my name is Larry Dahl. I am the President of the Board of Park Commissioners for Metro Parks. You have seen our resolution that we passed the 14th and our letter of the 29<sup>th</sup> to the Mayor and Council indicating our support for this proposal.*

*We are the major property owner in this transaction on both sides of the road, the majority of the area. There is no address change that would be impacted. But beyond that Clay Huntington was an important individual in the City of Tacoma. He did a number of things for the city throughout his lifetime. Sports, recreation and sports entertainment along with other similar activates are the main crux of what he did.*

*This is a very small recognition for what he did and I've stated that as fact, that this is maybe a first and maybe something in the future, but this is a good opening, this is a good opportunity to recognize his work in a small way. We are fully supportive of this and we hope that you move this forward and can't think of anything better that we could do with that roadway right now."*

2. Victoria Geehan Shilley, PMB 323; 6824 – 19<sup>th</sup> St W, University Place, WA 98466

*"I am the daughter of the late radio broadcaster and station manager, owner, and operator – Jerry Geehan. It was my father who gave a young Clay Huntington his first job in radio.*

*The renaming of a small portion of South Cheyenne Street to Clay Huntington Way is a fitting way to honor Clay and to keep his memory alive. Not only to all of us who were so very fortunate to have known him, but also as a way to introduce young sports fans in the future to Clay.*

*I am almost 60 years old and I cannot remember a time – until last June – that Clay was not in my life. Clay led by example – good example. And as we all know, those examples are plentiful. He is everywhere that there are sports in the City of Tacoma.*

*On a personal note, my father loved and respected Clay. He deeply cherished his friendship. On a professional level, there was no one that my father was more proud of.*

*If by chance you knew my father, you knew his Irish stubbornness and independence ran deep. Normally I would not speak for him. But when it comes to Clay I am absolutely positive that he would expect me to be here to tell you what a fitting and proper way this is to honor Clay. Thank you."*

3. Doug McArthur, 4037 N Whitman St, Tacoma WA 98407

*I am one person in the room who knows...does recognize the Irish stubbornness of Jerry Geehan because he also gave me my first job in radio. I'd just like to quickly tell those of you who didn't know Clay just some highlights of his dedication and commitment to the City.*

*He was the youngest founder of Tacoma Athletic Commission 70 years ago, it was the Tacoma War Athletic Commission. Its purpose was to raise sports equipment and opportunities for soldiers and airman at Fort Lewis and McCord and when the war ended, Clay quickly led the charge to change the Tacoma War Athletic Commission to the Tacoma Athletic Commission. And today after seven decades it continues to be the one civic organization in our community dedicated totally to youth and sports.*

*Clay was the radio voice of all local high school and college sports for almost 50 years in our community. As a listener as a youngster, I'll never forget his reference: 'Two in-two in on the batters, two out-two in, the deuces prevail' that was Clay Huntington.*

*It was the play-by-play of Clay who brought huge following to the then Tacoma Tigers to the Western International League*

*Clay founded the Tacoma-Pierce County Sports Hall of Fame, honoring hundreds of athletes and coaches and administrators whose contribution to sports are so well known in our community.*

*And then he formed, founded the state's hall of fame as well, the Washington State Hall of Fame. He was co-founder of the Tacoma- Pierce County Shanaman Sports Museum along with Marc Blau.*

*And Clay formed the Friends of Kids Baseball to raise all of the funds to build the Heidelberg Park Complex for our youth.*

*He also teamed with Ben Cheney to attract the Pacific Coast League Tacoma Giants in 1960 to bring professional baseball back to our community and to see Cheney Station become a reality.*

*Clay's radio station KLAY, which is in existence today, is the only station in Pierce County broadcasting local sports. The Clay Huntington sports communication scholarship is given every year by the Tacoma Athletic Commission to a worthy high school student in Pierce County wishing to major in sports communication in college.*

*Clay also hoped that all T-PC Sports Hall of Fame members would become TAC members and if he were here tonight he would ask every one of you to be a TAC member. For 69 consecutive years Clay served in the Tacoma Athletic Commission.*

*And I want to mention I've been around a long time myself, I live at 2037 N Whitman in Tacoma. I've lived here the majority of my life and have watched all kinds of renames and dedications to worthy and deserving citizens in our community.*

*Three people that have touched my life very closely were Tom Cross, Ben Cheney, and Clay Huntington. Tom Cross is honored with a street by Sprinkler Center in Spanaway. Ben Cheney has a statue in the first row at Cheney Stadium and the most appropriate of all would be the renaming of this street to Clay Huntington, because of his significance to the Heidelberg Park project and to Cheney Stadium which this street joins. I would urge you to honor him; I can't think of a more appropriate honor than to name this street Clay Huntington Way."*

4. Tony Anderson, 7502 N 15<sup>th</sup> Street, Tacoma; Tacoma Athletic Commission, PO Box 11304, Tacoma, 98411

"Hi, I am Tony Anderson. I live at 7502 N 15<sup>th</sup> St, Tacoma. Doug and I got together to make this proposal to all of you, to the City, to Metro Parks, because of what you just heard Doug say. Clay was just an outstanding man and as a three time President of Tacoma Athletic Commission I want to say, when Clay Huntington spoke I'd listen, because everything he had to say had significance to it. There was a purpose to it and I learned much from him just by listening. But I am also the Chair of the citizens' recognition committee for the City of Tacoma and we produce the City of Destiny and I take that job very seriously.

Yes we honor these outstanding volunteers, but there are other people to honor in our community and recognize as well. So in the past when I've seen other people, I've brought it to the mayor and city council's attention because I feel it is my job as well.

And as Doug stated, there is no better way right now than to honor Clay in any other way than by naming that street after him. I think it's... without any question it should be done and I hope that you agree as well because he was probably one of the greatest Tacomans to ever to live and grace our city, so I urge you to please support this effort. Thank you."

5. Ron Crowe, Tacoma Athletic Commission, PO Box 11304, Tacoma WA 98411

*I am privileged to be the current president of the Tacoma Athletic Commission, and as Victoria, Doug, and Tony stated, Clay Huntington really represented the best of the best for Tacoma-Pierce County, no question about it. I was fortunate to have a relationship with him. We, my partner and I, broadcast Puget Sound league football. For the last 25 years we worked with Clay, he couldn't have been more cooperative than in 100 years. He's the greatest guy and if you honor him with this Clay Huntington Way, we'd really appreciate it and I think you'd be proud that you did. Thank you.*

6. Bill Baarsma, former Mayor, City of Tacoma

*Thank you Mr. Chair, members of the Commission.*

*First I want to thank the Tacoma Athletic Commission, and under the able leadership of Tony and Doug, for bringing this before the Landmarks Preservation Commission. As many of you know in my other life, I had the opportunity to bring before this Commission recommendations for the renaming of streets, parks, and plazas, and sidewalks. And on behalf of former mayors and pastors, Clay was neither a pastor or a former mayor, but I do want you to know for the record that he served ably as a public servant as a County Commissioner. In that capacity he represented not only the interests of Pierce County effectively, but also the interests of Tacoma, whether it be in Olympia or Washington DC. So he was an extraordinary public servant. Beyond that he has contributed 70, 70 some, years to public service for the greater good of the community. He has affected literally hundreds of thousands of people over the years; maybe a million, certainly a million people have heard that voice. I'll never forget that voice. There are many, many stories of Clay and how he came to the rescue of the City in various capacities, I'll share one with you.*

*Way back in the 60s I was serving as an assistant to the city manager, the then city manager, David Rowlands. In the dead of night and without real notice, the Tacoma Cubs left Tacoma, packed up and left. Here we had this stadium that we'd built under Clay's leadership and others, here we had this stadium vacant ...what are we going to do...many people were looking at other options, what we would use the Stadium. Triple-A baseball was gone and probably would never come back to Tacoma. I mean, there was a lot of heavy hearted, sad folks.*

*Then I remembered Clay coming before the city council and saying, 'Don't give up hope. Stan Naccarato,' who was standing next to me, 'Stan and I will bring them back, rest assured,' and indeed he did. He's an extraordinary individual; noteworthy, a great champion for the city of Tacoma and certainly worthy of this recognition.*

*One final comment. If the City makes this determination, the Tacoma Athletic Commission and the community has the resources to make this a very big deal. We'll certainly follow-up with a splendid ceremony and the necessary aspects to make this quite an extraordinary entrance to Cheney Stadium. So thank you very much.*

7. Tim Waer, 1518 S G St, Tacoma WA 98405, Tacoma-Pierce County Sports Commission

*I am Tim Waer, 1518 S G St, Tacoma, and I'm the director of Tacoma-Pierce County Sports Commission. We are a sports marketing company whose job it is to attract events to Tacoma and Pierce County. Clay was on our board for several years, I think for at least, for 15 years, as the organization was getting started. I've only been in Tacoma about eight years so I can't add anything about Clay that was already said as far as historically and what he's meant to the city.*

*So I thought I'd just tell you what this act would mean to me. He was, when I as I came to Tacoma, one of the most friendly, the most welcoming, the most, just amiable guys who basically made me feel like I can come here and be part of the city, be part of the community.*

*So if you were to name or when you name Clay Huntington Way or Clay Way, I know that every time I go into that back of that Stadium instead of just driving down that street, I'm gonna smile. I'm gonna feel because that's how you felt when you dealt with Clay. So I figure if I lived here for eight years and I see that and I'll be able to look at that and go, oh yeah, Clay, when I pull in.*

*That's going to make me feel a certain way because that is what he did. I bet there's a lot more people that will feel if not just that, a lot stronger feelings for that and I think it'd be a great way to come into Cheney Stadium. Thank you."*

Chair Mark McIntire closed the public comment period for the hearing.

There was no discussion by the Commission.

Chair Mark McIntire explained that the next step in the process is to consider holding the comment period open for 30 days.

There was a motion.

*"I move that we, the Landmarks Preservation Commission, hold open the comment period for the next 30 days ending on February 10, 2012."*

MOTION: Maddox

SECOND: Jensen

MOTION: Carried

Chair Mark McIntire closed the public hearing.

### **3. CHAIR COMMENTS**

No comments.

### **4. BOARD BUSINESS/PRESERVATION PLANNING**

#### **A. Officer Nominations**

There was agreement to move forward with nominations of officers at this meeting.

Mark McIntire was nominated as Chair by Vice Chair Bret Maddox; Bret Maddox was nominated as Vice Chair by Chair Mark McIntire.

Commissioner Ken House called for a vote on election of officers, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Reuben McKnight stated that the open Commission positions of architect and professional were the categories yet to be filled in the recent Commission selection process.

**B. Preservation Month: Committee and Awards**

Commissioners Ed Echtle, Mark McIntire, Daniel Rahe and Marshall McClintock volunteered as members of the 2012 Preservation Month Awards and Activities Committee.

**C. Other**

Commissioners requested an update on the city budget specific to the Historic Preservation Office.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:37 p.m.

Submitted as True and Correct:

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Reuben McKnight  
Historic Preservation Officer