

Members

Ken House, *Chair*
Edward Echtle, *Vice Chair*
Katie Chase
Jonah Jensen
Megan Luce
Daniel Rahe
James Steel
Duke York

Ross Buffington, *Wedge Neighborhood Ex-Officio*
Marshall McClintock, *North Slope Ex-Officio*

Staff

Reuben McKnight, *Historic Preservation Officer*
Tonie Cook, *Landmarks Coordinator*



MINUTES

Landmarks Preservation Commission Planning and Development Services Department

Date: May 22, 2013

LPC 54/13

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

Commission Members in Attendance:

Edward Echtle, *Vice Chair*
Ross Buffington
Katie Chase
Megan Luce
Marshall McClintock
Daniel Rahe
James Steel
Duke York

Staff Present:

Tonie Cook
Elliott Barnett

Others Present:

Grant Carr, Scott Johnson, Kate Johnson, Denise Hanni,
Sue Keene

Commission Members Absent:

Commissioners Ken House and Jonah Jensen

Vice Chair Edward Echtle called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

1. AGENDA CHANGE

A. An agenda item was added regarding a name change.

2. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Excusal of Absences

Commissioners Ken House and Jonah Jensen were excused.

B. STREET NAME CHANGE – FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Renaming 800 Block of North 13th to Mr. Dahl Drive

Ms. Tonie Cook read the Staff Report on the findings and recommendations into the meeting record, as follows.

The 800 Block of North 13th Street is proposed to be renamed “Mr. Dahl Drive,” to memorialize Robert Dahl, longtime principal at Lowell who passed away in 2012. The affected stretch consists of a half block of isolated right of way; to the south, the right of way has been vacated and is occupied by Lowell Elementary playground and to the north, the street terminates at North Yakima.

This request was researched and submitted by fifth grade students at Lowell Elementary on February 15, 2013, per City Council Policy 38091 (August 17, 2010). The Commission accepted the proposal for review on February 27 and conducted a public hearing to receive testimony on the proposal on April 10. The Commission also accepted written comments until May 10, 2013.

In order to cut down on paper waste, comments, maps, public hearing testimony are available on the CD enclosed in Landmarks Commissioner packets. Hardcopies of the comments, maps, public hearing testimony are available upon request and copies will be available at the meeting. (The comments will be posted as part of the packet online, as well).

Standards to be considered.

Criteria for name changes are outlined in the City Policy on Place Names and Name Changes, adopted by City Council Resolution 38091 (attached).

Findings and Recommendations to be considered.

1. Pursuant to Council Resolution 38091, the Landmarks Preservation Commission reviews and makes recommendations to City Council on name change requests, including streets.
2. A written request from Lowell Elementary fifth grade students was submitted to the Landmarks Preservation Commission on February 15, 2013 to change a portion of the street's name, including 14 pages of maps illustrating the affected area.
3. On February 27, 2013, the Landmarks Preservation Commission determined the proposal was complete and scheduled the public hearing.
4. On April 10, 2013, the Landmarks Preservation Commission held a public hearing to take testimony on this item.
5. All public hearing testimony (4 speakers) was supportive of the proposal.
6. Summary of Comments:
 - 176 Letters submitted are supportive of the proposal (162 letters and 14 emails)
 - 5 Letters submitted are opposed to the proposal (3 letters and 2 emails)
 - 1 Letter recommended the consideration of a "commemorative" or honorary road name, to be shown on a sign under the existing North 13th St sign (as noted below)
7. At the public hearing, the public comment period was extended an additional 30 days, which ended on May 10, 2013.
8. A letter dated May 10, 2013, submitted by Tacoma Fire Chief James P Duggan does not object to the name change but recommended that the City retain the existing street name and have a commemorative street sign installed below the official street sign. The letter noted the time and expense involved to update the emergency response tools, including the databases and electronic and paper maps, to ensure prompt emergency response.
9. The following Name Change criteria was identified in consideration of the proposed name change:
 - a. No existing buildings or facilities are named for Robert Dahl; however, there is one street in Tacoma called, North Dahl Drive, which is similar to Mr. Dahl Drive. The students in favor of the name change acknowledged this in their testimony as part of their research and noted the distance of the two streets. This is also why they recommended "Mr. Dahl Drive" instead of "Dahl Drive" (Criterion 7.1).
 - b. Mr. Dahl passed away in March 2012 (Criterion 8.1).
 - c. For reasons stated in the request letter, Mr. Dahl contributed greatly to the Lowell community; he was the beloved principal for 15 years, contributed to the students' academic, physical, and emotional development. Many of the comments noted Robert Dahl's broad influence and impact on the community (Criterion 8.2).

- d. The section of North 13th Street to be renamed is not connected to any other part of North 13th Street. This section of North 13th is approximately one-half block; it begins at Yakima Street and terminates at the vacated right of way which is occupied by the Lowell playground. Thus, the naming will not alter or disturb the existing street system or grid (Criterion 8.3.a).
 - e. The request has been circulated to affected departments (Criterion 8.3.b). Tacoma Fire Department requests retaining the street name and installing a *commemorative street sign*, "Mr. Dahl Drive," *mounted below the official street name*," which is provided as an alternative in Criteria 8.4.b.
 - f. All of the adjacent property is owned by Tacoma Public Schools and one private party. There is one street address, Lowell Elementary School, fronting the affected section of road (Criterion 8.3.c)
10. Based on the above, the name change meets the criteria in City Council Resolution 38091 for Name Changes.

Action requested to be considered.

The Commission may recommend the street name change request to the City Council, deny the request, or defer if additional information is needed.

Attachments to the Staff Report includes:

1. Minutes of the Public Hearing on April 10, 2013, which includes the oral testimony
2. Written Comments received.

Mr. Grant Carr, Lowell Elementary School student, spoke in support of the request to change the name to Mr. Dahl Drive, summarizing the testimony submitted to the Commission, including the significance of Mr. Dahl's public service in the community and current students and those who previously attended Lowell; he noted the specific collections of socks and food to those less fortunate.

There was no discussion by the Commission.

There was a motion.

I move that the Landmarks Preservation Commission adopt the analysis as findings and recommend renaming of a portion of North 13th Street, including from the corner of Yakima Avenue & 13th Street to approximately ½ block to the dead end, to Mr. Dahl Drive, to City Council.

MOTION: York
SECOND: Steel
MOTION: Carried

Ms. Tonie Cook outlined the next steps, including the schedule at the Council Committee level and, if recommended, it will be moved to the full City Council. She noted that Ms. Keene will be the contact.

Ms. Sue Keene, Lowell Elementary School teacher, invited the Commission to view the presentation board displaying the entire name change process on Wednesday, May 29, 2013, at the school.

C. CHAIR COMMENTS

No comments.

4. BOARD BUSINESS/PRESERVATION PLANNING

A. **Prairie Line Trail**

Mr. Elliott Barnett presented an overview and status of the Prairie Line Trail proposal and requested consideration of a letter of support. He provided a written outline of the project and the Commission discussed moving the project forward with the support of the conceptual design, including the request for additional funding and purchase of adjacent property.

There was a motion:

"I move that we, the Landmarks Preservation Commission, direct staff to compose a letter of support for the Prairie Line Trail project, specifically, addressing the broad terms and conceptual design outlined in the information provided, and with review by the Commission before submittal."

MOTION: Rahe
SECOND: York
MOTION: Carried

B. **Historic Preservation Month**

Commissioner JD Elquist presented an update on the reception planned on Thursday, May 30, 2013.

C. **Name Change: Frank Herbert Park**

Commissioner Dan Rahe circulated a copy of the background on author Frank Herbert who was born in Tacoma and posed consideration to rename Peninsula Park to Frank Herbert Park. It was agreed to postpone discussion until a future Commission meeting.

D. **Other**

Ms. Tonie Cook noted copies of the following documents submitted to the Commission:

- 1) May 21, 2013 letter regarding Historic Totem Pole from Ted Cormier
- 2) May 22, 2013 memo regarding Tacoma Totem Pole from Tacoma Art Administrator Amy McBride.
- 3) Request to submit a completed survey which is part of the update to the Washington State Historic Preservation Plan.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:16 p.m.

Submitted as True and Correct:

Reuben McKnight
Historic Preservation Officer