



ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Report Date: June 13, 2011
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VanRIMS No.: 08-2000-20
Meeting Date: June 28, 2011

TO: Vancouver City Council
FROM: City Clerk
SUBJECT: Southeast False Creek - Naming of New Street and Street Extension

RECOMMENDATION

- A. THAT the new public street extension in the Southeast False Creek Rail Yard neighbourhood, shown on the attached map as Road A, be named "Central Street".
- B. THAT the new public street in the Southeast False Creek Rail Yard neighbourhood, shown on the attached map as Road B, be named "Switchmen Street".
- C. THAT the Director of Legal Services be instructed to bring forward the appropriate amendments to the Street Name By-law.

CITY MANAGER'S COMMENTS

The City Manager submits the foregoing recommendations for consideration.

COUNCIL POLICY

Council uses the Street Name By-Law, No. 4054, to name and regulate public roads in the City of Vancouver. The Street Naming Committee, a staff team, is chaired by the Deputy City Clerk, and comprised of the City Archivist, City Surveyor, and representatives of the Planning, Development Services, and Fire & Rescue Services Departments. The Committee is responsible for the management of a consistent, integrated and duplication-free street name system.

PURPOSE

This report seeks Council approval for naming two new public streets in the Southeast False Creek Rail Yard neighbourhood as “Central Street” and “Switchmen Street”.

DISCUSSION

The two new public streets which are the subject of this report are contained in the Southeast False Creek neighbourhood precinct called The Rail Yard. In the early 1900s the Vancouver, Westminster, and Yukon Railway (later called the Great Northern/Burlington Northern) had an engine house at the foot of Quebec Street. From this engine house was a track running north across False Creek, west to Columbia Street, and east along the south shore of False Creek (at that time False Creek extended as far east as to Clark Drive). Remnants of this area’s former rail transportation functions are reflected in the curved right of way north of First Avenue.

In its consideration of this matter, the Street Naming Committee agreed that new street names in this neighbourhood should be reflective of the area’s former railway uses.

The new street shown on the attached map as Road A, will line up and be connected to the existing Central Street to the east, and will also form part of the Central Valley Greenway. Therefore, for continuity and cohesion, it is recommended this new portion of street be named “Central Street”.

The new street shown on the attached map as Road B, however, will not line up with the existing Southern Street to the east, and will be disconnected from the existing street by properties along Main Street. For this reason, naming the street as an extension of Southern Street was not considered as non-continuous streets such as would be created in that situation can often cause confusion for emergency response services and general way-finding. Therefore, this street provides an opportunity to assign a new street name.

The Street Naming Committee agreed to recommend the name “Switchmen Street” for Road B, due to its relevance in regard to the rail history of this area. Switchmen played an essential role in keeping the railroads operating efficiently and safely. They were responsible for keeping everyone “on the right track”.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications.

CONCLUSION

The Street Naming Committee recommends Council approve the names of two new public streets in the Southeast False Creek Rail Yard Neighbourhood as “Central Street” and “Switchmen Street”.

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PLAN TO ACCOMPANY A BY-LAW TO AMEND STREET NAME BY-LAW No. 4054

NOT TO SCALE

