



OTHER REPORT

Report Date: June 25, 2019
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RTS No.: 12684
VanRIMS No.: 08-2000-20
Meeting Date: July 23, 2019

TO: Vancouver City Council
FROM: Civic Asset Naming Committee
SUBJECT: Street Naming – Jack Uppal Street and Oolichan Way

RECOMMENDATION

- A. THAT the new public street which runs between East Kent Avenue South and North Arm Avenue, as shown on the graphic attached as Appendix A be named “Jack Uppal Street” as it is an extension of the existing street.
- B. THAT the new public street which also runs between East Kent Avenue South and North Arm Avenue, as shown on the graphic attached as Appendix B, be named “Oolichan Way”.
- C. THAT the Director of Legal Services be instructed to bring forward for enactment the appropriate amendments to the Street Name By-law.

REPORT SUMMARY

This report recommends names for streets in the River District (East Fraser Lands).

COUNCIL AUTHORITY/PREVIOUS DECISIONS

Council uses the Street Name By-Law, No. 4054, to name and regulate public roads in the City of Vancouver. The Civic Asset Naming Committee was established by Council on February 29, 2012 and re-established on March 6, 2019. The Committee approves names to be added to the Name Reserve List based on input from staff regarding compliance with naming policies and guidelines and also recommends names to Council for new streets and roads, development areas, pedestrian and cycling infrastructure, and other City-owned assets and facilities (excluding Parks and Library assets).

CITY MANAGER'S/GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENTS

The City Manager recommends the foregoing for consideration.

REPORT

Background/Context

In September 2010, the City's Street Naming Committee received a request from the developer, Park Lane Homes, outlining the need to name 23 public and private streets in its River District development south of Marine Drive. In November 2010, the same committee approved the naming of "Pierview Crescent" and "Riverwalk Avenue" in the River District. Throughout 2013, the Civic Asset Naming Committee considered names for several new streets in the development and at its meeting on September 10, 2013, approved the name "North Arm Avenue" for a road running parallel to the Fraser River. This name was approved by Council at its Regular meeting on October 8, 2013. Council approval of "River District Crossing," "Sawmill Crescent," and "Rivergrass Drive" in 2014 and "Jack Uppal Street" in 2016 followed.

The Civic Asset Naming Committee views the River District development as a significant heritage landscape. In a city as built-out as Vancouver, the City has a rare opportunity to select street names that reflect the site's rich historical, cultural, geographical and natural features. The name put forward in this report has been chosen after careful thought, research and discussion, and also with a view of the River District development as a whole.

Jagat "Jack" Singh Uppal, was a Sikh pioneer and successful businessman with ties to the River District area. Mr. Uppal founded Goldwood Industries on Mitchell Island, a connection to the lumber industry on the Fraser River that fits well with the River District's sawmill history and honourably represents the large number of Sikhs who worked at the Canadian White Pine Mill. One of the oldest sawmills in BC, and the first owned and operated by H.R. MacMillan, the Mill was located on the north arm of the Fraser, on land that is now the River District. Mr. Uppal came to British Columbia as an infant in 1926 and dedicated his life to his company and his community, especially in regard to issues of racism and discrimination. He received an honorary doctorate from SFU in acknowledgement of his activism on behalf of the South Asian community and was also awarded a BC Community Achievement Award, UBC's Nehru Humanitarian Award, and the Queen's Silver Jubilee Medal.

Recommendation A refers to an extension to Jack Uppal Street. It was agreed to extend the name of the existing street, in compliance with City naming policies and guidelines which call for a continuous street name system.

The proposed new street name in Recommendation B, "Oolichan Way", is meant to reflect the River District development's connection to local flora and fauna along the Fraser River. Oolichan, also referred to as candlefish, are small smelt-like fish that were once prolific along the river and coastline and prized for their oil. For thousands of years they were one of the most valuable trade items for Coastal people and are an important source of food for the local indigenous peoples.

Staff have confirmed with E-Comm through VFRS that “Oolichan Way” presents no public safety risks and is not duplicated in the Lower Mainland. Every name considered by the Civic Asset Naming Committee is vetted through VFRS to ensure the name does not present a risk to public safety or the safety of emergency responders. Emergency dispatchers, receiving a majority of their calls from cell phones, most often do not have a caller’s location displayed to them. They must then rely on a drop-down list of addresses based on the information relayed by the caller. As callers are often in distress, understanding them can be very difficult. For this reason VFRS will not support names, particularly for streets, that present any risk of the location being misunderstood in an emergency situation.

Public/Civic Agency Input

On June 25, 2018 the Civic Asset Naming Committee recommended the naming of the street now shown on the graphic attached as Appendix A “Jack Uppal Street” as an extension of the existing street. Also on June 25, 2018, the Committee recommended the naming of the street shown on the graphic attached as Appendix B as “Oolichan Way”. At their regular meeting on June 24, 2019, the Civic Asset Naming Committee was supportive of the extension and the new name.

Implications/Related Issues/Risk

Financial

There are no financial implications.

CONCLUSION

The Civic Asset Naming Committee recommends Council approve the names put forward in the recommendations for the new public streets in the River District (East Fraser Lands).

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

DRAWING NOT TO SCALE



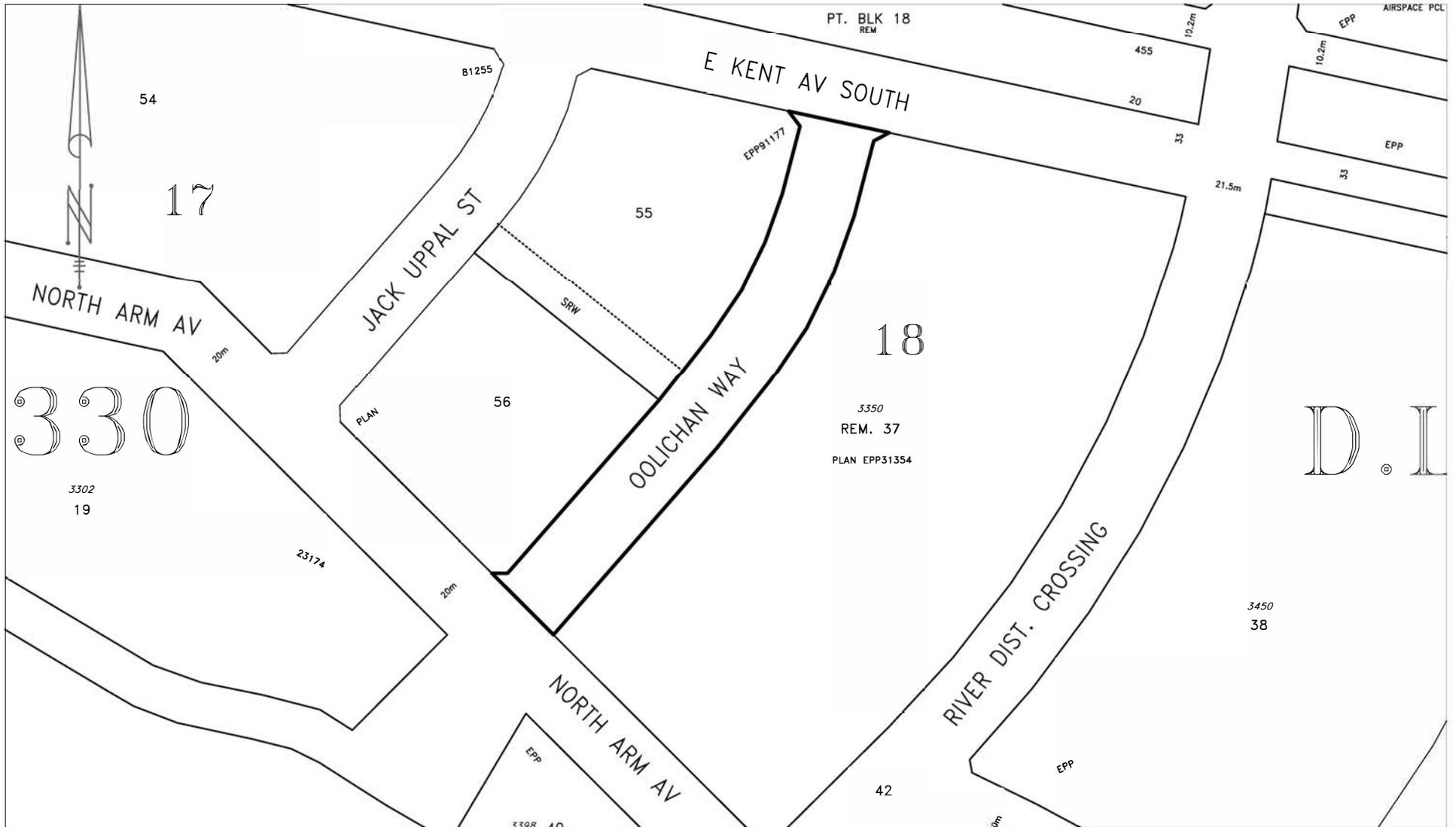
L. 330

JAS MAP: V-25,26
W-25,26

ENGINEERING SERVICES
June 17, 2019

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

DRAWING NOT TO SCALE



JAS MAP: V-25,26
W-25,26

ENGINEERING SERVICES
July 8, 2019