



REPORT

Report Date: December 4, 2020
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Meeting Date: February 10, 2021
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TO: Standing Committee on Policy and Strategic Priorities

FROM: Civic Asset Naming Committee

SUBJECT: Street Naming – Naming of New Streets and Street Extensions in the New St. Paul’s Hospital and Pearson Dogwood Developments

RECOMMENDATION

- A. THAT the new public street between Station Street and Thornton Street, running south from Prior Street, as shown on the graphic attached as Appendix A, be named “Gore Avenue” as it is an extension of the existing street.
- B. THAT the new public street between Prior Street and Terminal Avenue, running east from Station Street, as shown on the graphic attached as Appendix A, be named “National Avenue” as it is an extension of the existing street.
- C. THAT the new public street between Gore Avenue and Thornton Street, running north from National Avenue, as shown on the graphic attached as Appendix A, be named “Nora Hendrix Way”.
- D. THAT the new public street between Cambie Street and Heather Street, running south from West 57th Avenue to the extension of West 58th Avenue, as shown on the graphic attached as Appendix B, be named “Jeanette Street”.
- E. THAT the new public street between West 57th Avenue and West 59th Avenue, running east from Heather Street as shown on the graphic attached as Appendix B, be named “West 58th Avenue” as it is an extension of the existing street.
- F. THAT the Director of Legal Services be instructed to bring forward the appropriate amendments to the Street Name By-law.

REPORT SUMMARY

This report seeks Council approval of naming new public streets within the New St. Paul's Hospital development and Pearson Dogwood development.

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 originally established by Council on February 29, 2012, and re-established on March 6, 2019. The Committee approves names to be added to the Civic Asset Names 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 Acting City Manager recommends approval of the foregoing.

REPORT

Background/Context

A number of street names are now required for new public streets in the New St. Paul's Hospital development and Pearson Dogwood development.

New St. Paul's Hospital Development:

There are a number of new public streets in the New St. Paul's Hospital development, however only one requires a new street name and the remaining names are extensions of existing streets. The Gore Avenue and National Avenue extensions and the new street are ready for naming at this time, with the remaining extensions to be brought forward to Council at a later date.

The newly named street, Nora Hendrix Way, between National and Atlantic Avenues with its proximity to the Fountain Chapel and Hogan's Alley, is a permanent honour in recognition of Nora Hendrix' role in the Strathcona community. While her name is given to the temporary modular housing on Union Street, the Committee recognized the temporary nature of the project and felt the street next to the playing fields and the new hospital would make a fitting tribute to her.

Newly married, Nora Hendrix and her husband Ross arrived in Vancouver in 1913 after the vaudeville company they performed with went bust in Seattle. Ross found work as a steward for a number of clubs in the city while Nora involved herself in the community centred in the Strathcona neighbourhood. She raised funds for and was a co-founder of the African Methodist Episcopal Fountain Chapel at Prior and Jackson Avenue which would become an important focal point and cultural resource for Vancouver's Black community.

The community needed \$1000 to take over the church building and in Nora's own words "...all of the sisters and brothers and everyone, we commence getting busy then...entertainments and bazaars and suppers and everything we could have, to raise the money to buy this church."

Pearson Dogwood Development:

The Pearson Dogwood site was developed in the 1950s for institutional healthcare purposes, the two main facilities being Dogwood Lodge and the George Pearson Centre. Dogwood Lodge was constructed in 1974 for long-term senior residential intermediate care. Pearson Centre was constructed in 1952 as a tuberculosis (TB) sanatorium, and subsequently used in the 1950s during the polio epidemic. In recommending names for the new public streets on the site, the Civic Asset Naming Committee sought to reflect this history.

Leonora Lucyna Markovich (1907-1970) settled in Vancouver after leaving a successful architectural career in Warsaw at the outbreak of WWII. In 1949, after obtaining Canadian citizenship, she became the fifth female architect to register with the Architectural Institute of British Columbia. Shortly after registration, she established her own firm, which became one of Vancouver's most successful practices over the next two decades. For a time, Markovich was the only woman architect with a private practice.

Jeanette Andersen was a long-time resident of the George Pearson Centre and an effective and respected advocate for persons with disabilities. She played a leadership role in the founding of the Community and Residents Mentors Association at Pearson, a program aimed at helping residents move into the community and supporting those who prefer to remain at Pearson. She also was a founding member of the Provincial Respiratory Outreach Program (part of the BC Association for Individualized Technology and Supports for People with Disabilities), a board member (and President) of Disability Alliance BC and a member of the City's Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee.

On June 25, 2018, the Committee recommended two names, Paulson Street and Markovich Street, and these names were approved by Council on July 24, 2018, along with two extensions of West 58th Avenue. On January 21, 2020, Council referred the by-law enacting Markovich Street and one of the West 58th Avenue extensions back to staff for further consultation with and input from the Civic Asset Naming Committee and Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee.

This consultation was delayed until late summer due to COVID-19, at which time members of the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee and the Civic Asset Naming Committee Co-Chairs met to discuss asset naming options within the development. Members of the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee expressed support for naming a public street in honour of Jeanette Andersen, ideally the street previously approved as Markovich Street. During this consultation process, staff were able to confirm that a street naming opportunity would likely be available in the Langara Gardens development directly to the north of the Pearson Dogwood site.

On October 26, 2020, the Civic Asset Naming Committee voted unanimously to amend the Civic Asset Name Reserve List entry for Leonora Markovich to assign her name to a new public street in the upcoming Langara Gardens development. Markovich Street will likely follow the approximate route of the existing private street, Ash Crescent, connecting West 57th Avenue to West 54th Avenue, and will be brought forward to Council upon the road being legally created. At

the same meeting, the Committee voted unanimously to recommend the name “Jeanette Street” for the street previously approved as “Markovich Street”.

The Civic Asset Naming Committee originally considered honouring Jeanette Andersen in 2018, but “Andersen” duplicated a street name on Granville Island. For public safety reasons, the Committee voted in favour of Markovich Street instead, given that Markovich’s firm had designed the original Langara Gardens, and in 2018 there was no certainty regarding new public streets in the anticipated Langara Gardens redevelopment.

Public Safety:

Staff have confirmed with E-Comm through Vancouver Fire Rescue Services that “Nora Hendrix Way” and “Jeanette Street” present no public safety risks and are 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

At a Regular Meeting on September 28, 2020, the Civic Asset Naming Committee approved the extension of Gore Avenue in the new St. Paul’s Hospital development.

At a meeting on September 1, 2020 with the Civic Asset Naming Committee Co-chairs, members of the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee expressed support for naming a street in Pearson Dogwood in honour of Jeanette Andersen.

At a Special Meeting on October 26, 2020, the Civic Asset Naming Committee was pleased to take advantage of the future street naming opportunity in the Langara Gardens development by amending the Civic Asset Name Reserve List entry for Leonora Markovich to reserve her name for the future street connecting West 57th Avenue to West 54th Avenue.

Also at the Special Meeting on October 26, 2020, the Civic Asset Naming Committee approved the name “Jeanette Street” for the street between Cambie Street and Heather Street, running south from West 57th Avenue to the extension of West 58th Avenue. The accompanying extension of West 58th Avenue had been approved at a Regular Meeting of the Committee on June 25, 2018.

At a Regular Meeting on November 30, 2020, the Civic Asset Naming Committee approved the extension of National Avenue and the naming of a street to honour Nora Hendrix.

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 New St. Paul's Hospital development and Pearson Dogwood development.

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

DRAWING NOT TO SCALE

