



TO: T.C. Broadnax, City Manager
FROM: Reuben McKnight, Historic Preservation Officer, Planning and Development Services
Peter Huffman, Director, Planning and Development Services
COPY: City Council and City Clerk
SUBJECT: Resolution to name 1955, 2101, and 2119 Dock Street "George H. Weyerhaeuser, Jr. Park" – May 12, 2015
DATE: April 21, 2015

SUMMARY:

This is a request to name the existing, unnamed park at 1955, 2101, and 2119 Dock Street in honor of George Weyerhaeuser, Jr., in recognition of Mr. Weyerhaeuser's significant contributions to Tacoma, and his widely recognized civic leadership. This request was submitted to the Landmarks Preservation Commission by the Foss Waterway Development Authority, and was reviewed by the Commission according to the City Council Policy on Place Names and Name Changes.

STRATEGIC POLICY PRIORITY:

- Foster neighborhood, community, and economic development vitality and sustainability.

The proposed naming supports community vitality by acknowledging and celebrating a civic leader in Tacoma. Passing the naming resolution will both enhance and build identity and placemaking within public spaces along the Foss Waterway.

BACKGROUND:

Proposals to name public facilities and streets are reviewed by the Landmarks Preservation Commission pursuant to the City Council Policy on Place Names and Name Changes, adopted by City Council Resolution 38091.

On October 27, 2014, the Foss Waterway Development Authority (FWDA) submitted a request to name the park at 1955, 2101 and 2119 Dock Street "George H. Weyerhaeuser, Jr. Park." The park consists of three parcels on either side of the 509 Bridge. Two of the parcels are owned by FWDA and one parcel is owned by the City of Tacoma. The currently unnamed park was built in 2009.

The Landmarks Preservation Commission conducted a public hearing on January 28, 2015 and left the comment period open for 30 days. On March 11, 2015, the Landmarks Preservation Commission voted to forward the proposal to City Council with a recommendation to name the park as proposed. The FWDA collected letters of support from the community, neighborhood groups, and local institutions that were submitted with the naming proposal. At its hearing, the Commission received ten written letters of support and one testimony at the hearing. All comments were in favor.

On April 6, 2015, the Neighborhoods and Housing Committee reviewed the proposal and voted to recommend passage to the full council of the renaming resolution.

ISSUE:

The Foss Waterway Development Authority seeks formal recognition of the broad contributions made by Mr. Weyerhaeuser to the citizens of Tacoma through the naming of the currently unnamed park. George H. Weyerhaeuser, Jr., served on the boards of the FWDA and the Museum of Glass from 1999 until his death on April 14, 2013. Aside from being part of the Weyerhaeuser Company family, he was influential in the development of the Foss Waterway as a founding trustee of the Museum of Glass, as the FWDA



Board President from 2001 to 2004, and as the chairman and president of the Urban Design Review Committee. According to the materials submitted with the request, the Waterway is a direct result of his widely recognized advocacy and leadership.

ALTERNATIVES:

Alternatives to the proposal include amending or altering the proposal, declining to adopt the name change resolution, or remanding it back to the Landmarks Preservation Commission for further discussion.

RECOMMENDATION:

The naming of the park at 1955-2101 Dock Street for George Weyerhaeuser, Jr. would honor his legacy and meets the criteria set forth in the Council Naming Policy. The park is currently unnamed and no other buildings or facilities are named for Mr. Weyerhaeuser. Furthermore, George H. Weyerhaeuser, Jr. contributed greatly to the development of the Foss Waterway and is of citywide significance.

For these reasons, staff concurs with the Landmarks Preservation Commission and the Neighborhoods and Housing Committee recommendation to name the park at 1955-2101 Dock Street "George H. Weyerhaeuser, Jr. Park."

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact.