



TO: Elizabeth A. Pauli, 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 – The Melanie Jan LaPlant Dressel Park, 1147 Dock Street – July 10, 2018
DATE: June 19, 2018

SUMMARY:

The Landmarks Preservation Commission recommends to City Council that the future park at 1147 Dock Street be named The Melanie Jan LaPlant Dressel Park based upon its review of a naming request made by the Foss Waterway Development Authority and the City Council Policy on Place Names and Name Changes (Council Resolution 38091).

STRATEGIC POLICY PRIORITY:

- Encourage and promote an efficient and effective government, which is fiscally sustainable and guided by engaged residents.

This request originated with the Foss Waterway Development Authority in recognition of one of Tacoma’s most engaged and civically active residents, Melanie Jan LaPlant Dressel.

BACKGROUND:

The Foss Waterway Development Authority is requesting to name the future park at 1147 Dock Street, the Melanie Jan LaPlant Dressel Park. Construction on the ¾ acre park is set to be completed in 2020 and will include commemorative signage on Ms. Dressel’s lifetime of service on the boards of Tacoma’s non-profits and her role in the redevelopment of the Thea Foss Waterway. She also served as the president and CEO of Columbia Bank for 17 years. Melanie Dressel passed away in 2017.

The Landmarks Preservation Commission received the request on May 9, 2018, and held a public hearing on June 13, 2018, when the Commission voted to recommend the name change to City Council.

ALTERNATIVES:

An alternative name could be sought for this park, which is currently unnamed.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff concurs with the Landmarks Preservation Commission recommendation to name the new unnamed park the Melanie Jan LaPlant Dressel Park as it is a fitting tribute to Ms. Dressel’s legacy and is consistent with the guidelines set forth in the Council Naming Policy.