



FOSS WATERWAY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

535 Dock Street, Suite 204 – Tacoma, WA 98402-4630

Phone: (253) 597-8122 www.theafoss.com

April 17, 2018

Mr. Kevin Bartoy, Chairman
Landmarks Commission
City of Tacoma
747 Market Street, Suite 345
Tacoma, WA 98402

Mr. Reuben McKnight
Historic Preservation Officer
City of Tacoma
747 Market Street
Tacoma, WA 98402

Re: Request to Name Park after Melanie Dressel.

Dear Mr. Bartoy and McKnight:

On behalf of the Foss Waterway Development Authority Board of Directors, it is my privilege to submit this request to name the park being developed for 1147 Dock Street after our former Board Member, Melanie Dressel. This property is a $\frac{3}{4}$ acre parcel owned by the Development Authority and is located approximately halfway between the Murray Morgan Bridge and the 15th Street Bridge. Construction of the park is set to commence and be completed in 2020.

Please find attached information regarding justification for the request and letters of support from individuals, institutions and organizations.

Please contact me with any questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

Norm Gollub
Executive Director

ABOUT MELANIE DRESSEL

Melanie Jan LaPlant Dressel was a longtime leader and champion for Tacoma. As the President and Chief Executive Officer of Tacoma based Columbia Bank which she helped start, her reputation within the banking industry was very well known. She established a reputation for Columbia as one of the best and most respected Regional banks in the country. She was beloved from senior management to tellers to people out in the branches for over 17 years.

More importantly however, Melanie loved Tacoma and was an active participant on the Boards of many Tacoma organizations. This included the Foss Waterway Development Authority's Board of Directors which she served on for over 6 years. In that capacity, she helped to guide the agency through many decisions that led to the successful redevelopment experienced today along the Thea Foss Waterway.

She also served on the boards of many non-profit organizations, helping them to also succeed. They include:

- Tacoma Children's Museum
- Tacoma Art Museum
- Tacoma/Pierce County Chamber of Commerce
- Mary Bridge Children's Foundation
- United Way of Pierce County
- Bellarmine Preparatory School
- Executive Council for a Greater Tacoma
- Washington State Historical Society

In her capacity with Columbia Bank, the bank has sponsored since 2016, free admission to the Foss Waterway Seaport during Tacoma's monthly Third Thursday Art Walk.

Business Boards that she served include:

- Puget Sound Energy
- American Bankers Association
- Washington Bankers Association Round Table

For her dedication, Melanie was recognized with the 2016 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Milgard School of Business at the University of Washington, Tacoma. She was also named nationally seven times, as being one of the "Top 25 Most Powerful Women in Banking."

While Melanie's service to the banking industry and to non-profit organizations is truly commendable, she is most fondly remembered as being a role model. She led by example and garnered respect from those that she worked with within the financial industry and those that she encountered outside of it. Most people would describe Melanie as humble and gracious, and never felt comfortable with accepting her many awards without giving "the credit" to the village that surrounded her both professionally and personally.

Family was everything to Melanie. She raised her children in Tacoma and could often be seen with her grandchildren at the Children's Museum. Her dedication to family was also seen in her commitment to providing services for area children through the various organizational boards that she worked with. It is due to her active service on these many Boards, her leadership and her dedication to Tacoma that the FWDA feels naming a children's park after Melanie Dressel will be a lasting tribute



April 16, 2017

Foss Waterway Development Authority
Norm Gollub
Executive Director
535 Dock Street, Suite 204
Tacoma, WA

Dear Mr. Gollub:

It is with great pride that the Board of Park Commissioners of Metro Parks Tacoma fully supports the Foss Water Way Development Authority's endeavor to name Central Park, one of Tacoma's waterfront parks in honor of the late Melanie Dressel.

Consistently recognized as one of the Top 25 Most Powerful Women in Banking, Melanie's leadership stretched far beyond the reaches of the financial industry. Melanie's commitment to Tacoma was evident by her service to her community. As a volunteer serving on numerous local boards and executive committees, she inspired many with her hands-on approach, gracious demeanor and willingness to listen. She was truly a respected figure that was approachable by all who were lucky enough to work with her.

On behalf of the citizens we serve, Metro Parks Tacoma is honored to support "Melanie Dressel Park" as a future space for people to enjoy the beauty and essence of Tacoma's waterfront. A family-friendly park for neighbors and visitors to gather and enjoy the splendor of Puget Sound is a fitting way to pay tribute to Melanie's generous heart and dedication to Tacoma and its citizens.

Sincerely,

Andrea Smith
President
Board of Park Commissioners

Board of Park Commissioners: Jessie K. Baines Jr., Erik Hanberg, Aaron Pointer, Tim Reid, Andrea Smith
Executive Director: Shon Sylvia

4702 S. 19th Street, Tacoma WA 98405-1175
Phone: (253) 305-1000 • Fax: (253) 305-1098 • MetroParksTacoma.org



1515 Dock Street
Tacoma, WA 98402

April 10, 2018

Norm Gollub, Executive Director
Foss Waterway Development Authority
535 Dock Street
Tacoma, WA 98402

Dear Norm:

Carino and Associates, along with Theas Landing and The Henry apartment communities, are very pleased to support the Foss Waterway Development Authority's effort to name a park honoring Melanie Dressel.

We were very fortunate to have worked with Melanie over the years while pursuing development along the Foss Waterway. She brought great wisdom and experience providing valuable input to the various projects we undertook.

It is only fitting that Melanie be honored for her many years of service to the city of Tacoma and in particular, The Foss Waterway. Her untimely death was such a great loss not only for her family but also so many organizations in Tacoma and the people she touched. A park in her name would remind all us of her guiding spirit in so many city endeavors. All of us who had the opportunity to know her are so much richer because of it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tony Carino", with a large, stylized flourish at the beginning.

Tony Carino



1501 Pacific Avenue, Suite 202
Tacoma, WA 98402
T. 253.627.6031
F. 253.627.2436

April 5, 2018

FWDA
Norm Gollub
Executive Director
535 Dock Street STE 204
Tacoma, WA 98402

Dear Mr. Gollub,

It is with great pleasure that the Children's Museum of Tacoma lends its support to the Foss Waterway Development Authority's effort in naming a park in honor of Melanie Jan LaPlant Dressel.

Melanie held Tacoma close to her heart and that was evident in the work that she accomplished with Columbia Bank and as a leader in the south sound community. When it came to her volunteer work, she had a strong "hands on" approach which inspired others to get more involved. Melanie was honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award in 2016 by the Milgard School of Business at the University of Washington Tacoma and nationally recognized as one of the most Powerful Women in Banking.

As an avid supporter of the Children's Museum of Tacoma, specifically chair of the corporate development effort, Melanie assisted in making sure that every family and child in the sound south had access to quality early childhood education resources. Melanie's family was her center. She was frequently seen at the Museum playing with her grandchildren. The park located so close to Columbia Bank and the Museum district she loved seems so fitting.

Melanie Dressel's dedication to Tacoma and its surrounding community was demonstrated through leadership and acts of service. Creating Melanie's Park would not only be a fitting way to honor her and her family, but also all those who worked with Melanie to make Tacoma, and the south sound, a cherished and robust community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tanya Durand". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent.

Tanya Durand
Executive Director

FOSS WATERWAY SEAPORT

705 Dock Street
Tacoma, WA 98402
P 253.272.2750
www.fosswaterwayseaport.org

April 5, 2018

Norm Gollub, Executive Director
Foss Waterway Development Authority
535 Dock Street
Tacoma, WA 98402

Dear Norm:

On behalf of the Foss Waterway Seaport, I am writing to endorse the Foss Waterway Development Authority (FWDA) proposal to the City of Tacoma Landmarks Commission to name the future park site on Dock Street after Melanie Dressel.

Ms. Dressel was a strong champion for Tacoma not only in her leadership position at Columbia Bank but also her many years of service on the boards of Tacoma organizations. She served on the FWDA Board for over 6 years and the Seaport agrees that naming the park after her would be an appropriate way to honor her memory.

The Seaport has experienced first-hand the benefit of Ms. Dressel's commitment to the community in the form of charitable contributions from Columbia Bank. Under her direction, annually since 2016 the bank has sponsored free admission to everyone who visits our maritime museum during Tacoma's Third Thursday Art Walk. Not only are we able to stay open for the extended museum hours, the generous funding enables us to develop special activities and host participating artists.

It is essential that we remember and honor those pioneering individuals who have invested time and energy in creating the Foss Waterway and its key projects that enable us to enjoy the successful projects today.

Thank you for allowing me to write in support of this important initiative.

Regards,



Wesley Wenhardt
Executive Director
Foss Waterway Seaport

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL *for a Greater Tacoma*

401 Fawcett Avenue
Suite 201
Tacoma, Wa 98402
Phone: 253.327.1194
Fax: 253.327.1195

April 10, 2018

Norm Gollub
Executive Director
Foss Waterway Development Authority (FWDA)
535 Dock Street Ste 204
Tacoma, WA 09402

Dear Mr. Gollub:

I am writing on behalf of the members of the Executive Council for a Greater Tacoma (Executive Council), to whole heartedly support and endorse the naming of the FWDA "Central Park" as the Melanie Dressel Park. As a member of the Executive Council, Melanie was involved in and spearheaded countless community initiatives. She was a formidable leader with a gentle touch and was greatly respected amongst her peers and the greater community. Melanie was a consummate supporter of downtown development, as well as development along the Foss Waterway, she would be proud to know that her long standing efforts to revitalize downtown, have helped lead to such projects as this.

Melanie truly believed that to build and maintain a vibrant business sector and downtown core, you also needed to focus on a vibrant and healthy community. She had an uncanny ability to rally people around a specific issue and was the guiding force in moving so many things forward. The impact of Melanie's influence, input and dedication, coupled with public and private partnerships, is what made these efforts possible and so successful.

The creation of this park is a wonderful demonstration of the power of collective engagement. So, it seems only fitting to name a park that was created through such collaboration, especially given the location, after our dear colleague, friend and mentor. Melanie was a beacon of this community, across all sectors, and her legacy has left an undeniable mark on all of us, our hope is that the Melanie Dressel Park will do the same for future generations to come.

Sincerely,



William G. "Bill" Robertson
Chair, Executive Council for a Greater Tacoma



April 4, 2018

FWDA
Norm Gollub
Executive Director
535 Dock Street Ste 204
Tacoma, WA 99402

Dear Mr. Gollub:

It is with great pleasure that the Tacoma-Pierce County Chamber lends its support to the Foss Waterway Development Authority's effort in naming a park in honor of Melanie Jan LaPlant Dressel.

Melanie was a gentle, yet formidable force in the economic development of Tacoma and the South Sound. Her leadership and commitment to the community was evident in her service on local and regional boards including the Tacoma-Pierce County Chamber. Nationally recognized as one of the most Powerful Women in Banking and locally celebrated by UW Tacoma's Milgard School of Business Melanie's impact on the financial industry and Tacoma is undeniable.

As a member of the Tacoma-Pierce County Chamber Board of Directors Melanie collaborated across industries and sizes of business to enhance the overall economic health of the area. Her talent of truly listening garnered her respect from everyone and made her a beloved, yet accessible leader in the South Sound.

Melanie Dressel's strong commitment to Tacoma and its citizens was demonstrated through her active service to the community. Melanie's Park is a wonderful embodiment of that spirit and would be a fitting tribute to not only her and her family, but also to those that stood with Melanie in their belief in Tacoma and the South Sound.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tom".

Tom Pierson
President & CEO

LIVE UNITED



United Way of Pierce County

1501 Pacific Avenue, Suite 400
Tacoma, WA 98402

Dial 2-1-1 for help

April 6, 2018

FWDA
Norm Gollub
Executive Director
535 Dock Street Ste 204
Tacoma, WA 09402

Dear Mr. Gollub:

It is with great pleasure that the United Way of Pierce County lends its support to the Foss Waterway Development Authority's effort in naming a park in honor of Melanie Jan LaPlant Dressel.

Melanie embodied servant leadership. She was role model to many in and out of the banking industry and was beloved from senior management to tellers to people out in the branches. She could be so gracious and thoughtful that people just responded to her.

She was also a major force in the economic development of Tacoma and the South Sound. Her leadership and commitment to the community was evident in her service on local and regional boards including the United Way of Pierce County. Nationally, she was recognized seven times as one of the most Powerful Women in Banking, and locally celebrated by UW Tacoma's Milgard School of Business.

As a member on the Board of United Way Pierce County, she served on the Executive Committee, and was Chair of the United Way Campaign in 1999. She truly was a powerful advocate for United Way, both corporately and personally for many years.

Melanie Dressel's strong commitment to Tacoma and its citizens was demonstrated through her active service to the community. Melanie's Park is a wonderful embodiment of that spirit and would be a fitting tribute to not only her and her family, but also to those that stood with Melanie in their belief in Tacoma and the South Sound.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dona Ponepinto".

Dona Ponepinto
President & CEO

Great things happen when we LIVE UNITED