



TO: Elizabeth A. Pauli, City Manager
FROM: Peter Huffman, Planning and Development Services
COPY: Infrastructure, Planning and Sustainability Committee; Kurtis D. Kingsolver, P.E.;
Rebecca Boydston; Nick Anderson
PRESENTER: Reuben McKnight, Planning and Development Services
SUBJECT: Renaming Puyallup River Bridge/Eells Street to the Fishing Wars Memorial
Bridge/Fishing Wars Memorial Crossing
DATE: April 24, 2019

PRESENTATION TYPE:

Request for Resolution

SUMMARY:

On April 24, 2019, staff will present the Landmarks Preservation Commission's (Commission) recommendation to rename Eells Street and the Puyallup River Bridge to the Fishing Wars Memorial Crossing and Fishing Wars Memorial Bridge, per the City Council Policy on Place Names and Name Changes.

BACKGROUND:

The City of Tacoma and the Puyallup Tribe of Indians are requesting to name the bridge the Fishing Wars Memorial Bridge and to name the roadway, which crosses the bridge, the Fishing Wars Memorial Crossing. The bridge itself extends from Puyallup Avenue across the Puyallup River to Fife. These name changes would recognize the Puyallup Tribe's historic and ongoing ties to this location. The bridge is located within the boundaries of the Puyallup Reservation, which is near multiple historic Puyallup village sites. It is above the Ceremonial Grounds used for the First Fish Ceremony. The bridge is also the site of some of the most intense events of the Fishing Wars. Recognition of the site and event is part of the reconciliation between the Tribe and the City. The bridge will also have interpretive signage that includes the Twulshootseed name and an explanation of the historic significance of the site.

On October 2, 2018, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 401222 to initiate the renaming process. Adjacent properties owners were notified and public comment was taken.

On December 12, 2018, the Commission voted to schedule the request for public hearing, and on January 23, 2019, the Commission held its hearing. The comment period has remained open for 30 days. On February 27, 2019, the Commission voted to recommend to the City Council approval of the name change.

ISSUE:

The naming request is intended to recognize the Puyallup Tribe's current and historical presence in the area, to memorialize and increase awareness of the Fishing Wars, and to demonstrate the City's ongoing commitment to strengthening the relationship between the Puyallup Tribe and the City.

ALTERNATIVES:

The bridge and street could retain their current names.



FISCAL IMPACT:

Limited fiscal impacts are anticipated, and would include the costs associated with the changing of street signs and updating GIS maps and data layers. No business addresses are impacted.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Landmarks Preservation Commission recommends the City of Tacoma rename Eells Street and the Puyallup River Bridge to the Fishing Wars Memorial Crossing and Fishing Wars Memorial Bridge, per the Council Policy on Place Names and Name Changes.