



# Spokane Plan Commission Agenda

Wednesday, October 28, 2020

2:00 PM

Virtual Teleconference

808 W Spokane Falls Blvd, Spokane, WA 99201

## Virtual Meeting - See Below For Information

TIMES GIVEN ARE AN ESTIMATE AND ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

### Public Comment Period:

3 minutes each	Citizens are invited to address the Plan Commission on any topic not on the agenda.
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### Commission Briefing Session:

2:00 – 2:30	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Approve <a href="#">10/14/2020</a> meeting minutes</li><li>2. City Council Report</li><li>3. Community Assembly Liaison Report</li><li>4. President Report</li><li>5. Transportation Sub-Committee Report</li><li>6. Secretary Report</li></ol>	All CM Candace Mumm Mary Winkes Todd Beyreuther John Dietzman Louis Meuler
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### Workshops:

2:30 – 3:10	1. SRTC Division Connects Study	Mike Tresidder
3:10 – 3:50	2. Central City Line Update	Karl Otterstrom

### Hearing:

4:00- 4:30	1. <a href="#">Renaming Fort George Wright Drive</a>	Tami Palmquist
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### Board Business:

**Adjournment:** The next PC meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 11, 2020

# Plan Commission Meeting Information

Wednesday, October 28, 2020

In order to comply with public health measures and Governor Inslee's *Stay Home, Stay Safe* order, the Plan Commission meeting will be held on-line.

**Members of the general public are encouraged to join the on-line meeting using the following information:**

**Meeting Password:**  
PlanCommission

**Meeting number  
(access code):**  
**146 443 9763**

**Join Webex Meeting Online:**

**Tap to join from a mobile device (attendees only):**  
++1-408-418-9388,,1464439763## United States Toll

**Join by phone:** +1-408-418-9388 United States Toll

**Global call-in numbers:**

<https://spokanecity.webex.com/spokanecity/globalcallin.php?MTID=m514c2d4fc1d4af7864559443420dee7b>

**Join from a video system or application:** Dial 1464439763@spokanecity.webex.com  
You can also dial 173.243.2.68 and enter your meeting number.

**Join using Microsoft Lync or Microsoft Skype for Business Dial:**  
**Dial:** [1464439763.spokanecity@lync.webex.com](mailto:1464439763.spokanecity@lync.webex.com)

## How to participate in virtual public testimony:

**Sign up to give testimony by clicking on the button below. This will take you to an online google form where you can select the hearing item on which you wish to give testimony.**

The form will be **open until 1:00 p.m.** on October 28, 2020. Hearings begin at 4:00 p.m. When it is your turn to testify, Plan Commission President will call your name and you can begin your testimony. If you called-in to the meeting, you must hit\*3 on your phone to ask to be unmuted. The system will alert you when you have been unmuted and you can begin giving your testimony. When you are done, you will need to hit \*3 again.

Please note that public comments will be taken during the meeting, but the public is encouraged to continue to submit their comments or questions in writing to:

**Louis Meuler at** [plancommission@spokanecity.org](mailto:plancommission@spokanecity.org)

The audio proceedings of the Plan Commission meetings will be recorded, with digital copies made available upon request.

# Spokane Plan Commission - Draft Minutes

October 14, 2020

Webex Teleconference

Meeting Minutes: Meeting called to order at 2:00 PM by Todd Beyreuther

## Attendance:

- Board Members Present: Michael Baker, Todd Beyreuther(President), John Dietzman, Greg Francis(Vice President), Thomas Sanderson, Carole Shook, Sylvia St. Clair, Jo Anne Wright, Candace Mumm (City Council Liaison), Mary Winkes (Community Assembly Liaison)
- Board Members Not Present: Clifford Winger, Diana Painter
- *Quorum Present: yes*
- Staff Members Present: Louis Meuler, Jackie Churchill

## Public Comment:

Juliana Repp, Nez Perce Tribal member - Spoke in favor of renaming Ft. George Wright Drive

Angel Tomeo Sam, Colville Tribe member - Spoke in favor of renaming Ft. George Wright Drive

Carol Evans, Chairwoman of Spokane Tribal Business Council- Spoke in favor of renaming Ft. George Wright Drive

## Briefing Session:

Minutes from the September 23, 2020 meeting approved unanimously with edits.

### **1. City Council Liaison Report - Candace Mumm**

- Council Member Mumm reported that the 2020 Work Plan will be before the City Council the week of October 19th. The 21-22 Work Plan will be approved and adopted in January 2021.

### **2. Community Assembly Liaison Report - Mary Winkes**

- Ms. Winkes reported that she is seeking to add Mr. Dietzman's proposal to the Community Assembly agenda for the next month.

### **3. Commission President Report - Todd Beyreuther**

- Mr. Beyreuther reported he is planning a special session with the Landmarks Commission which will include some outside professionals as well in order to discuss the current discourse between planning and preservation.
- Mr. Beyreuther reported that there will be two vacancies in the Plan Commission at the end of the year and that he will be assessing the needs of the Plan Commission.
- Mr. Beyreuther also reported that elections for President and Vice President for the Plan Commission will be held next year as well.

### **4. Transportation Subcommittee Report - John Dietzman**

- Mr. Dietzman reported that he is working on a proposal that would create an avenue for citizen input about arterial maintenance through the Citizen Transportation Advisory Board and the Neighborhood Councils.
- Mr. Dietzman also reported that Plan Commission Transportation Subcommittee met on October 6th and held workshops on the Fish Lake Trail Study and the SRTC Division Street Study.

### **5. Secretary Report - Louis Meuler**

- Mr. Meuler reported on upcoming PC vacancies and that he is planning on advertising the positions so that there will be multiple applicants.

## Workshop(s):

### **1. Renaming Fort George Wright Drive**

- Presentation provided by Tami Palmquist
- Questions asked and answered
- Discussion ensued

## **2. Design Guideline Update - P.U.D., Skywalks, Public Projects, City Wide**

- Presentation provided by Dean Gunderson
- Questions asked and answered
- Discussion ensued

### **Hearing:**

#### **1. 6 Year City Wide Capital Program**

- Presentation provided by Paul Ingiosi
- Questions asked and answered
- Discussion ensued

*Greg Francis moved to recommend to City Council the 2021-2026 Capital Improvement Program. Seconded by Sylvia St. Clair. Motion Passed unanimously. (8,0)*

#### **2. Continued Streets Standards Update**

- Presentation provided by Inga Note
- Questions asked and answered
- Discussion ensued
- Public Comment:
  - Gary Edighoffer, West Central resident - Mr. Edighoffer voiced concerns about discrepancies between the Street Standards and the Spokane Municipal Code and wanted to add footnotes to the Street Standards to state that the standards can be varied.

*Greg Francis moved to recommend to City Council to approve the Spokane Street Standards Update and the associated changes as written and presented. Motion seconded by Michael Baker. Motion Passed unanimously. (8,0)*

**Meeting Adjourned at 5:00 PM**

Next Plan Commission Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, October 28, 2020

## Briefing Paper

### Plan Commission Hearing 10-28-2020

<b>Division &amp; Department:</b>	Business and Development Services, Development Services Center
<b>Subject:</b>	Rename Ft. George Wright Drive
<b>Date:</b>	October 28, 2020
<b>Contact (email &amp; phone):</b>	Tami Palmquist, 625-6157
<b>City Council Sponsor:</b>	
<b>Executive Sponsor:</b>	Development Services Center
<b>Strategic Initiative:</b>	
<b>Outcome:</b> (deliverables, delivery duties, milestones to meet)	Council approval of the renaming of Ft. George Wright Drive.
<u>Background/History:</u> Roadways may be renamed by Council Ordinance. An application was received to rename Ft. George Wright Drive. Councilmembers Stratton and Wilkerson are working with local tribal leaders to select a new name for the roadway. Major property owners along the roadway are in support of the efforts.	
<u>Proposal:</u> The renaming of Ft. George Wright Drive to “Whist-alks Way”. Councilmembers Stratton and Wilkerson have been working with local tribal leaders to select a new name for the roadway.	

**STAFF REPORT ON  
STREET NAME CHANGE APPLICATION  
FILE NO. Z20-153STNC**

***I. SUMMARY OF REQUEST AND RECOMMENDATION:***

Description: An application was submitted by the Councilmembers Karen Stratton and Betsy Wilkerson for a Street Name Change for the renaming of Ft. George Wright Drive, between Government Way and TJ Meenach Bridge, to be renamed “Whist-alks Way.”

Recommendation: Staff recommends approval to street name change.

***II. GENERAL INFORMATION:***

- |    |                       |   |
|----|-----------------------|---|
| A. | Applicant:            | City of Spokane<br>808 West Spokane Falls Boulevard<br>Spokane, WA 99201  |
| B. | Location of Proposal: | The subject property is the public right-of-way of Ft. George Wright Drive from Government Way east to TJ Meenach Bridge. |
| E. | SEPA Status:          | Categorically Exempt  |
| F. | Enabling Zoning:      | SMC Chapter 17D.050A Roadway Naming and Addressing.   |
| G. | Hearing Date:         | October 28, 2020, 4:00 p.m.   |
| H. | Staff Contact:        | Tami Palmquist, 625-6157  |

***III. FINDINGS OF FACT:***

- |    |  |
|----|--|
| A. | Site Description: The single segment of Ft. George Wright Drive runs from its east end at TJ Meenach Bridge to the west where it intersects Government Way.  |
| B. | Project Description: Authorized by Spokane Municipal Code Chapter 17D.050A – Roadway Naming, the City of Spokane applied for a Street Name Change to rename Ft. George Wright Drive, between Government Way and TJ Meenach Bridge. |
| C. | Surrounding Zoning: The north side of Ft. George Wright Drive is zoned RHD, while the south side is zoned RHD, RMF and CB.   |
| D. | Zoning History: The zoning designations of Ft. George Wright Drive and the surrounding area were zoned R-4 and CB prior to June 2006.  |

- E. Adjacent Land Use: The adjacent parcels contain Spokane Falls Community College, Apartments, Ft. Mukogawa, and the River Run Residential Development.
- F. Applicable Zoning/Code Regulations: SMC Chapter 17D.050A – Roadway Naming and Addressing.
- G. Procedural Requirements:
  - Application was accepted on September 29, 2020; and
  - Notice of the Public Hearing was posted on the roadway on October 14, 2020, published in the Spokesman on October 14 & 21, 2020, and mailed to recipients adjacent to the subject property, emergency dispatching personnel, and the United States Postal Service on October 12, 2020.

#### **IV. CONCLUSIONS:**

**Procedure. The procedure for naming of roadways is detailed in SMC 17D.050A.055 and outlined below:**

##### [17D.050A.055](#) *Naming of Roadways*

- A. *Any project permit action that results in a name being created to identify a new roadway, whether public or private, shall comply with the requirements of this chapter. The applicant will designate proposed roadway names. The Development Services Center shall review the proposed roadway names for consistency with this chapter.*
- B. *Other than as provided in subsection (A) of this section, a roadway name shall be established or changed by ordinance upon recommendation of the plan commission. Any proposed roadway name change shall be consistent with the roadway naming standards of [SMC 17D.050A.060](#).*
- C. *Before submitting a proposed roadway name change to the plan commission, the Development Services Center shall cause the applicant to give notice to the owners of property fronting on the roadway, the United States Postal Service and emergency dispatching personnel, for the purpose of eliciting comments. The Development Services Center shall also cause the applicant to post notice pursuant to [SMC 17G.060.120](#).*

**Policy. The policy for naming of roadways is detailed in 17D.050A.050 and outlined below:**

##### [17D.050A.050](#) *Roadways to Which Naming Requirements Apply*

- A. *New or unnamed existing roadways providing access to four (4) or more addressable parcels, structures, or units shall be named.*
- B. *Existing roadways for which renaming has been authorized by the City to promote the purpose of this chapter shall be renamed as provided for in the City Charter and the Spokane Municipal Code.*

- C. *Preapproved road names shall be identified on plat documents at the time of Final Plat submittal.*
- D. *Only traveled ways that qualify as roadways may be named; except that alleys in the downtown zones may be named.*
- E. *All roadways shall be named regardless of whether the ownership is public or private. Without limitation, this includes all roadways that are created within plats, short plats, binding site plans, PUDs and manufactured/mobile home parks.*
- F. *Driveways, access to parking areas and other traveled surfaces that are not considered roadways may not be named, but may have directions identified with the following method:*
  - 1. *Arrow signs indicating building or address ranges within an apartment complex or campus may be placed at the entrances and along the non-roadway traveled ways to locate the buildings.*

**Decision Criteria. The decision criteria for roadway name change is detailed in 17D.050A.110 and outlined below:**

[17D.050A.110](#) *Change in Roadway or Address Status*

- A. *If a public or private roadway right-of-way is altered, the City shall review the alteration and may assign a corrected roadway name and/or address/addresses consistent with the provisions of this Code. If the access to an individual address is altered, the City shall assign a corrected address consistent with the provisions of this Code (e.g., the owners of 200 W. Cherry Ln. change the location of their driveway from Cherry Ln. to Spruce Ln. necessitating an address on Spruce Ln.).*
- B. *Roadway name changes should be approved only when they further the public interest or public safety, specifically in the dispatching of emergency vehicles. A change in the name of an existing roadway is subject to approval by the city council. The city council, subsequent to the recommendation of the plan commission, may grant a roadway name change if the proposed change is consistent with the policy for naming roadways found in [SMC 17D.050A.060](#).*

**Relevant Facts**

Staff has reviewed the application and finds that the proposed street name meets all the relevant criteria outlined in 17D.050A – Roadway Naming and Addressing.

The street segment is an isolated street that does not continue in either direction past the terminus of Government Way or TJ Meenach. Specifically, the name change would further the public interest by removing a name that is culturally insensitive to our indigenous peoples. Therefore, the desired roadway name is specifically consistent with the criteria identified below:

*17D.050A.060(M): Roadway name integrity should be maintained for the entire length of the roadway whenever possible. Roadway names shall only change when there is a substantial intersection or significant “visual geometric cue.” Generally continuous roadways shall not be subdivided into segments with different names.*



17D.050A.040(U)(14): Way (Way): a curvilinear roadway.

### **Citizen Comments**

At least two comments have been received regarding the street name change. The first comment, received by email from Margo Hill of the Spokane Tribe, indicated community support of the effort to change the name. A second comment of support was received by email from Edie Rice-Sauer. Additionally, a narrative was received from Margo Hill about the proposed name of Whist-alks Way.

### **VI. RECOMMENDATION**

STAFF CONCLUSION: Based on the above findings, staff supports renaming the roadway “Whist-alks Way”.



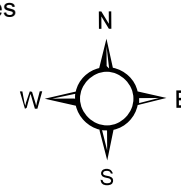


# Fort George Wright Drive

Fort George Wright Drive Renaming

0 0.05 0.1 0.2 Miles

**THIS IS NOT A LEGAL DOCUMENT:**  
The information shown on this map is compiled from various sources and is subject to constant revision. Information shown on this map should not be used to determine the location of facilities in relationship to property lines, section lines, streets, etc.



## Legend

- Address Point
- Project Limits
- Parcel
- 2020



Wednesday, September 29, 2020

Dear Spokane City Council Members,

We, the undersigned organizations, urge you to ensure that the City of Spokane Plan Commission prioritizes the long-overdue renaming of Ft. George Wright Drive. It is time for the City of Spokane to cease the commemoration of a man responsible for brutal and inhumane acts against Northwest tribes.

In 1858, Col. George Wright decided to show no mercy in seeking retribution against Coeur d'Alene, Spokane, Yakama, and Palouse tribes, who had attacked military troops during the Steptoe Battle. Within a two-month span, he led troops throughout the territory and had at least 16 Native Americans hanged without trial. Of particular note, the site now known as Hangman Creek was where Yakama Chief Owhi's son Qualchan - who had come voluntarily seeking a peace treaty - was hanged within fifteen minutes of his arrival.

The unjust execution of Native Americans was not George Wright's only atrocity. According to local author and historian Donald Cutler, he captured and ordered the slaughter of an entire herd of horses belonging to the Palouse, Coeur d'Alene, and other tribes. In a letter to his superior, Wright wrote this of his troop's actions: "Nine hundred horses and a large number of cattle have been killed or appropriated to our own use; many houses, with large quantities of wheat and oats, also many caches of vegetables...have been destroyed. A blow has been struck which they will never forget."

Wright's brutal measures had a lasting impact on the local tribes. According to Cutler, his acts "sever[ed] them from their land, animals, food supplies, and families... Many more Indians died of starvation that winter, particularly the very young and very old, from the destruction of their food supplies."

While some might argue that Colonel Wright was operating as any military leader would in war, historical records clearly indicate that he flouted martial law to inflict pain and punishment upon local tribes, creating a ripple effect that continues to haunt present-day descendants. Reflecting on George Wright, Spokane Tribe historian Warren Seyler writes, "Today as history is being revisited and emerging, the treatment of Native Americans and in this case Spokane's conjures up historical trauma hidden far beneath the scars."

Col. George Wright should have been reprimanded and convicted of his actions; instead, he was commended for his tactics and promoted. In modern-day, he should be memorialized as a perpetrator of genocide; instead, he continues to be commemorated as if a local hero with a street named Ft. George Wright Drive.

As other U.S. cities confront the sins of Confederate generals by toppling down statues erected in their memory, it is time for Spokane to also confront its past. The time for Ft. George Wright Drive to be re-named is past due. As citizens of Spokane, we urge the City Council to ensure that the name change is prioritized on the Plan Commission agenda, and that it is passed successfully this fall. Lastly, the City must work with local tribes and tribal leaders to develop a new name for the road that recognizes the rich tribal history in our region.

Signed,

Community Colleges of Spokane

Spokane Falls Community College

Spokane Community College

American Indian Community Center

The Spokane County Human Rights Task Force

The Native Project

Northwest Fair Housing Alliance

Fuse Washington

Spokane Center for Independent Living

ATU Local 1015

Muslims for Community, Action & Support (MCAS)

Tenants Union of Washington State

Spokane Community Against Racism (SCAR)

Spokane Riverkeeper

Global Neighborhood

World Relief Spokane

Emmaus Spokane Church

UUCS Social Justice Coordinating Council

Solace

Planned Parenthood Advocates of Greater Washington and North Idaho

Spokane Veterans for Peace

YMCA of the Inland Northwest

YWCA Spokane

The Lands Council

Spokane NAACP

Diversity Section of the Spokane County Bar Association

Asian Pacific Islander Coalition - Spokane Chapter

Spokane Socialist Alternative

Disability Rights Washington

350 Spokane

Community Minded Enterprises

Gonzaga University Native American Studies Program

Gonzaga University Department of History

Gonzaga University Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Gonzaga University Department of Religious Studies

Gonzaga University Art Department

The Center for Civil and Human Rights at Gonzaga Law School

Spokane Alliance

Smith-Barbieri Progressive Fund

Peace and Justice Action League (PJALS)

WSU Health Sciences Spokane / WSU Native American Health Sciences

Salish School

## Palmquist, Tami

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**From:** Edie Rice-Sauer <erice-sauer@help4women.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 19, 2020 8:57 AM  
**To:** Palmquist, Tami  
**Subject:** Ft. George Wright

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

### [CAUTION - EXTERNAL EMAIL - Verify Sender]

Tami I am submitting a request to please seriously consider changing the name of Ft. George Wright. As we all know now, George Wright was a vicious killer of Native Americans in our area, merciless and cruel. Just the story alone of the killing of some 300 horses speaks to his inhumanity.

It is long past time we stop memorializing and elevating these types of people. There are many, I am sure, whose name could replace his with honor.

While we're at it, please consider replacing Drumheller Park. Drumheller desacralized the sacred spring space there at the park. His name should go too.

Edie Rice-Sauer

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10



# Street Name Change Application

Rev.20180103

1. **Describe the purpose or reason for the proposed street name change. In what way will the public's interest or public safety be served by the name change?**

Given the genocidal atrocities that the US Army inflicted upon the Spokane Tribe, their crops, horses and leaders at the command of George Wright it is fitting to work with the tribe and change the name to something more inspirational to our Native population especially those that travel Fort George Wright Drive to go to SFCC to better themselves with higher education.

2. **What uses are located on the adjacent property and in the vicinity? Describe the character of the street proposed for the name change.**

The drive stretches from Government Way to TJ Meenach Bridge. It is surrounded by the Unitarian Universalist Church, Spokane Falls Community College, Mukogawa Japanese School, Spokane Neighborhood Action Partners, and a couple of apartment complexes including the old Fort George Wright barracks.

3. **Is the proposed change consistent with the policy for naming streets found in Chapter 17.D.050 of the Spokane Municipal Code? If so, how is it consistent?**

Yes, the primary purpose of renaming this roadway (more specifically "drive") is SMC Section 17D.050A.060, subsection B that reads, "Roadway names shall not contain vulgarity or vulgar innuendo, nor insult to any person, group, or class of persons, or institution."

Fort George Wright Drive was named for U.S. Army Colonel George Wright, for whom the fort itself, established in 1895, was also named. Colonel Wright was stationed at Fort Walla Walla in Washington Territory in 1858 during the outbreak of hostilities between the United States and the Yakima, Palouse, Coeur d'Alene, and Spokane tribes, triggered in large part by the continued encroachment of white settlers on native land. After the defeat of Colonel Edward Steptoe at the Battle of Tohotonimme (commonly called "Steptoe Butte") near present day Rosalia, Steptoe and his soldiers were forced to retreat to Fort Walla Walla, Col. Wright embarked on a punitive expedition throughout Eastern Washington and into Northern Idaho. Colonel Wright ordered the slaughter of over 600 captured horses near the Idaho border, destroying the tribe's economy, causing great harm to the tribe's culture, and causing food shortages and starvation. In addition, Col. Wright ordered the burning of native crops and food stores and ordered the summary execution by hanging of any native person he suspected of having fought against him. At a camp on Latah Creek (often called "Hangman Creek" based on this episode), Col. Wright allowed some native people to come into camp to make peace, but when they did so, Wright ordered some 16 of them arrested and summarily executed, without trial. We believe that maintaining the name of Fort George Wright Drive is a continual stain on our City by honoring a person who engaged in

genocidal and terroristic actions toward the native people who have always lived here. We also believe that maintaining the existing name of Fort George Wright Drive undermines the intent of the City of Spokane's strategic diversity plan, which has, as one of its goals, that the City of Spokane will "create a compassionate community so that all people can feel safe, empowered, and welcome." This renaming process will give us all the opportunity to not only begin a healing process with the tribes, but have an insightful and deep conversation about the history of racism, violence, and discrimination which have been the hallmarks of the interactions between white settlers and native people in the Spokane area, not to assign blame, but to embark on a new shared future, together.

4. **Does the proposed new street name duplicate a street name already in use within the Spokane Metropolitan Area?**

There is no proposed name yet, we will be working with the tribes to find a more appropriate name for that roadway.

5. **Is the proposed new street name consistent with the name of adjacent streets and streets with a common alignment?**

Again, there is no proposed name yet, as we will be working with the tribes to find a more appropriate name for that roadway. We are aware of the guidelines listed out in SMC Section 17D around names and numbering of roadways in conjunction with the adjacent streets and streets with a common alignment.

6. **If the proposed name change is within a Planned Unit Development, will the proposed name of the private street be consistent with the names of surrounding public streets?**

Again, there is no proposed name yet, as we will be working with the tribes to find a more appropriate name for that roadway. We are aware of the guidelines listed out in SMC Section 17D around names and numbering of roadways in conjunction with the adjacent streets and streets with a common alignment.

7. **Will the proposed street name result in an intersection with the same name (e.g. First Avenue and 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue) or create more than one intersection with the same name?**

Again, there is no proposed name yet, as we will be working with the tribes to find a more appropriate name for that roadway. We are aware of the guidelines listed out in SMC Section 17D around names and numbering of roadways in conjunction with the adjacent streets and streets with a common alignment.

Development Services Center 808 West Spokane Falls Boulevard, Spokane, WA 99201-3336  
[my.spokanecity.org](http://my.spokanecity.org) | Phone: 509.625.6300 | Fax: 509.625.6822



“Whist-alks Way – Woman Warriors – Then and Now” scnmsci (woman who goes into battle)

The Spokane Tribe moves to honor the “Women Warriors – Then and Now.” The Spokane Tribe not only wants to honor our native women from the battlefields of the 1800’s – we also want to honor the Spokane tribal women of our families today. We honor the female warriors who daily fight to protect and preserve our culture, our lifeways, our families, our lands, our environment, and our Tribe. The City of Spokane benefits from the Spokane Indian women and Indigenous leadership that serve as nurses, lawyers, professors, school board members and directors of urban service centers.

Spokane Tribal elder Jim Sijohn shared “What I am going to share with you is not from books. My great grandfather is Ignace Garry, the great great-grandson of Chief Spokane Garry. I first heard this story in an encampment in 1978 near Clark Fork, Idaho”. Jim shared “I am going to tell you in English because that is what I was forced to learn.”

“Our people began hearing rumors the U.S. soldiers were coming. When our people started getting ready in the encampments... it was all a buzz. Like bees. Getting ready and preparing for battle. The women would run and get the bows, arrows and would bring the lances and shields to the men on horses. Hooking them on and getting them ready.”

“The Coeur d’Alene warriors began to send out work the villages. Riding horseback to the villages. They prepared through the evening and all through the night. They began putting on their medicine from the campfire. They began putting on their paint. Early in the morning they started out leaving their camp. There were medicine men and medicine women praying for them. The women in the camp started getting ready for the warriors that may be hurt, wounded or dying. They set up a medic shelter for them. They began preparing the medicines that would be needed.”

“When the battle began our warriors fought fearlessly. It wasn’t just men warriors, there were women warriors. Spokane women and Coeur d’Alene women. They fought right alongside of the men.”

“There is a story told on how one native woman, she rode bareback, and when a warrior would go down, she would ride in and get that warrior, put him on the front of her and ride back to camp. Let him off at the camp, medicine shelter, where the women would start working on him. Time after time she did this. Again, and again she rode out onto the battlefield and picked up a wounded warrior. Then she got shot.”

“A warrior picked her up and took her part way towards camp. Another woman rode out and met him and they exchanged. He went back to battle. She took the woman to camp. They say when she died, she was singing her medicine song.”

“Our warriors went up against rifles and cannons. They ended up fighting with bare hands, but they fought to protect their families. At Hangman Creek, the soldiers lined up. This Col. Wright walked through and pointed at the Indians. They made them line up... brothers and sisters, and point “You and You” selecting the Indians to be killed. The U.S. soldiers got them out there to do “their justice.” One of the warriors sang his song. He said I’m going to give it to you. You are going to have hard times. That wasn’t the only song that was sung that day. All of the sudden you would hear a woman’s voice. They weren’t singing loud because they were afraid of George Wright. They lived in fear. They were singing medicine songs and prayer songs. I hope you remember those women who were standing there. They were praying for their people. Just think what or ancestors had to go through after the battle.”

### Whist-alks

Whist-alks, the daughter of Chief Polotkin and wife of Qualchan. This marriage union brought peace and stability to the region. Her family was known for their intelligence and good looks and her beauty is famous to this day (told by Mary sister of Qualchan, told to Brown p. 296). Whist-alks, whose name means "Walks in a Dress", she rode alongside her husband Qualchan. They wore their "finery of beaded buckskin" as they rode into Col. Wright's camp. Whist-alks took up Qualchan's beaded medicine staff with feathers. The Chiefs and headmen usually carry them in ceremonies. Mary spoke "it was Qualchan's custom to have Whist-alks ride with him and she carried his medicine staff." The Yakama's told the story of Whist-alks, who also served as a warrior. "Looking up, he saw Qualchan's [wife] cutting her way through the troops with a sword she had seized from one of them" (A.J. Splawn p. 119). Whist-alks remembered "when in a moment two soldiers entered the tent and grasped her husband at the head and shoulders, threw him on his back and bound him with cords." She stated "I tried to cut one soldier with my knife, but another one kicked the knife out of my hand and then a great number of soldiers crowded in, overpowered us." (Dandy Jim, p. 12 "Warriors of the Mist" p.329). Whist-alks said that when she saw the rope go over Qualchan's head, she knew all was lost and grabbing a sabre from a soldier, she started on the run out of camp. The quarter master, Tom Beall recalls "I was standing a short distance from Col. Wright's tent, when an Indian woman made her appearance in camp and she had a long lance covered with solid beadwork. She was mounted on a fine-looking horse. She rode up in front of the Col's tent and stuck the lance in the ground and rode off." Whist-alks later went into Flathead country, joining buffalo hunts east of the Rockies, where battles with Blackfoot tribe were common. She lived her final years at the mouth of the Spokane.

There is a reason the City of Spokane is named Spokane. There is a reason why members of the Spokane City Council are looking for guidance on renaming a city street. It's because of the Spokane Tribe and our important place within the community. Let's continue to provide knowledge to our city neighbors.