

Plan Commission Resolution
of Rules and Procedure
July 9, 2014

A resolution regarding the Plan Commission responding to the City Council's request under Resolution 2014-0069 to provide a review and recommendation relating to naming of the new plaza adjacent City Hall;

And further, developing, adopting and implementing new Plan Commission Rules and Procedures for recommendations on names for Public Plaza's, Squares, and Places, except for Spokane Public Library and/or City Parks Department properties.

WHEREAS, Section 128 of the City Charter provides in part that the Plan Commission shall have the power to investigate and make recommendations to the City Council in relation to all matters pertaining to the living conditions of the City; and generally, all things tending to promote the health, convenience, safety, and well-being of the City's population, and to further its growth along consistent, comprehensive and permanent plans; and

WHEREAS, Section 128 of the City Charter specifically provides that the Plan Commission has the power to make recommendations regarding the naming of streets, squares and public places; and

WHEREAS, Section 127 of the City Charter provides in part that the City Council may, by a majority vote, direct the Plan Commission to perform specific actions in relation to potential or pending legislative action of the City Council; and

WHEREAS, SMC 4.12.010 A provides that the Plan Commission shall provide advice and make recommendations on broad planning goals and policies and on whichever plans for the physical development of the City that the City Council may request the commission's advice by ordinance or resolution; and

WHEREAS, SMC 4.12.080 provides in part that the Plan Commission shall, when requested by City Council resolution, solicit information and comment from the public about planning goals and policies or plans for the City, and report to the City Council its recommendations and a summary and analysis of the comments received from the public; and

WHEREAS, a new plaza has been built adjacent to City Hall through the efforts of Avista and the City of Spokane; and

WHEREAS, the City has been engaging with the public to submit proposed names for the new Plaza; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the City Council to request the Plan Commission to hold a hearing, review public input, research options, review naming criteria and make a recommendation or a group of options for the City Council to review.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY PLAN COMMISSION pursuant to the authority provided by the City Council as set forth in the City Charter and as established in Chapter 4.12 SMC the Plan Commission will:

1. Hold a workshop, review public input, research options, review naming criteria and make a recommendation or a group of naming options for the City Council to review for the new Plaza adjacent to City Hall, and
2. Research options, review existing policies, take public input, and forward to the City Council for adoption a set of Rules and Procedures including the following criteria for the naming of Public Plazas, Squares, and Places (except for Spokane Public Library and/or Parks Department properties).

CRITERIA

1. A connection to the geographic location, a building formerly on the site, a former name of the location, or the common name of the location, provided that the former, geographic, or common name is one which is of great significance to the history and development of Spokane;
2. An event (or series of events) which took place at or very near the location, provided that the event(s) is/are an important event in the history and development of Spokane;
3. A person or other entity who made a singular and lasting contribution to the development of Spokane;
4. A short, descriptive statement of aspiration, goal, vision, or shared community value(s) which represents the best that Spokane has to offer to its citizens and to the world.

PROCESS

A. When directed by the City Council or requested by the Mayor, the Plan Commission will use appropriate means available to it for public input and nominations for names of the particular location to be named.

B. The Plan Commission will hold such public meetings, workshops, and other public outreach events needed to obtain full input from the public on the list of names to be considered including neighborhood representatives and other City organizations (eg. Historic Preservation, Planning/Developer Services, Parks Dept.)

C. Upon hearing testimony, taking comments, and conducting due deliberations, the Plan Commission shall strive for consensus for its recommendation to the City Council, and will recommend a name or set of names to the City Council by formal resolution, accompanied by findings and conclusions detailing the Commission's reasons for choosing the name.

D. In recommending a name under this Policy, the Plan Commission shall strive to avoid duplicative names or names which create confusion when considered within the context of the City as a whole.

By a vote of 6 to 0, the Plan Commission approves this Resolution of Rules and Procedures.

Dennis Dellwo, President
Spokane Plan Commission
July 9, 2014