

**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
808 West Spokane Falls Boulevard
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".