

PROPOSED BY: BUCHANAN
INTRODUCTION DATE: MAY 21, 2024

ORDINANCE NO. _____

**ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING WHATCOM COUNTY CODE CHAPTER 2.180
NAMING COUNTY-OWNED PUBLIC BUILDINGS, PROPERTIES, PARKS, AND
FACILITIES**

WHEREAS, Whatcom County officials desire to honor individuals with dedications and/or naming of certain County-owned public buildings properties, parks, and facilities; and

WHEREAS, no procedures or criteria currently exist for such naming and renaming of County-owned property; and

WHEREAS, there is a need to establish criteria and procedures for selection of names for such County-owned public buildings, properties, parks, and facilities; and

WHEREAS, there is an opportunity to address County goals for diversity, equity, and inclusion in the establishment of criteria for the selection of names for County-owned public buildings, properties, parks, and facilities, and honor historically underrepresented people making significant contributions to our community; and

WHEREAS, it is further the intent of this Ordinance to establish a process and criteria to name and rename Whatcom County-owned public buildings, properties, parks, and facilities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Whatcom County Council that Whatcom County Code 2.180 Naming County-owned public buildings, properties, parks, and facilities is hereby established as shown in Exhibit A (attached).

ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 2024

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Dana Brown-Davis, Clerk of the Council

Barry Buchanan, Council Chair

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

() Approved () Denied

George Roche (by email 5/2/2024/ch)
Civil Deputy Prosecutor

Satpal Singh Sidhu, County Executive
Date: _____

Exhibit A

CHAPTER 2.180 NAMING COUNTY-OWNED PUBLIC BUILDINGS, PROPERTIES, PARKS, AND FACILITIES

2.180.010	Purpose
2.180.020	Naming Committee
2.180.030	Process to Name
2.180.040	Naming Criteria
2.180.050	Renaming
2.180.060	Signage Style and Costs
2.180.070	Naming of Minor Items and Interior features

2.180.010 Purpose

To establish the procedures by which Whatcom County-owned public buildings, properties, parks, and facilities are named or renamed by action of the Whatcom County Council. This policy does not apply to the naming of streets and roads.

2.180.020 Naming Committee

A Naming Committee will be made up of three (3) members including the County Executive or their designee, the County Council Chair or their designee, and the Department Head or their designee from the department under the purview of the facility, building, or property.

2.180.030 Process to Name

A. Requests for naming or renaming shall be submitted to the Executive's Office in writing and routed for review by the Naming Committee. Requests for the naming or renaming of Whatcom County-owned public buildings, properties, parks, and facilities may be submitted by any Whatcom County resident, property owner, agency, business owner, or County official.

B. Written requests shall include the following:

1. The County-owned building, property, park, or facility to be named.
2. The proposed name.
3. Reasons the proposed name meets the criteria in section 2.180.040.
4. Evidence of written support from the person or group/organization being honored, if the proposed name relates to a living individual or existing group/organization.
5. A detailed biography of the individual or history of the group/organization nominated, presenting achievements and contributions.

C. The Naming Committee will evaluate the request for compliance with the criteria in Section 2.180.040. A majority vote of the Naming Committee is required to make

a recommendation to the County Council. The Naming Committee may decide to not forward a recommendation to the County Council.

D. If a proposal receives approval of the Naming Committee, the Executive or their designee will request an item be placed on the Council agenda to announce that a proposal was approved by the Naming Committee and publish a timeline by when all other naming requests for the specific County-owned public building, property, park, or facility to be named must be received.

E. The Executive shall cause a notice to be posted for a minimum of two consecutive weeks on the county website in accordance with the published timeline. The notice shall include general information about the County-owned building, property, park, or facility, the general location description, requests received for naming, and the deadline for additional nomination requests.

F. The Naming Committee will consider proposed names from all requests received by the published deadline and approve a recommendation to Council. The Executive or their designee will bring the Naming Committee's recommendation to Council for approval by resolution.

G. Following receipt of the Naming Committee's recommendation, the County Council shall schedule a public hearing on the Naming Committee's proposed recommendation. Following the hearing, the Council shall act on the resolution.

2.180.030 Public Notice and Hearing

Notice shall be provided of the public hearing at which the County Council will consider the recommendation of the Naming Committee. The notice of public hearing must be published in a legal newspaper of general circulation once prior to the date of hearing. The notice of public hearing must contain the proposed name, the street address of the site, the legal description, and list the date, time and place of the public hearing. The notice of public hearing shall be posted in a conspicuous place in the courthouse not less than 10 days prior to the hearing.

2.180.040 Naming Criteria

- A. County-owned public buildings, properties, parks, and facilities may be named after an organization, business, or person.
- B. Existing names of County-owned public buildings, properties, parks, and facilities in current use shall continue as named unless the County Council takes action pursuant to this policy to re-name such.
- C. The Naming Committee shall consider the following naming categories:
 - 1. Neighborhood or geographical identification, for example Mount Baker, Nooksack, Southfork, Dakota Creek;
 - 2. Natural or geological features, for example tree species like oak, cedar, spruce, fir or regional bodies of water;

3. Historical or cultural significance, for example local leaders or significant events;
 4. Historically underrepresented groups or persons;
 5. Residents of the surrounding neighborhood;
- D. Facilities may be named for living persons provided that:
1. They made a significant contribution and the donor stipulates naming of the facility as a condition of the donation; or
 2. The individual has made an unusually outstanding public service contribution, including one or more of the following:
 - i. Demonstrated continuous outstanding public service contributions over a period of 10 years; or
 - ii. Worked to foster equality and reduce discrimination; or
 - iii. Demonstrated outstanding public service as a community volunteer; or
 - iv. Individuals who have risked or given their life for the sake of others.
- E. In the event multiple donors contribute funds toward construction or acquisition, a functional title shall be given to the facility with plaques honoring those who contributed;
- F. No County-owned public buildings, properties, parks, or facilities shall be named for a public official while that official remains in public office;
- G. A facility may be named after a public official or private individual whether they are alive or deceased.

2.180.050 Renaming

The renaming of County-owned public buildings, properties, parks, and facilities shall be in accordance with the criteria set forth in Section 2.180.040. Renaming requires a vote of approval from the Naming Committee and Council approval by resolution.

2.180.060 Signage Style and Costs

Following Council's adoption of a name by resolution, the Whatcom County Public Works department will specify appropriate signage. An applicant who wishes to have an alternative sign must submit a rendering for approval by the Naming Committee and County Council. The applicant will be financially responsible for the difference in cost of the alternative signage.

2.180.070 Naming of Minor Items and Interior features of Facilities and Buildings

This chapter shall not apply to donor and naming recognition for minor items, including but not limited to benches, trees, refuse cans, flagpoles, water fountains, or the naming of interior building features and areas (such as meeting rooms, courtrooms or common areas of public importance such as the courthouse rotunda).

The County Executive shall maintain the authority to name individual rooms or interior features within County-owned facilities.