



MEMORANDUM

Date: September 3, 2024

To: Whatcom County Council

From: Council Staff

RE: Revised Naming Ordinance AB2024-314

This ordinance establishes a process in code to name County-owned public buildings, properties, and facilities. It was originally introduced on 5/21/24 and subsequently held in the Public Works and Health Committee on 6/4/24 and 6/18/24. At that time, the Parks and Recreation Department had concerns about including Parks properties in the ordinance due to naming protocol needs that are unique from those of other County departments. The revision (Proposed Ordinance for 9/10/24) eliminates Parks Department properties from the ordinance. The Parks and Recreation Commission are developing an ordinance to address the naming of Parks facilities, properties, and related structures through a separate process.

Other major changes to this revised version include:

- A clarification related to Council approval so that a resolution to name a facility must receive a majority vote of the Council, while a resolution to rename an existing facility requires a 2/3 vote.
- A change in the ordering of paragraphs in 2.180.030, Process to Name, to ensure that the solicitation of name suggestions from the public occurs before the Naming Committee makes a recommendation to the Council.

The Council Office has on file a list of notable Whatcom County individuals for whom facilities could be named. This list appears in Exhibit A. Possible names are not limited to the names on this list. Additional names may be submitted to the Council Office at any time.

EXHIBIT A

Notable Names in Whatcom County

[Frances C. Axtell](#) – politics

[Justice Raquel Montoya-Lewis](#) – legal

[Ella Rhoads Higginson](#) – literature

[Dolly Connelly](#) – journalism

[Temryss Lane](#) – Lummi, sports

[Phoebe Judson](#) – Lynden, community

[Frances Payne Larrabee](#) – community, women & children

[J.A. Kerr and B.B. Seymour](#) – women

[Professor Eunice Faber](#) – education

[Lottie Roeder Roth](#) – historian

[Katherine M. Ryan](#) – librarian

[Mary D. Carew Anderson](#) – educator

[Therese Bevans](#) – businesswoman

[Deborra Garrett](#) – legal

[Clara \(and John\) Tennant](#) – settlers (Clara: Lummi/Nooksack)

[Theresa \(and Edward\) Eldridge](#) – historical

[Mabel Zoe Wilson](#) – education

[Rena Priest](#) – literature

[Mary Ellen Hillaire](#): Lummi, education, indigenous rights

[Noemi Ban](#) – Holocaust education

[Arynness Joy Wickens](#) – economist

[Margo St. James](#) – sex worker advocacy

[Darlene M. Soltys](#) – legal

[Harriet A. Spanel](#) – legislative & community

[Catherine T. Montgomery](#) – outdoorswoman

[Beverly Bennett Dobbs](#) – photography

[Joan Airoidi](#) – library

[Sky Hopinka](#) – Ho-Chunk Nation/Pechanga Band of Luiseno Indians, artist

[Nellie Centennial Cornish](#) – musical/arts education

[Kristina Michele Martens](#) - government, racial equity

[Joan Casey](#) – computer science, environmental philanthropy

[Jewell Praying Wolf James](#) – Lummi, environmental activist

[Beth Brownfield](#) – activist, indigenous rights

[Juanita Jefferson](#) – Lummi, activist, government

[George Nelson](#) – astronaut

[Louie Gong](#) – Nooksack, artist

[Juanita Jefferson](#) – Lummi elder