

**Minutes of the Veneta City Council
Work Session
August 13, 2012**

Present: Sandra Larson, Mayor Pro Tem, Thomas Cotter, Brittany Boothe, and Marion Esty

Others: Ric Ingham, City Administrator; Shauna Hartz, Finance Director; Brian Issa, Community Services Director; Chris Workman, City Recorder/Human Resources and Risk Management Administrator; Kay Bork, Associate Planner; Darci Henneman, Assistant City Recorder; and Michelle Ossowski, Fern Ridge Review

Mayor Sandra Larson called the Work Session of the Veneta City Council to order at 6:00 p.m.

1. RENAMING OF WALDO AVENUE OR OTHER PROPOSED RECOGNITION

Ric apologized for not attending the last meeting. He said recently Kay and Brian outreached with the Lane County street planners to discuss the details involved with changing a street name.

Ric said the recently improved portion of Waldo Ave. begins at Fourth St. and runs east to First St. (Territorial Hwy). The unimproved section runs west from Fourth St. to Seventh St. He reviewed the following options: (1) rename the improved section of Waldo Ave. for Tim Brooker leaving the unimproved section as Waldo Avenue; or (2) name the pedestrian path (adjacent to Waldo Ave.) for Waldo Hunter and rename Waldo Ave. for Tim Brooker; or (3) keep Waldo Ave. named as such and rename Cornerstone for Tim Brooker.

In response to a question from Mayor Larson, Ric said because of the right of way, the improved section of Waldo Ave needed to be a one way street. When it gets to the point of building out Waldo Ave. to the west (Fourth St to Seventh St.) the Council will need to discuss if it would continue as a two way street or something different. He said it could potentially look much different and at that point, the Council would need to decide if it continues as Waldo or if the street name could be split depending on the configuration.

In response to a question from Mayor Larson, Ric said two of the options include having a split name street, for example changing Second St. as it proceeds south towards Dunham and McCutcheon.

Kay said the Lane County street naming committee acted as an advisory committee and recommended not splitting a street into two separate names. She said the committee recommended not renaming Second St. but renaming Cornerstone would be a non issue.

Brittany Boothe said the same logic of renaming Second St. would apply if Waldo Ave. was renamed Brooker Lane, when the unimproved section of Waldo Ave. is built out, it would continue as Brooker Lane.

Mayor Larson said the Council didn't discuss renaming a park but if the Council decided to go in that direction, she would prefer to rename a park for Waldo Hunter. She said Tim Brooker's focus was on development, not parks.

Ric said Tim Brooker indicated to him that he is fine with whatever the Council decided.

Marion Esty felt the Council should do something that would be observant of his role in the City and to honor the people in our community.

In response to a question from Mayor Larson, Marion Esty said she sees Tim Brooker as more of a road man than a park man.

Thomas Cotter would like to change the name from Waldo Avenue to Brooker Lane and honor the Hunter family by naming the adjacent pedestrian path after Waldo Hunter and also erecting a commemorative plaque.

Brittany Boothe said she would prefer to rename Cornerstone after Tim Brooker. She felt that would be the direction he would like to go. She said the City can still honor Tim Brooker and maintain some history. She said addresses would not need to be changed at Cornerstone.

Mayor Larson said a commemorative plaque should be erected regardless of the street naming. She suggested renaming Waldo Ave. Brooker Lane and naming the adjacent pedestrian path after Waldo Hunter. She also said renaming Cornerstone for Tim Brooker is also a good idea.

Ric said Tim Brooker didn't want to be in a position of making a preference.

Brittany Boothe said it wouldn't be difficult for her to rename Cornerstone for Tim Brooker and felt it wouldn't be any less of an honor than renaming Waldo Ave.

Thomas Cotter said the direct responsibility and accomplishment for Tim Brooker was the Downtown Redevelopment Project. He said in the next 20 years the downtown area could see a huge transformation and will remain an attractive area.

In response to a question from Mayor Larson, Ric said development in the downtown area will continue to move north. He said nothing north of the railroad track will be developed. The Service Center will sit on the corner of West Broadway and Waldo and will have a West Broadway address but the parking lot will come off of Waldo. He said the City contracted with Emerald People's Utility Board (EPUD) to remove buried power lines along Waldo in hopes of future development.

Thomas Cotter said it's been several years since the Council has reviewed the Downtown Master Plan. He has always envisioned a hotel at the corner of Highway 126 and Eighth St. to help develop the downtown area.

Mayor Larson said Brooker Lane and the Waldo pedestrian path would be very visible and more utilized after the Service Center is completed.

Brittany Boothe appreciated Ric's memo but said it only present options for honoring Tim Brooker. She asked why the Council couldn't name the pedestrian path after Tim Brooker. She said based on the comments from many people she's spoken to and comments from the Hunter family, she's not so willing to change our history by honoring someone else. She doesn't see how honoring Mr. Brooker should take precedence over honoring a founder of our community.

Mayor Larson said the Hunter family is enshrined in the City with Hunter Avenue. She said Waldo would not disappear under Thomas Cotter's recommendation. She felt Waldo would be honored with the pedestrian path because up until the West Broadway Redevelopment project, Waldo Avenue had never been developed.

Ric said the Council could come to a consensus during the work session and then this issue could be brought up at the regular Council meeting under "Other". The Council could then direct staff on how it would like to proceed.

In response to a question from Thomas Cotter, Kay said the Lane County Street Naming Committee is an advisory committee. They did not say a street couldn't be divided into two names, it just didn't recommend it. She said public safety professionals may find it confusing.

In response to a question from Brittany Boothe, Mayor Larson said she suggested renaming Cornerstone as an option but really liked the idea of commemorating Tim Brooker in the downtown area, although Cornerstone was completed under his mayor ship.

Marion Esty said Tim Brooker should be asked what he would like.

Mayor Larson said Tim Brooker would prefer to not be involved in any discussion about it and he would like to have it decided without his opinion. He's honored but he doesn't have a preference.

In response to a question from Mayor Larson, Marion Esty said she would prefer renaming Waldo Ave to Brooker Lane and name the adjacent pedestrian path for Waldo Hunter.

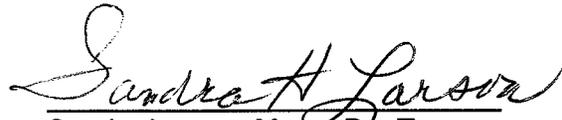
After a brief discussion, it was the consensus of the Council to continue the discussion during the regular Council meeting under "Other" on the agenda.

Mayor Larson said she would like this issue dealt with as efficiently as possible.

Ric suggested closing the work session and said the Council would be provided with an opportunity to review the information and make a decision under "Other" at the regular Council meeting.

2. ADJOURN

Mayor Larson adjourned the Work Session of the Veneta City Council at 6:40 p.m.


Sandra Larson, Mayor Pro Tem

ATTEST:


Darci Henneman, Assistant City Recorder
(minutes prepared by Dhenneeman)