

Council Business Meeting

September 19, 2017

Title: Letter of Support to Jackson County Board of Commissioners – Dead Indian Memorial Road Name Change Hearing

From: John Karns Interim City Administrator

John.Karns@ashland.or.us

Summary:

As a follow up to the recent Council approval of the Indigenous Peoples Day resolution, Council requested staff develop a letter of support for an upcoming public meeting at the Jackson County Board of Commissioners for a potential name change to what is currently labeled Dead Indian Memorial Road, a Jackson County owned and maintained road.

Actions, Options, or Potential Motions:

I move to approve the Mayor to sign and submit the attached letter on behalf of the City Council.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff has no specific recommendation on this item.

Resource Requirements:

As noted in the draft letter, the Jackson County Board of Commissioners have the authority and discretion to name or re-name roads under the jurisdiction of Jackson County. City staff, in their normal course of business, can monitor the proceedings via the County website and with communication with Jackson County Roads and Parks staff with very little time or expense.

Policies, Plans and Goals Supported:

3. Support and empower our community partners
 - 3.3 – Support the non-profit and cultural entities in the community

Background and Additional Information:

The current name of Dead Indian Memorial Road was approved in 1993 by the Jackson County Board of Commissioners. Previous to this name change, the official name was Dead Indian Road. It has been reported that this original name dates back to the mid-1800's, which was first assigned to a creek then later to the road that was developed as a connection between what is now Ashland and Klamath Falls.

A public meeting has been scheduled with the Jackson County Board of Commissioners on October 11, 2017 to discuss the potential for changing the name of the road. The Commission has not yet determined a preferred replacement name, although it has been reported that Jackson County staff has provided one option for the Commission to consider, which removes the word "dead" from the name resulting in a proposed new name of "Indian Memorial Road."

Attachments:

Draft Letter of Support

September 19, 2017

Jackson County Board of Commissioners
10 South Oakdale Ave Room 214
Medford, OR 97501

Commissioner Dyer
Commissioner Roberts
Commissioner Strosser

On behalf of the Ashland City Council, please accept this letter of support for your upcoming meeting regarding the potential name change to what is currently labeled as Dead Indian Memorial Road.

While it is clearly understood that the road in question is a Jackson County road and the road naming process is under the purview and authority of the Jackson County Board of Commissioners, to many the road is a natural extension of Ashland and is part of our community's daily use. Ashland School District buses use the road daily to pick up and drop off students, the City of Ashland's provides primary ambulance service and mutual aid fire and rescue services for much of the area served by the road as well as many other functions that connect residents and property owners along this road to our community.

While agreement on the most appropriate name for the road may not yet be clear, the Ashland City Council would like to formally voice support for a change that respects and honors indigenous people within our region, both past and current.

We appreciate the time and attention that Jackson County staff and you as Commissioners are giving to this matter. In addition to the formal inclusion of this letter into the record, please place the City of Ashland on the list of interested parties for any additional information made available as a result of the initial hearing in October, including notice of any future hearings that may be scheduled.

Respectfully,

John Stromberg
Mayor, City of Ashland

