



A Park and Wilson Outdoor Pool Naming Committee

Meeting #3 Notes

Wednesday, October 19, 5:00pm – 7:00pm

Facilitators: Maija Spencer and Carolyn Lee

Notetaker: Kali Levy

Committee Members Present: Don Baack, JR Lilly, Sumayo Hassan, Chung-Huey (Nina) Kung, Amanda Squiemphen-Yaazie, and Dr. C.N.E Corbin. **Not Present:** Sergio Barrera, Bettina Barrera, Kelsey Bowers, Doug Decker, Rachelle Dixon, SandeBea Allman.

Welcome and Introductions

- Agenda review and reminder of group agreements
- Introductions and check In (All)
- Question: *What has been bringing you joy lately?*

Wilson Outdoor Pool Name Discussion

Introduction

- Maija provided information about the school's process to rename Ida B. Wells High School
 - They formed a committee that was half students and half adults.
 - Asked for community input and had over 2,000 comments.
 - Shared a student webpage: <https://x5mwvzc9fr.wixsite.com/mysite>
- Shared information from a letter by PPS stating their recommendation:
 - Ida B. Wells-Barnett (1862-1931), a singular American journalist, activist, educator, and researcher, was born into enslavement during the Civil War in the state of Mississippi. As an investigative journalist, she used the power of truth to shed light on the unjust and violent conditions under which African-Americans lived throughout the South. She was a firm believer that an education was important, and that spreading and sharing knowledge was the

Administration

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key to a more tolerant and just society. Long recognized for her leadership in anti-lynching activism, Wells-Barnett marched on Washington in the name of women's suffrage on the day of Woodrow Wilson's inauguration, and she later wrote and spoke to President Wilson in protest of segregation and of his discriminatory hiring practices. Wells-Barnett helped found the National Association of Colored Women, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and the first Black women's suffrage association, the Alpha Suffrage Club. Remembered as one of the most lauded civil rights advocates of the 19th and 20th centuries, Wells-Barnett is an American hero. Ida B. Wells-Barnett will foster a lasting message of determination, valor, and tolerance among all students and staff.

- Reminded the group of the locations of parks and community centers that honor Black, Indigenous communities, and people of color.
 - All are located on the east side of the Willamette River.
 - None of them honor Asian, Pacific Islander, Hispanic and/or Latinx communities to our knowledge.

Discussion:

- Does Ida B. Wells meet the committee's criteria?
 - reflect and inspire the community
 - honor Black, Native, and Indigenous communities
 - symbolic or significant
 - creates a sense of community and inclusion
 - future facing and imagine a Portland for all
- A suggestion at the September meeting was to add a word like "civic" and/or "aquatic center" to designate pool is for all Portlanders.
- A letter from Ida B. Wells to Wilson was emailed to the group.
- Each group member had an opportunity to share how they felt about naming the pool after Ida B Wells:
 - One member wanted Asian names to be considered as there is a lack of representation.

- Some members brought up logistical concerns and thought a separate name from the school would be better, and be an opportunity for another person to be honored.
- Someone pointed out that dividing the pool from the school's name could be perceived as less weight being given to Ida B. Wells than was given to Wilson.
- Harriet Tubman and Leah Hing were put forward as names to be considered <https://www.nps.gov/people/leahhing.htm>
- One member noted only 4% of people voted for Ida B. Wells as a pool name in the Hillsdale Neighborhood process and over 60% voted for Hillsdale. The member said they will fight an outcome that is not Hillsdale Pool and will take it to City Council. They also said the committee doesn't represent the community as they see it based on past, current, and in this member's opinion, the future demographic make up the neighborhood.
- Maija noted that is not appropriate for a committee member to threaten to go outside of the agreed upon process and to say the committee is not reflective of the community. This committee was intentionally chosen to center communities who have not always been at the table in past processes.
- One member articulated that the comment about majority rule, going outside of the group's democratic process, and who should be on the committee made them feel more offended than they ever have during a public meeting.
- The committee was asked to reply with a color showing to indicate if there was support for naming the pool Ida B Wells. Green means I support this, yellow means I have concerns but don't want to stop the process moving forward, and red means I cannot support. For this specific decision:
 - Green means yes, I want to move forward with Ida B. Wells as the pool name.
 - Yellow means I support Ida B. Wells as a name, but I would like to continue considering other names.
 - Red means no, I cannot support Ida B. Wells as a name for the pool.
 - Don Baack – Red
 - Dr. C.N.E. Corbin - Yellow

- JR Lilly - Yellow
 - Amanda Squiemphen-Yazzie - Yellow
 - Sumayo Hassan - Yellow
 - Chung-Huey (Nina) Kung – Yellow
- The committee was asked to reply with a color to decide if Ida B Wells was not selected for the name, if it should be someone else of color:
 - Don Baack - Yellow
 - Dr. C.N.E. Corbin - Green
 - Chung-Huey (Nina) Kung - Green
 - JR Lilly - Yellow
 - Sumayo Hassan - Green
 - Amanda Squiemphen-Yazzie - Green
- **DECISIONS REACHED:**
 - The committee supports Ida B. Wells as a name for the pool but would like to consider other names.
 - If Ida B. Wells is not selected as a name, the priority would be to consider another person of color.

A Park Name Discussion

- In the last meeting, there was a lot of support shown for naming the park something to honor Native and Indigenous communities, and there was discussion of seeking feedback from the Native American Community Advisory Committee (NACAC).
 - JR shared how he, Amanda, and SandeBea have been engaged with NACAC and the local Native community.
 - Has not been able to be brought to NACAC yet. NACAC is most involved locally in parks and open spaces.
 - Formal communication with tribes would need to go through several processes with government-to-government relationships.
- The committee was asked to use the previously described color system to answer the question - Is the priority to engage the Native/Indigenous

community to see if they want to participate, and second priority to honor a person of color?

- Chung-Huey (Nina) Kung – Green
- Dr. C.N.E. Corbin – Green
- Sumayo Hassan - Green
- Don Baack - Abstain
- JR Lilly - Yellow
- Amanda Squiemphen-Yazzie - Yellow

- **DECISION REACHED:** The committee's first priority is to engage the Native/Indigenous community, starting with NACAC, to recommend a name. If that cannot happen, then the committee's next priority would be to consider a name that honors other communities of color.

- There was a discussion about whether it was fair to ask the Native committee members to do the extra work of consulting with Native community. PP&R said they would provide extra support as needed.
- It was discussed that asking the Native community to come up with a name can create pressure, and perhaps several names should be suggested instead of simply asking if the Native community would like to come up with a name.
- Next step will be to get this on the next NACAC meeting agenda for discussion and see if there is interest.
- The committee discussed that naming the pool is a more time sensitive matter, as the goal is to have a new name ready for the 2023 swimming season.
- If we hear from NACAC that members of the Native/Indigenous community are interested in helping to rename A Park, the committee can pause on discussing this issue as needed, while further consultation with Native communities is completed.
- The next meeting will focus on the pool name and any update on the conversation with NACAC. PP&R will send out an updated version of

the name submissions that focuses on people of color and Native/Indigenous names in advance of that meeting.

Letter from Ida B. Wells to President Wilson:

