Planning Advisory Committee

July 19, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Members Present:

Chair – Stephen Kroll
City Planning Commission – Rachael Berg and Ava Monnet
Historic District Landmarks Commission – Tracy St. Julien
The Department of Real Estate and Records – Ashley Spangenberg
The Department of Parks and Parkways – Tica Hartman
Sewage and Water Board – LaJoyce Steib
The Department of Public Works – Louis Haywood

Item #1 – will be considered at the next PAC meeting.

Item number 2 – Consideration of renaming Terpsichore Street between St. Charles Avenue and South Rampart Street as Professor Longhair Lane.

A City Planning Commission representative called the meeting to order by describing the function of the PAC and stating the Street Name Change request was on the agenda for members to offer comments on the technical merits of the request. The representative from the City Planning Commission read the preliminary request by Council District B and explained there had been a previous request to rename Terpsichore Street between St. Charles Avenue and Magnolia Street but it was withdrawn and the request to truncate the proposed street name change is what is under consideration.

The daughter of Professor Longhair was present and spoke at length about why her father should be honored. She stated she did not want the name extended to Magnolia Street because her father was not known above S. Rampart Street. She also stated she did not understand why the initial proposal had been withdrawn.

After the daughter of Professor Longhair spoke, the representative from the Department of Public Works asked why the proposed name was Professor Longhair Lane rather than Professor Longhair Street. Ms. Byrd stated Lane fit better than Street and that Professor Longhair Lane was an easier street to say and pronounce over the current street, Terpsichore.

The representative from the Department of Parks and Parkways asked about the honorary street name change. Ms. Byrd stated she wanted her father honored the same way other musicians in the city have been honored such as Fats Domino and Allen Toussaint. The representative from the Department of Real Estate and Records asked why we weren't considering the honorary street name change. The representative from the City Planning Commission stated it was because Council District B has sent the City Planning Commission the request at-hand for a Street name change, not an honorary street name change, so that's what's being considered.

The representative from the Historic District Landmarks Commission put forth a Motion to approve the Street Name Change as proposed. The representative from the Department of Public Works seconded the Motion. The Motion did not pass.

The representative from the Historic District Landmarks Commission put forth a second motion to reject the Street Name Change as proposed. A representative from the City Planning Commission seconded the Motion and the Motion passed.