



City of Milwaukee

200 E. Wells Street
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
53202

Meeting Minutes

CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE NAMING OF PUBLIC BUILDINGS, FACILITIES AND STREETS

John Gurda - Chair

Carl Baehr, Clayborn Benson III, Carrie Fix, Reuben K.

Harpole, Matthew O'Neill

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Thursday, March 6, 2025

9:30 AM

City Hall, Room 303 or Virtual

Amended 2/26/25 -- Item #3 (File 241719) was added.

Please join this meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

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Access Code:

371-208-053

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Meeting convened: 9:40 AM

Members present: John Gurda, Carl Baehr, Carrie Fix and Clayborn Benson

Members excused: Matthew O'Neill and Reuben Harpole

1. [241410](#) Resolution assigning the honorary street name Cecilia "The Queen" Gilbert to North Jefferson Street from East Wells Street to East Kilbourn Avenue in the 4th Aldermanic District.

Sponsors: THE CHAIR

Dave Reid - president of the Cathedral Square Friends. Ms. Gilbert spent 40+ years serving the city and the community, with 34 of the years being a city employee. She was a wonderful behind-the-scenes liaison and knew how city hall operated and could get things done. She sat on numerous boards throughout her life ranging from those supporting foster kids to the arts. She was known as "The Queen of Downtown Milwaukee".

Mary Freeman - opposed to the designation as she supports Karl Kopp, who owns the building between Wells and Jefferson (Elsa on the Park). He shared his art with his customers. Ms. Gilbert had been an Elsa's customer since the beginning. She doesn't oppose a street being named in her honor, but not this street.

Chris Collins - general manager at Elsa's on the Park - Mr. Kopp brought that area to life.

No action taken as the two groups will talk.

2. [241568](#) Substitute resolution assigning the honorary street name "Pastor Otha

Howard" to North 56th Street from West Parkway Drive to West Fairmount Avenue in the 1st Aldermanic District.

Sponsors: THE CHAIR

Calvin Howard, Senior Pastor of Divine Temple, said his father, Otha, branched off into his own ministry in 1974 and that lasted over 50 years. He organized outings for the community, provided free food, organized block parties, and supported the community in a variety of ways. He passed in 2017. He had a desire to build a church and he chose to stay in the community and re-built a larger church in the same area. The seating capacity increased from 140 to over 300 parishioners. In 2017 they had about 120 members and now have about 220, so it's a growing parish.

Alvin Howard, brother of Calvin, and son of Otha, saw first-hand as a child the work his dad did for the people; he would sacrifice anything for the community. He worked at Pfister & Vogel for many years and went on to become a machinist despite having an eighth grade education. He has done great work and deserves this honor.

Yance Marti, Dept. of Public Works, said the application is complete.

Recommended for approval by Mr. Baehr, seconded by Mr. Clayborn. The vote was unanimous.

3. [241719](#)

Substitute resolution assigning the honorary street name "Bishop Sedgwick Daniels" to West Hampton Avenue from North 32nd Street to North Hopkins Street in the 1st Aldermanic District.

Sponsors: THE CHAIR

This file was scheduled due to an error in the title, which resulted in improper notices to the affected property owners.

Recommend approval by Mr. Benson. Seconded by Mr. Baehr. The vote was unanimous.

The Chair spoke briefly about his almost 31 years of service on this Board.

Meeting adjourned: 10:09 AM

Linda M. Elmer

Staff Assistant