



TOWN OF FAIRFAX

STAFF REPORT

January 20, 2021

TO: Mayor and Town Council

FROM: Garrett Toy, Town Manager

SUBJECT: Receive update on the community process for renaming Sir Francis Drake Blvd.

RECOMMENDATION

Receive update.

DISCUSSION

The Town of Fairfax is one of five jurisdictions participating in a discussion about the use of Sir Francis Drake's (SFD) name on the boulevard that traverses east-west across the central part of Marin County. The other jurisdictions through which the road passes are the County of Marin, City of Larkspur, and the Towns of Ross and San Anselmo. Each of the jurisdictions appointed two Councilmembers to the SFD Ad-Hoc Working Group. The Town's Council representatives are Mayor Ackerman and Councilmember Goddard. Collectively, the ten elected officials have been participating in a series of public forums (i.e., community listening and learning sessions) and three Working Group meetings.

At the Council's December 16, 2020 meeting, Councilmember Goddard and Mayor Ackerman reported that the Working Group agreed that members should return to their respective jurisdictions to take up the issue of whether to move forward at the local level with renaming of Sir Francis Drake Blvd. Each jurisdiction should complete its community process and make a final decision no later than March 31. The Members will report back at the Working Group's early April meeting.

They also reiterated that the request is focused on the concept of changing the name and not selecting a name. The selection of a name would be separate multi-jurisdictional process that would occur after decisions are made regarding the renaming of SFD.

The Council assigned Councilmembers Goddard and Cutrano to lead the local effort on the renaming process including the scheduling of a community listening session. The tentative date for the listening session is Saturday, February 6th from 10:00am to 12:00 noon. At the December 16th Council meeting, the Council also discussed the concept of conducting a local community learning session. However, upon further research, Councilmembers Goddard and Cutrano have indicated that the video recording of the community learning session conducted by the County on August 17, 2020 would preclude the need for a local learning session.

Councilmembers Goddard and Cutrano are working with staff to create a Town webpage for local resources including a link to the Marin County Free Library's resource and learning page focused on Marin County and the Sir Francis Drake roadway:

<https://marinlibrary.org/sir-francis-drake-boulevard/>

The County webpage includes the learning session video and information and perspectives gathered from local, national, and international sources about the indigenous community of Marin, the Coastal Miwok, present when Sir Francis Drake ventured into what is now Marin County; Sir Francis Drake the person; and the early 20th Century unified naming of the 43-mile roadway that is now called Sir Francis Drake Boulevard.

In addition to linking to the County webpage, the Town's webpage will also include the data/research compiled by the Working Group. Councilmembers Goddard and Cutrano indicate they are working with the Coast Miwok Council to determine if additional local resources can be included on the Town webpage. While the information on the Town webpage and the associated links is not intended to be comprehensive, we do anticipate expect the resources accessible through this page will grow over time.

FISCAL IMPACT

n/a