



Public Works Commission

CONSENT CALENDAR
January 19, 2021

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Public Works Commission

Submitted by: Matthew Freiberg, Chairperson, Public Works Commission

Subject: Renaming of Four City Paths for Founders of the Berkeley Path Wanderers Association

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a resolution pursuant to Berkeley's Policy for Naming and Renaming Public Facilities, the Public Works Commission (PWC) recommends the naming and renaming of four Berkeley Paths, as identified on the map at Attachment 1, in honor of the four women founders of the Berkeley Path Wanderers:

- Rename a path off of Keith Avenue near Shasta Road, currently named Eleanor Path, to "Eleanor Hall Gibson Path," after founder Eleanor Hall Gibson, who passed away in 2016;
- Name the following paths, subject to a 2/3 vote of the City Council as provided at Section 2(B) of the Policy, as follows:
 - The extension connector of Walnut Street through the UC complex between Hearst and Berkeley Way to be named "Ruth Armstrong Path" in honor of Ruth Armstrong (Moskovitz);
 - The path parallel to the top of Solano Avenue running along Los Angeles Avenue up the tunnel slope towards the Marin Circle, to be named "Jacque Ensign Way" in honor of Jacque Ensign; and
 - Path 71 to be named "Patricia DeVito Path" in honor of Pat DeVito.

In addition to the renaming of these four paths, the Public Works commission supports the inclusion of interpretive signage describing the contributions of each of the honored individuals.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

The Public Works Department estimated a cost of approximately \$2,500 for fabrication and installation of eight (8) signs, and has stated that funds are available under existing programs. Impacts, if any, on private owners are minimal given the location of each named path.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

Motion to approve and submit to Council Path Renaming on October 1, 2020. Motion made by [Schueler](#) and seconded by [Erbe](#). Ayes:Freiberg, Erbe, Nesbitt, Hitchen, Humbert, Schueler, Krpata, Bernnan, Constantine ; Noes: none; Abstain: none.

Throughout Berkeley's history, important community work has been initiated, championed, and performed by women of Berkeley. One of the many great examples of women's' leadership in our City has been the Berkeley Path Wanderers, founded by Jacque Ensign, Eleanor Hall Gibson, Ruth Armstrong (nee Moskovitz), and Pat DeVito. Since 1997, Berkeley Path Wanderers has played an essential role in preserving and restoring pathways throughout Berkeley.

Though women have long served Berkeley with distinction, most streets and other named facilities in our City have been named after men. Because some of the paths in Berkeley are unnamed or have generic names taken from adjoining streets, they present a meaningful opportunity to name and rename public facilities. Naming four paths in honor of the women founders of the Berkeley Path Wanderers Association serves the dual purposes of honoring individuals who have done important work for our community and helping to rectify the gender imbalance in Berkeley's place names.

This action supports the City's Strategic Plan goal of creating a resilient, safe, connected, and prepared City.

BACKGROUND

On September 24, 2019, City Council issued a referral to the Public Works Commission to consider a recommendation regarding the naming and renaming of the four paths under consideration.

On January 9, 2020 and February 6, 2020, Aliana Constantinescu, the President of Berkeley Path Wanderers Association, presented to the PWC the history of the BPWA and its founding, the contributions that each of these founding members made to the community, and the value of the work that the BPWA continues to provide to the City of Berkeley. Aliana described how the four women met and formed BPWA, working collaboratively with each other, spending countless hours raising funds, working to resolve concerns of immediate neighbors, and working collaboratively and productively with the City. Aliana also highlighted the importance of these paths for public safety, access to public transit, and for the provision of healthy outdoor recreational activities.

Council Member Hahn further presented differences in how women and men tend to contribute to society, which may contribute to an inequity in recognition for those efforts.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Walking is a key strategy for reducing GHG emissions, as is taking public transit. Paths invite and support both of these activities. By supporting and highlighting the work of the

Berkeley Path Wanderers and drawing attention to our paths, we reinforce the importance of Berkeley's paths for sustainability, safety and health.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

Berkeley Path Wanderers is an organization that provides important services to the City of Berkeley on a 100% volunteer basis. Paths are created, upgraded and maintained, providing both an important public safety improvement in the case of fire or earthquake, and a delightful amenity for those who walk Berkeley for pleasure, or to access transit or shops. Honoring the four women founders of Berkeley Path Wanderers by naming paths after each of them is a fitting tribute to their important and lasting contributions to the City and community of Berkeley.

It is the opinion of the Public Works Commission, pending approval by a 2/3 majority of City Council, that this recommendation is not only appropriate, but also meets all of the relevant criteria for the renaming of a path as identified in the City Policy for Naming and Renaming public facilities, specifically Sections 4 and 5. These honorees have a record of outstanding service to their community and have made significant contributions towards the development of the City Path System. This process has also achieved all of the procedural requirements of the naming and renaming process as outlined in Section 5 of the policy.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

Leave the path names as they are today.

CITY MANAGER

The City Manager takes no position on the content and recommendations of the Commission's Report.

CONTACT PERSON

Joe Enke, Supervising Civil Engineer, Public Works Commission Secretary (510) 981-6411

Attachment:
1: Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

NAMING OF FOUR CITY PATHWAYS FOR FOUR FOUNDERS OF THE
BERKELEY PATH WANDERERS ASSOCIATION

WHEREAS, refurbishment of the Berkeley path system enjoys broad and sustained support from residents and the City; and

WHEREAS, in the past women contributors have rarely been recognized in the naming of City assets; and

WHEREAS, the Public Works Commission has reviewed the request for renaming and found the proposal to be in accordance with the City's Naming Policy.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the path from Keith Avenue near Shasta Road, currently named Eleanor Path, be known as "Eleanor Hall Gibson Path".

The extension connector of Walnut Street through the UC complex between Hearst and Berkeley Way be named "Ruth Armstrong Path".

The path running between Solano Avenue and Los Angeles Avenues at be named "Jacque Ensign Way".

The unbuilt path from Sterling Avenue to Miller Avenue be renamed from "Path 71" to "Patricia DeVito Path.

In honor of the aforementioned founders of the Berkeley Path Wanderers Association (BPWA).