



Roll Call Number

Agenda Item Number

44B

Date January 11, 2016

CONFIRMATION AND DESIGNATION OF "FIFTH STREET BRIDGE" NAME OF BRIDGE AS PART OF MEREDITH MULTI-USE RECREATIONAL TRAIL

WHEREAS, the Fifth Street Bridge, which is part of the Meredith Multi-Use Recreational Trail, was originally open to vehicular traffic and connected to 5th Street and was known as the Fifth Street Raccoon River Bridge and was known in its first 100 year as the Fifth Street Bridge; and

WHEREAS, such bridge has also been known locally as the Southwest 5th Street Bridge and the Jackson Street Bridge; and

WHEREAS, the Friends of the Jackson Street Bridge have raised funds to aid in renovation of the bridge and have proposed that the name of the bridge be confirmed and designated anew as the "Fifth Street Bridge"; and

WHEREAS, Council hereby determines that the City's Policy for Naming of Streets, Facilities and Park Land does not apply to a mere confirmation and designation of this bridge to its original name.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of Des Moines, Iowa, that the name of the bridge within the Meredith Multi-Use Recreational Trail that connects to 5th Street shall continue to be and shall hereinafter be designated and named and to be known as the "Fifth Street Bridge".

MOVED BY \_\_\_\_\_ to adopt.

Friends of the Jackson Street Bridge letter attached.

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Ann DiDonato, Assistant City Attorney

Table with 5 columns: COUNCIL ACTION, YEAS, NAYS, PASS, ABSENT. Rows include COWNIE, COLEMAN, GATTO, GRAY, HENSLEY, MOORE, WESTERGAARD, and TOTAL.

CERTIFICATE

I, DIANE RAUH, City Clerk of said City hereby certify that at a meeting of the City Council of said City of Des Moines, held on the above date, among other proceedings the above was adopted.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal the day and year first above written.

MOTION CARRIED APPROVED

Mayor

City Clerk

44B

323 E 5th St.  
Des Moines, IA 50309  
December 31, 2015

Mayor T.M. Franklin Cownie  
City Hall  
400 Robert D. Ray Drive  
Des Moines, IA 50309

Dear Mayor Cownie and Council Members:

At the December 11 meeting of the Friends of the Jackson Street Bridge, committee members voted to recommend future references as the Fifth Street Bridge. The unanimous committee vote was based on several compelling reasons:

- We have viewed copies of the original drawings preserved at City Hall (see attached). The bridge was designed in 1896 and built in 1898 as the Fifth Street Raccoon River Bridge.
- In 1998 when the bridge was added to the National Historic Register of Places, it was referred to as SW Fifth Street Bridge. It was known as the Fifth Street Bridge for its first 100 years.
- The Fifth Street Bridge—originally built as a wagon bridge—was closed in 1993 to motor vehicles. It reopened to bike and pedestrian traffic in 1998. The bridge was made part of the Meredith Trail and the Des Moines trail network in 2004, yet is not officially named in Parks and Recreation documents. The City Naming Policy (Council Communication No. 09-295) allows for exceptions for City Council action to name streets, facilities, and parks when a current name does not exist.
- Agreeing on the original name—Fifth Street Bridge—conforms to the naming convention of nearby Raccoon River bridges: First, Third, Seventh, and Ninth. And downstream on the Des Moines River, you will find the SW Sixth Street Bridge.

Thank you for your consideration,



Carl Voss  
Secretary, Friends of the Jackson Street Bridge