THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE

STAFF REPORT

Council Meeting Date: March 23, 2021

Subject: Change the name of the French Broad River East Bank Greenway to the Wilma Dykeman Greenway.

Staff Resource(s): Ken Putnam, PE, Transportation Department Director
Lucy Crown, AICP, Greenway Planner

Action Requested: Adoption of a resolution changing the name of the French Broad River East Bank Greenway to the Wilma Dykeman Greenway.

Background:

- The 3.5 mile greenway corridor is located on the east bank of the French Broad River between Broadway Street and Amboy Road.
- Nearly two-thirds of the corridor was recently completed with the RADTIP project and the remaining third will be designed during FY 2020-21.
- The City's Greenway Master Plan refers to the greenway as the French Broad River East Bank Greenway.
- Wilma Dykeman, born and raised in Asheville, was an author and environmental steward of the French Broad River.
- She highlighted pollution in the French Broad River in her 1955 book *The French Broad*, which won the first Thomas Wolfe Memorial Literary Prize.
- The City's existing comprehensive riverfront plan is named after Wilma Dykeman.
- The proposed name change is intended to recognize Dykeman's contributions, but will also aid in distinguishing the east and west-side greenways along the French Broad River.
- RiverLink assisted the City with public engagement by releasing a survey seeking input on the proposed name change and it indicated broad support of the name change.

Council Goal(s):

- Well Planned and Liveable Community

Committee(s):

- Greenway Committee - January 7, 2021 - recommend approval
- Multimodal Transportation Commission - February 24, 2021 - recommend approval

Pro(s):

- Honors Wilma Dykeman for her legacy of environmental stewardship of the French Broad River.
- Eliminates confusion of the greenways located on each side of the river.

Con(s):

- None

Fiscal Impact:

- None

Suggested Motion:

- Adopt a resolution changing the name of the French Broad River East Bank Greenway to the Wilma Dykeman Greenway.

Attachments:

- Resolution
- Map

RESOLUTION NO. 21-____

RESOLUTION TO CHANGE THE NAME OF THE FRENCH BROAD RIVER EAST BANK GREENWAY TO THE WILMA DYKEMAN GREENWAY

WHEREAS, the proposed greenway is a three and a half mile long greenway corridor in the City limits that lies along the French Broad River between the Amboy Road and Broadway Street intersections; and

WHEREAS, The City of Asheville recognizes Wilma Dykeman as a civic leader of the community that raised awareness of the cultural and environmental importance of the French Broad River; and

WHEREAS, the City of Asheville Multimodal Transportation Commission and Greenway Committee both support the recommended name change; and

WHEREAS, the City of Asheville worked with the non-profit organization RiverLink to complete a public engagement survey to collect public feedback regarding the proposed name change, the results of which indicated broad support for the name change; and

WHEREAS, the name change will facilitate users of the greenway system by creating a more clear distinction between the greenways on the French Broad River and will facilitate emergency services;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE THAT:

The City Manager is authorized to change the name of the French Broad River East Bank Greenway to the Wilma Dykeman Greenway.

Read, approved and adopted this the 23rd day of March, 2021.

_____ _____

City Clerk Mayor

Approved as to form:

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City Attorney