

# LOT 3c

Mayor & City Council

3-10-22

The Ketchikan City Council recently undertook to honor three, long-time residents for their service to our community: former Ketchikan City Mayor Lew Williams, longtime City Manager Karl Amylon, and visitor and tourism promoter Len Lawrence. The Council Chambers will be named for Williams, the City Hall for Amylon and "the park near the downtown tunnel" for Lawrence. All three men deserve recognition.

However, the patch of green directly across Tongass Avenue from City Hall which the Council proposes to name in honor of Mr. Lawrence has long been known as Eagle Park, if not formally, by thirty years of local practice. It is the site of the statue of an eagle commissioned in 1993 by the City and carved by Ketchikan carver Nathan Jackson. He called it in Tlingit, Kitsch-Him, Thundering Wings of an Eagle, for the area at the base of Ketchikan Creek that became the early site of the village whose name was written in English by early settlers as Ketchikan. The Tlingit name dates to the mid-seventeenth century.

But Eagle Park commemorates the founding of our city and its native heritage and needs to be recognized for such. If the name more significance, name it Kitsch-Kim Park for the early native inhabitants, but let it remain the place that honors the foundation and cultural heritage of our town. Native carver Nathan Jackson's statue "Thundering Wings" is a familiar landmark, and the setting is listed in tour guides and reviews as "Eagle Park." It's what we call it. It's time the City Council made it official.

As a recognized historical site, Eagle Park affords space to honor individual citizens such as Mr. Lawrence. The late Kris Geldaker, a local cruise industry executive and promoter, is honored by a double bench and a plaque erected by the Northwest Cruise Ship Association and Friends just a few feet from The Eagle.

What local or civic leader would not be honored by a plaque or bench IN Eagle Park?

Sincerely,



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