



CITY OF KIRKLAND
Department of Parks & Community Services
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MEMORANDUM

To: Kurt Triplett, City Manager

From: Lynn Zwaagstra, Director of Parks and Community Services
John Lloyd, Deputy Director of Parks and Community Services

Date: February 5, 2021

Subject: Resolution Approving the Nomination of Wes Carpenter for Kirkland's Plaza of Champions

Recommendation

That the City Council consider the nomination of Wes Carpenter for Kirkland's Plaza of Champions.

Background

The Plaza of Champions was initiated in 1988 to honor and recognize those groups and individuals in the greater Kirkland area who have reached the pinnacle of achievement in their chosen field and have, through that achievement, contributed in a significant way to our community. This contribution may be in providing state, national, or international recognition for Kirkland and its residents, and/or improving the quality of life for a significant segment of the greater Kirkland community. Honorees are inducted with a public ceremony and have a bronze plaque installed in their honor at the Plaza of Champions near Marina Park.

The Park Board has been established as the review panel to consider and make recommendations on all nominations. Final acceptance is determined by the City Council.

Criteria adopted by the City Council for the Plaza of Champions are intended to be both broad and flexible (**Attachment 1**). However, the standards set for this tribute are intended to be high. A list of prior honorees is provided as **Attachment 2**.

The following criteria are used in selecting inductees into the Plaza of Champions:

- I. Local, State, National, or International Level of Achievement
- II. Identity with Greater Kirkland
- III. Significance of Achievement
- IV. History of Achievements, including: documents, press clippings, photos or other examples of media coverage related to the achievement.

Nomination

Kirkland resident, Wes Carpenter, has been nominated for induction into the Plaza of Champions for his achievements related to his service in the Army. Please see the attached nomination packet that has been submitted on his behalf (**Attachment 3**).

Criteria I – Level of Achievement - *Level of Achievement must be highest possible, unique, and/or exceptional in chosen field or endeavor.*

Mr. Carpenter received the Bronze Star Medal for Heroism with Valor, and the Army Commendation Medal for saving many lives while serving in Vietnam. While not the highest honor that can be achieved for service in the Army, the Bronze Star is a significant award.

Conclusion: Staff believes that these achievements meet the criteria established for Level of Achievement.

Criteria II – Identity With Kirkland - *Applicant must meet at least 2 of the following criteria:*

- 2.1 Born in Kirkland
- 2.2 Currently Resides in Kirkland
- 2.3 Lived in Kirkland at least 10 yrs.
- 2.4 Improved quality of life in Kirkland
- 2.5 Works in or owns Kirkland business
- 2.6 Other justification

Conclusion: Staff have determined that Mr. Carpenter meets at least 2 of the identified criteria established for Identity with Kirkland.

Criteria III – Significance of Achievement - *Applicant must meet at least 1 of the following criteria:*

- 3.1 Recognition of achievement by Kirkland Community
- 3.2 Peers recognize achievement as outstanding
- 3.3 Played a key role in group effort
- 3.4 Achievement improved quality of life

Conclusion: Staff has determined that Mr. Carpenter meets at least 1 of the identified criteria established for Significance of Achievement.

History Requirement

Information has been provided as part of the nomination packet and satisfies this requirement.

Park Board Recommendation

At their regular meeting on January 13, 2021 the Park Board reviewed the nomination of Wes Carpenter and recommend approval by a vote of four in favor, none opposed, and one

abstention. If approved by the Council via the attached Resolution, staff will work with Mr. Carpenter and his family to schedule a public induction ceremony later in the year.

Attachments:

- 1 – Nomination Guide
- 2 – List of Past Honorees
- 3 – Nomination Packet
- 4 – Resolution