

Downtown Steering Committee

City of Leavenworth
City Hall Council Chambers & Zoom
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
January 23, 2024

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://zoom.us/j/98624615776?pwd=SjhZenVzWD
F5TUpvNEE0MVd1dVc3Zz09](https://zoom.us/j/98624615776?pwd=SjhZenVzWD
F5TUpvNEE0MVd1dVc3Zz09)

Meeting ID: 986 2461 5776

Passcode: 941364

Dial by your location +1 253 215 8782 US

Members:

Sharon Waters

Zeke Reister

Clint Strand

Joel Martinez

Kevin Rieke

Oliver Brulotte

Troy Campbell

Staff:

Selby* / Sue

Agenda:

1. Approve November 28, 2023 meeting notes
2. Review Draft Request for Qualifications for Front Street Pedestrian Plaza
3. Review Committee Bylaws
4. Formation of a Business Improvement District
5. Wayfinding for Side Street Businesses
6. Great Northern Railroad Signage
7. Sledding Hill ideas:
 - a. Bavarian themed playground, planters, garden, etc.
8. Other / Future Agenda Items

**Chairperson*

Audio recording available upon request for 90 days

Downtown Steering Committee

Meeting Notes November 28, 2023

Attendees:

Committee Members: Sharon Waters, Zeke Reister, Clint Strand, Joel Martinez, Kevin Rieke, Oliver Brulotte, Troy Campbell

Staff: Matthew “Selby,” Sue Cragun, Shannon Lemons, Kara Raftery, Lilith Vespier.

Public: Lindsay Boyd, Travis McMaster.

1. Approve October 24, 2023 Meeting Notes

The Committee approved the October 24, 2023 meeting notes.

2. Raise the level of Front Street

The Committee is in favor of elevating the existing street to the level of the sidewalks for the following reasons:

- a. No curbs will allow the area to look more like a walking plaza.
- b. Give the area a more European feel.
- c. May apply different textures to delineate eating areas, delivery lanes, pedestrian areas, etc. Sidewalk zones can be defined with a different material.
- d. Business owners are currently responsible for sidewalk snow removal. The formation of a Business Improvement District may be advantageous for snow removal around the store fronts.

3. Discussion: Heat paved areas

The Committee wishes to add heated areas as a design option for the following reasons:

- a. Snow removal would not be an issue.
- b. May be funded by the formation of a Business Improvement District.
- c. May decrease insurance rates by preventing accidents downtown.
- d. The Committee requests additional information from an expert in the field. How long will it last? What other options may be available?

4. Discussion: Wayfinding signage

- a. May wish to form a subcommittee and consultant to review and improve signage; where signage is placed and what the signage says.
- b. Need to place signage on Commercial Street to direct visitors to restrooms and downtown.
- c. Sue will research who made the current signage in 2012.

- d. Edit existing signage - English on the black background, German on the brown background.
- e. Sue will take the lead on restroom and parking signage.

5. Parking update

Shannon provided a brief update on the parking program.

- a. The department is currently replacing parking meters on Commercial Street with Kiosks.
- b. They have placed updated information on the meters that will help with ease of use.
- c. A “how to” use the meters will be posted to the website in English and Spanish.
- d. Additional staff have been added to help people with parking questions during the Village of Lights festival.
- e. Tour buses have been instructed to park out of town. Staff will be posted on US 2 to direct tour buses.

6. Other / Future Agenda Items

- a. Formation of a Business Improvement District
- b. Expert opinion on heated paved areas
- c. Review of new restroom signage on Commercial Street
- d. Draft Request for Qualifications for downtown design work
- e. December 26, 2023 meeting canceled

Meeting adjourned at 11:12 AM

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Cragun, Executive Assistant



CITY OF LEAVENWORTH
REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

Front Street Pedestrian Plaza

Project No. 2024-001

February 2024

**City of Leavenworth
Department of Public Works
700 US Hwy 2 / P.O. Box 287
Leavenworth, WA 98826
Phone: 509-548-5275**

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REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS (RFQ)

1.0 OBJECTIVE

The City of Leavenworth (City) is soliciting qualifications from qualified consulting firms (Consultants) to provide professional services for complete design, bidding, and construction services for the Front Street Pedestrian Plaza in Leavenworth, Washington.

2.0 BACKGROUND

The City of Leavenworth closed a majority of Front Street to vehicular traffic in response to COVID health restrictions in the spring of 2020. Using a series of temporary interventions, the City eliminated all vehicular traffic except morning deliveries on Front Street between US 2 and 9th Street and between 9th and 10th Street. The roadway that was previously utilized for through traffic and on-street parking was transformed into a temporary walking plaza, effectively creating a large area for pedestrian and business use. Restaurants along Front Street were able to apply for permits to expand outdoor seating opportunities, as was done in conjunction with changes at the Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board, which temporarily permitted outdoor service placed separately from the associated business.

In June 2022, the City of Leavenworth contracted with MxM Landscape Architecture (MxM) to evaluate the feasibility and public support of permanently closing Front Street to vehicular traffic. The Leavenworth Street Closure Analysis and Planning Study (Study) was completed by MxM in January 2023. Throughout 2023, the Downtown Revitalization Steering Committee reviewed the Study, its findings, and determined which strategies they wished to implement in the final design. Study components Phase 1: Leavenworth Street Closure Analysis and Planning and Phase 2: Existing Conditions Memo are included as an appendix to the Request for Qualifications.

The scope of work presented in the following section has been determined by the Downtown Revitalization Steering Committee in response to reviewing the Study documents. The Study documents are provided only for reference.

3.0 SCOPE OF WORK

The Scope of Work shall, at a minimum, include the following elements described herein.

Project Limits: Front Street between **US 2 and 10th Street**

Preliminary Design (Phase 1): The full scope of the Preliminary Design (Phase 1) will be included in the initial agreement with the selected Consultant.

Site Investigation & Data Acquisition

- Call in utility locates
- Complete a topographical survey

Commented [AZB1]: What is the full extent of the project limits we are anticipating? US 2 to 9th? US 2 to 10th?

Please note that this scope does not currently include improvements to Front Street Park. Was it the intention of the downtown steering committee to have this included in the scope of the project?

Do we want to include the gazebo groundwater investigate in the scope of this project?

Do we want to include vendor power outlets in Front Street park for festival use (and have it be metered)?

- Conduct camera inspection of the existing sanitary sewer main on portion of 8th Street that is within the project limits
- Conduct a geotechnical investigation, including (if necessary) subcontracting all work required to excavate potholing locations and conduct pedestrian and/or vehicular traffic control
- Prepare a geotechnical report based on the findings of the geotechnical investigation and make recommendations for pedestrian plaza subgrade and all construction activities

Coordination

- Attend bi-weekly update meetings with City staff (either in-person or virtual)
- Facilitate and attend 30-percent design review meeting with City staff (either in-person or virtual)
- Attend periodic Downtown Revitalization Committee meetings to provide updates (either in-person or virtual)
- Attend up to five (5) in-person public meetings (e.g., City Council Study Session, City Council Meeting, Leavenworth Community Engagement Night, Public Open House)

Deliverables

- Prepare a preliminary design report that:
 - Details all project components listed under Design (Phase 2) Project Components, including conceptual plan sheets
 - Evaluates each component for fatal flaws, design alternatives, and a recommended alternative based on a combination of City and community feedback
 - Recommends phasing of project components (if applicable); and
 - Estimates probable construction costs for each project phase

Design (Phase 2): The initial agreement with the selected consultant will only include the scope of Design Phase 1. Upon completion of Design Phase 1, a supplement agreement will be executed for Design Phase 2.

Project Components

At a minimum, the project is anticipated to include the following:

- Utility Improvements:
 - Water: Construct approximately 700 linear feet of 12-inch diameter ductile iron water main between 8th Street and 10th Street and all associated appurtenances

- Sanitary Sewer: Evaluate the existing condition of existing sanitary sewer main on 8th Street within project limits by use of video inspection. Replace existing sewer main if determined to be necessary.
- Stormwater: Remove and replace entirety of existing stormwater system within the project limits. Stormwater system to be sized and designed by completing stormwater modeling as part of this project, including an evaluation of stormwater generated by heated sidewalks
- Street Lighting: Evaluate existing street lighting for use as a pedestrian plaza. If determined to be necessary, replace existing street lighting with new, pedestrian street lighting
- Other Utilities: Coordination with local utility providers (power, fiber, communication, etc.) that may have improvements desired to be completed within the project limits
- Pedestrian Plaza Surfacing Improvements:
 - Remove existing concrete and brick paver sidewalk, pedestrian curb ramps, and asphalt roadway surfacing
 - Redesign sidewalk and roadway profile as necessary to tie into existing building entrances while also meeting the following constraints:
 - Curb-less transitions between building frontage and pedestrian plaza to the maximum extent feasible to promote pedestrian flow throughout the plaza
 - Re-envisioning stormwater flowline that prevents stormwater from entering buildings
 - Construct a visually contrasted minimum 20-foot-wide fire lane the full length of the project that is navigable by a standard full size fire engine
 - American with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant pedestrian curb ramps at locations where the pedestrian plaza ties in to raised sidewalk
 - Construct automatic retractable bollards at all pedestrian protection locations, as identified in Appendix XX.
- Additional Pedestrian Plaza Features:
 - Create Royal Lady Plaza within the existing roadway (per the 2009 Master Plan) in the corner of Front Street on the 700 block. See conceptual in Appendix X.
 - Outdoor restaurant seating and associated furniture
 - Designated new location and associated foundation and attachment point for temporary Maipole
 - Planters and placemaking features

Commented [AZB2]: What is the Downtown Steering Committee's vision here? Set up and maintained by each business or provided by the City for use by anyone?

Commented [AZB3]: Is this something the Downtown Steering Committee wants to see included in the scope of the project?

Commented [AZB4]: Overall goal? Metric we're looking for?

- Using pavers and/or paver-patterned stamped and stained concrete to the greatest extent feasible
- Pedestrian-focused: design the plaza with pedestrians as the primary user, including low mobility users
- Bicycle parking areas
- Explore feasibility of a drop-off zone for visitors
- Evaluate heated surfacing and/or other technologies to create more user-friendly facilities for those with physical impairments (current challenge of having snow on the ground, becomes compact snow/ice)

Permit Preparation and Submittal

Complete all environmental permitting and cultural and historic surveys and reports, as required for construction to commence. Construction funding has not been secured to date; it is anticipated that construction may be partially state-funded and all permitting and cultural and/or historic requirements of state funding shall be addressed by the selected consultant. Federal funding is not anticipated.

At a minimum, the following items are assumed to be required:

- SEPA Review: City assumed to be the lead agency
- Conform with Governor's Executive Order 21-02. Prepare and submit a GEO 21-02 form, coordinate with the Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP), and complete any recommended consultation with affected tribe(s) to determine the existence of any tribal cultural resources affected by the project
- Department of Ecology Construction Stormwater General Permit

Coordination

- Bi-weekly update meetings with City staff (either in-person or virtual)
- Facilitate and attend 30, 60, and 90-percent design review meetings with City staff (either in-person or virtual)
- Attend periodic Downtown Revitalization Committee meetings to provide updates (either in-person or virtual)
- Attend up to eight (8) in-person public meetings (e.g., City Council Study Session, City Council Meeting, Leavenworth Community Engagement Night, Public Open House)

Deliverables

Prepare plans, specifications, and estimate of probable construction costs for the following milestones:

- 60-percent design
- 90-percent design
- 100-percent final, bid-ready design

Supplemental Scope

Construction funding has not been secured to date. The City reserves the right to amend this scope of work, if agreed to by the selected consultant, to include services during bidding and/or services during construction.

4.0 ESTIMATE

The total cost for Professional Services for Design Phases 1 and 2 described herein is currently budgeted at \$xxx.

5.0 QUALIFICATIONS PROCESS

Qualification Submission Procedure

Submissions shall be sent **electronically** to Andrea Fischer, City Clerk, at afischer@cityofleavenworth.com by **2:00:00 PM on Monday, March 25, 2024**. Late or incorrectly submitted submissions will be automatically disqualified from consideration. Any qualifications received after the specified date and time will automatically be rejected and will not receive any further consideration by the City.

Consultant Selection Schedule

The solicitation, receipt, and evaluation of submittals and the selection of the Consultant are anticipated to conform to the following schedule. Please note that these dates are subject to change and are only provided for preliminary purposes.

Qualifications Due	March 25, 2024
Qualifications Review	Month DD, YYYY
Consultant Interviews	Month DD, YYYY
Consultant Selected	Month DD, YYYY
City Council Approval	Month DD, YYYY
Consultant Notice to Proceed Issued	Month DD, YYYY

Addendums to the Request for Qualifications

Any revisions, updates and/or clarifications of the Request for Qualifications will be posted on the City’s webpage at:

<https://cityofleavenworth.com/documents/category/requests-for-bids-proposals/>

Qualifications Format and Content Requirements

The following requirements must be met in all submittals:

- Submittal shall have a maximum page limit of 10 pages (5 pages if double-sided) excluding title page and/or cover letter.

- **Cover Letter:** Provide a cover letter that, at a minimum, is:
 - On Consultant Firm letterhead
 - Includes “Front Street Pedestrian Plaza” in the subject heading
 - A maximum of two (2) pages long
 - Signed by an individual authorized to bind the Consultant to the proposal for a period of 90 days with corresponding contact information

- **Project Approach:** Describe methods and plan for carrying out the Scope of Work. Provide information on all of the services proposed to be provided as part of this contract and which are identified in the RFQ. The Scope of Work should express specific ideas for the work that will be proposed and why those ideas are the best solution. Any additional or optional recommended tasks should also be included.

List any information and tasks expected from the City. Any information or tasks needed but not listed will be the responsibility of the selected Consultant.

- **Project Schedule:** Provide a proposed draft project timeline including the key milestones:
 - Contract Execution
 - Phase 1 Design
 - Phase 2 Design
 - 60 Percent Design Plans, Specifications, and Cost Estimate
 - 90 Percent Design Plans, Specifications, and Cost Estimate
 - Final, Bid-Ready Plans, Specifications, and Cost Estimate

- **Qualifications and Experience:** This section shall contain the following:
 - Type of organization
 - Size (i.e. local office and total firm size)
 - Number of years as a firm
 - Name, qualifications, and experience of personnel assigned to the Project, including professional registrations and affiliations. When listing sub-consultants, describe the listed experience and the exact tasks that each entity will perform.
 - Outline of recent projects completed that are similar to this Project.
 - Client references from recent similar projects, including name, address and telephone number of agency contact(s).

- **List of Project Responsible Personnel:** This list should include the identification of the project manager or contact person with primary responsibility for this contract, the personnel proposed for this contract, and any supervisory personnel, including partners and/or sub-consultants, and their individual areas of responsibility.

Consultant agrees to provide all professional staff necessary to perform the scope of work, including key individuals named in Consultant's proposal. These key personnel shall remain assigned for the duration of the contract, unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the City. In the event Consultant proposes to substitute any key personnel, the individual(s) proposed must demonstrate similar qualifications and experience as required to successfully perform such duties. The City shall have the sole right to determine whether key personnel proposed as substitutes are qualified to work on the project.

- **Organization Chart:** An organization chart containing the names of all key personnel, joint venture partners, and sub-consultants with titles and their specific task assignment for this contract shall be provided in this section.
- **Successful Past Projects:** A list of similar completed projects with original completion dates and actual completion dates. This list may be used as a reference list and, when possible, should include contact information for the respective city/agency.

6.0 CONSULTANT EVALUATION AND SELECTION PROCESS

A committee comprised of City staff will evaluate and select a short list, based on Statement of Qualification (SOQ) scores, of up to three (3) consultants to make an oral presentation. SOQs will be scored based on the following criteria:

Criteria.....	Total Possible Points
Project Approach.....	30 points
Qualifications and Experience.....	15 points
List of Project Responsible Personnel.....	20 points
Organization Chart.....	5 points
Successful Past Projects.....	30 points

7.0 CITY CONTACT INFORMATION

Questions regarding this project should be directed to:

Andi Zontek-Backstrum, PE
CIP Manager/Deputy Public Works Director
Phone: (509) 548-5275
Email: azontek@cityofleavenworth.com

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 287
Leavenworth, WA 98826
Physical Address:
700 US Hwy 2
Leavenworth, WA 98826

8.0 TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The City of Leavenworth exercises its discretion in selecting a firm or individual that presents the proposal that, in sole judgement of the City, best serves the interest of the City. The City reserves the right to waive minor irregularities in any proposal, reject any proposal that fails to meet the proposal requirements in any respect, to reject all proposals for any reason, or to cancel in part or in its entirety the Request for Proposals.

This Request for Proposal does not commit the City to award a contract, to pay any costs incurred in the preparation of a proposal for this request, or to procure or contract for services. The City reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals received as a result of this request, to negotiate with any qualified firm or to modify or cancel in part or in its entirety the proposal if it is in the best interest of the City to do so.

All costs for developing a response to this request are the obligation of the respondent and are not chargeable to the City. The respondent must bear all costs associated with the preparation of the submittal and of any oral presentation requested by the City. All responses and accompanying documentation will become property of the City and will not be returned. Proposals may be withdrawn at any time prior to the published close date, provided notification is received in writing to the City Contact listed in Section 7.0 of this Request for Proposal. Proposals cannot be withdrawn after the published close date.

The City of Leavenworth, in accordance with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 252,42 U.S.C. 2000d to 2000d-4) and the Regulations, hereby notifies all consultants that will affirmatively ensure that any contract entered into pursuant to this request for qualifications, disadvantaged business enterprises will be afforded full and fair opportunity to submit proposal in response to this invitation and will

not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award.

9.0 ATTACHMENTS

- MxM Downtown Closure Study - Phase 1 Leavenworth Street Closure Analysis and Planning – Jan 2023
- MxM Downtown Closure Study - Phase 2 Existing Conditions Memo – March 7, 2023
- Royal Lady Plaza, 2009 Downtown Master Plan – October 2009

BYLAWS
CITY OF LEAVENWORTH
DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION STEERING
COMMITTEE

ARTICLE I. MEETINGS

The meetings of the City of Leavenworth Downtown Revitalization Steering Committee shall be held at Leavenworth City Hall, or such other place as the Chairperson shall designate, on the fourth Tuesday of each month at the hour of 10:00 AM. The meeting of the Downtown Revitalization Steering Committee is subject to having an item on the agenda for the particular meeting. All Downtown Revitalization Steering Committee members shall be given notice of each meeting by mail or electronic message within three (3) calendar days prior to the meeting date as established by Committee policy. Regular meetings may be postponed or Special meetings of the Downtown Revitalization Steering Committee may be held upon the call of the Chairperson or a majority of voting members. A quorum of the Downtown Revitalization Steering Committee shall be four (4) members in attendance. All meetings shall be open to the public.

ARTICLE II. NUMBER OF MEMBERS AND APPOINTMENT PROCEDURE

The Downtown Revitalization Steering Committee will be composed of seven (7) voting committee members appointed to three-year terms. The Committee Membership will be made up with the following representation: with the following;

1. Three (3) current City Council members recommended by the Mayor;
2. Four (4) Leavenworth Community members:
 - a. Two (2) current members of the Leavenworth Area Chamber of Commerce with the recommendation by the Chamber of Commerce Board;
 - b. Two (2) members at large having skill sets of benefit to the committee. The skill set or talent may include a background in design or urban planning, experience in event planning or tourism promotion and/or past experience as a member of the Downtown Revitalization Steering Committee.
3. Mayor's designee of a current City staff member will be a non-voting member of the Committee;
 - a. The Mayor's designee shall be appointed annually.
4. All appointments shall be for a three (3) year term after the initial appointments have been made except for the Mayor's designee, that appointment shall remain a one-year term.

5. The initial appointments shall be:
 - a. One Councilmember appointed to a one (1) year term.
 - b. One Councilmember appointed to a two (2) year term.
 - c. One Councilmember appointed to a three (3) year term.
 - d. One Chamber of Commerce Member and one member at large shall be appointed to a one (1) year term.
 - e. One Leavenworth Community Member and one member at large shall be appointed to a two (2) year term.
6. Members shall be appointed by the Mayor and those appointments confirmed by the City Council. These appointments shall be made annually prior to January 31st of each year.

ARTICLE III. OFFICERS

The officers of the Steering Committee shall be the Chairperson and the Vice Chairperson. The Chairperson of the Steering Committee shall be the Mayor's designee appointed annually by the Mayor. The Vice Chairperson shall be elected at the first meeting of each year and shall serve a one-year term and until their successors have been elected by a simple majority of voting members of the Board. Vacancy in the Vice Chair Office shall be filled by special election. The Vice Chairperson shall automatically succeed to the vacant office of the Chairperson. The duties of the officers shall be those usually pertaining to their respective offices.

The Chairperson or, in his/her absence, the Vice Chairperson shall preside at all meetings of the Steering Committee. In the absence of both the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson, an Acting Chairperson shall be selected by the members present. The Chairperson shall decide on all points of order and procedure with guidance by Robert's Rules of Order, subject to these rules unless otherwise directed by a majority of the Steering Committee members in session at the time.

It is the responsibility of the Chairperson to provide oversight over the following:

1. Call regular meetings
2. Create agenda
3. Distribute agenda and draft notes from previous meeting electronically to all committee members no less than three (3) calendar days prior to each scheduled meeting
4. Preside over meetings (clarify who presides if Chair is absent)
5. Provide reports if needed
6. Attend meetings
7. Verify the committee's web postings/Google groups are accurate and up to date if used
8. Report upcoming openings on the committee
9. Hold elections for the committee officers

10. Report membership list and provide updates to the City Council when necessary

The Recording Secretary shall be the City Administrator or his/her designee, and will serve ex-officio, without vote.

ARTICLE IV. ADVISORS

Technical and professional assistance to the Downtown Revitalization Steering Committee in the pursuit of its duties and responsibilities may be solicited from any department of the City government or party with expertise that the Committee finds qualified. Legal Counsel, when necessary to the deliberations of the Downtown Revitalization Steering Committee, shall be furnished by the office of City Attorney.

ARTICLE V. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Any Committee member who, in their opinion, has an interest in any matter before the Committee that could prejudice their actions shall so indicate publicly, and at the request of the any committee member or any person in attendance refrain from any discussion on the matter as well as voting thereon.

ARTICLE VI. ATTENDANCE

1. Attendance is expected of all Committee members at all regular and special meetings;
2. In the event a Committee member is absent from 3 or more consecutive regular meetings, the Committee shall so indicate to the Mayor and may recommend the removal of the Committee member;
3. A Committee member may, for personal reasons or to fulfill a required obligation, request a leave of absence. The request shall be made in writing and submitted to the Steering Committee. The Committee shall forward the result, together with its recommendation, to the Mayor.

A leave of absence may be granted by the Mayor, who may temporarily fill the Committee member's position during the term of the leave of absence.

ARTICLE VII. AMENDMENTS

1. The Downtown Revitalization Steering Committee, on ten (10) days written notice to the Committee membership, may, by a majority vote, make, alter, or rescind these bylaws at any regular or special meeting.
2. Committee Bylaws may not contradict the current institutional policies or procedures.

Approved and adopted by the Downtown Revitalization Steering Committee, Leavenworth, Washington, at a meeting of its members on this DD day of Month, 2024.

XX, Chairperson

XX, Vice Chairperson

XX, Voting Member

XX, Voting Member

XX, Voting Member

XX, Voting Member

XX, Voting Member

Matthew “Selby”, Mayor Designee

ATTEST:

Sue Cragun, Recording Secretary
City Administrator’s Designee

2022		Term	Representative	Expires
Sharon Waters		1-year	Councilmember	
Zeke Reister		2-year	Councilmember	
Clint Strand		3-year	Councilmember	
Troy Campbell		1-year	Chamber Member	
Joel Martinez		2-year	Community Member	
Kevin Rieke		1-year	Chamber At Large	
Oliver Brulotte		2-year	Community At Large	
Matthew “Selby”	Chair			
Sue Cragun	Secretary			

From: Gregg Herrington <gregguw@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, December 22, 2023 10:35 AM

To: Carl Florea <cflorea@cityofleavenworth.com>; Matthew "Selby" <selby@cityofleavenworth.com>; Kara Raftery <kraftery@cityofleavenworth.com>; info@leavenworthmuseum.org; guestservices@leavenworth.org; troy@leavenworth.org; info@wvmcc.org; Rufus Woods <rwoods@wenatcheeworld.com>; rwoods@wenatcheeworld.com

Cc: Ed Vidinghoff <eviding@pacifier.com>; Beth Erickson <bkerick@icloud.com>; Craig Smith <csmithkirkland@comcast.net>; Gregg Herrington <gregguw@yahoo.com>

Subject: Inaccurate signage on Front Street

Dec. 22, 2023

Leavenworth city officials, Wenatchee Valley museums and GN Railroad-history fans:

Apologies if you received an earlier version of this letter, which I might have accidentally transmitted Thursday night or this morning.

About four years ago, during one of my regular trips to Leavenworth, I spotted errors about Great Northern Railway history on two panels of the kiosk along Front Street, immediately west of the bandstand and park.

1. The GN Railway's founder, James J. Hill, aka "The Empire Builder," was from St. Paul, Minn., not St. Louis, Mo., as stated on the signs.
2. The GN line Hill built to Seattle via Wenatchee and Leavenworth was from St. Paul, Minn., not St. Louis, Mo., as the signs said.

An on-again, off-again campaign ensued as I tried to interest someone or some entity in correcting the signs. I contacted Leavenworth city administrators, some Leavenworth City Council, members, the Leavenworth Chamber of Commerce, Leavenworth and Wenatchee Valley historical museums and the Great Northern Railway Historical Society in St. Paul. Over weeks, then months, then years, several phone calls and emails were exchanged as I checked on the sign during subsequent visits and discovered the errors remained.

Finally, in the summer of 2022, the signs were corrected by simple paste-overs, with "St. Paul" replacing "St. Louis." Matt Cade of the museum there notified and thanked me for my efforts in a gracious Aug. 15, 2022, email. His letter included this passage: "I understand the City and Chamber still have plans to work together and install new signage throughout the city. I am unsure about the timing."

On my next visit, later in 2022, I met Matt, saw the corrected sign and toured the museum on Front Street.

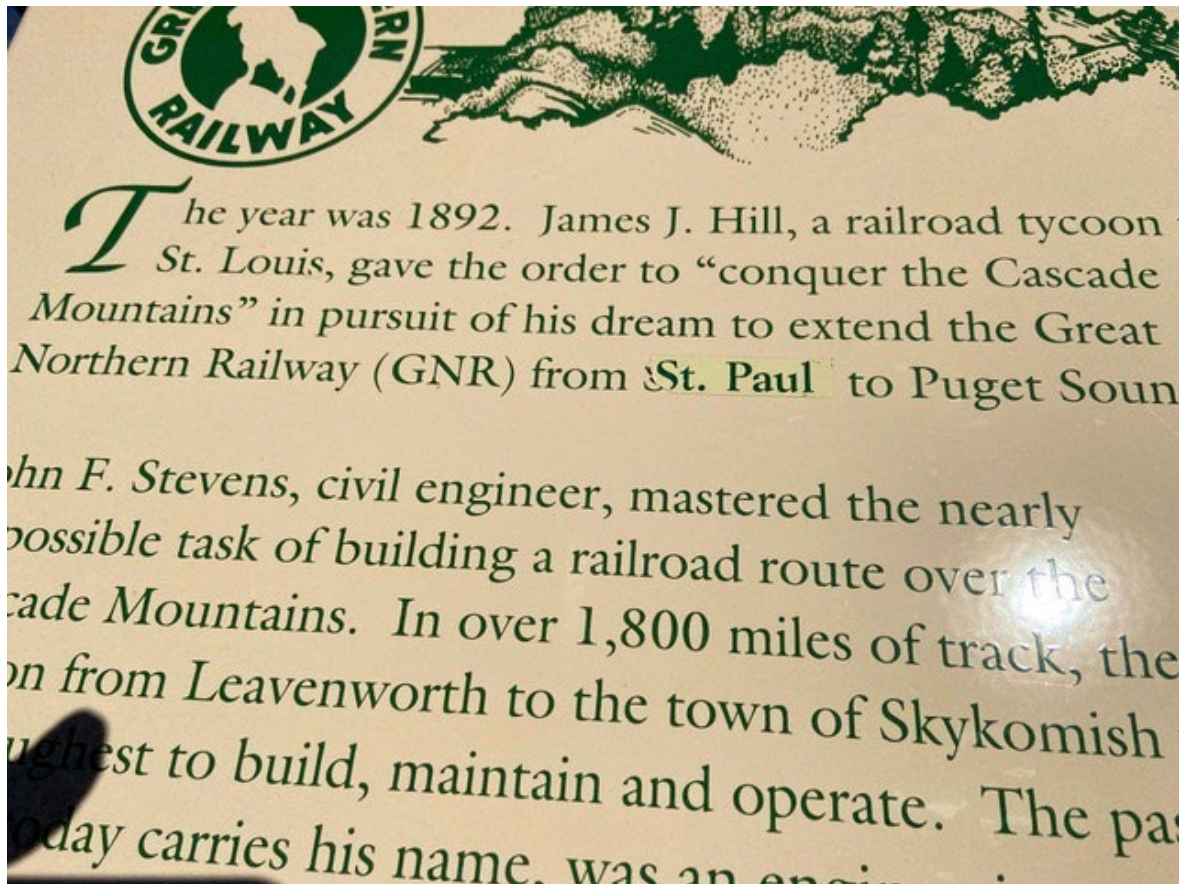
Case closed. Saga ends, right? . . . Well, no.

I was in Leavenworth this month — Dec. 8-11 — and checked the signs. In at least two places the paste-over "St. Paul, Minn." was gone and the incorrect "St. Louis" was again showing. See my photos below. The first says Hill was ". . . a railroad tycoon from St. Louis." The second says ". . . the Great Northern

Railway's mainline from St. Louis . . . “

The GN's role in Leavenworth's development, growth and culture and the continued importance of the railroad -- now the BNSF -- to the entire North Central Washington economy and place history deserves accurate public signage in tourist-friendly Leavenworth.

Gregg Herrington
Vancouver, Wash.
gregguw@yahoo.com
Dec. 22, 2023



Behind Leavenworth



Any visitor to Leavenworth can't help but wonder


Great Northern Railway

Pioneers began settling this valley in 1884 to raise hay, stock and small vegetable gardens. Only eight years later word came that the Great Northern Railway's mainline from St. Louis would pass through here, winding its way over the Cascades to Puget Sound. A townsite plat, named after Captain Charles F. Leavenworth, was quickly laid out. A general merchandise store, post-office, barbershops, blacksmith shop and the ever necessary selection of saloons were built to serve construction crews and railroad workers. A large railroad switch and roundhouse split trains apart and maintained the locomotives that boosted heavy railroad cars up the steep grade of Stevens Pass.

with Davis C. C. C. C.

From: Christie Voos via Smartsheet <automation@app.smartsheet.com>
Sent: Friday, December 22, 2023 8:53 PM
To: hello@cityofleavenworth.com
Subject: Send us a Message - Website Submission



 [Send us a Message](#)

Changes since 12/22/23 8:50 PM

1 row added

1 row added or updated (shown in yellow)

Row 1

Last Name	Spaar
First Name	Solomon
Form Date Field	
Created By	web-form@smartsheet.com
Created	12/22/23 8:50 PM
Modified By	web-form@smartsheet.com
Modified	12/22/23 8:50 PM
Who are you trying to reach?	General Inquiry (use this if you don't know!)
Your Message	Hello, not sure if you're looking for ideas for the muddy hill by the pergola downtown. Had a great time visiting but it seems to be a waste of space and pretty unsightly if it's not covered with snow. I was thinking a Bavarian themed playground would be neat on the flat part, and perhaps on the hilly part a garden made to resemble a coat of arms. Or perhaps more benches or a covered seating area. Just a thought!
Email Address	Solomonspaar@gmail.com
Phone Number	
Notes	

**Latest
Comment**



Done



Changes made by web-form@smartsheet.com
