

**CITY OF COOS BAY CITY COUNCIL**  
**Agenda Staff Report**

<b>MEETING DATE</b> July 15, 2014	<b>AGENDA ITEM NUMBER</b>
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TO: Mayor Shoji and City Councilors

FROM: Eric Day, Community Development Department  
Rodger Craddock, City Manager

ISSUE: Proposed Signage for Mel Counts Way

**BACKGROUND:**

This year during the March City Council meeting, Mr. James brought up the subject of erecting a “Mel Counts Way” sign in Eastside to commemorate Mr. Counts. Since that time, I have had a few conversations with Mr. James and correspondence with Mr. Counts. Two specific proposals for the location of the sign have arisen from these conversations:

1. Option 1: Locate the sign along the 16th Avenue in the public right-of-way in Eastside. Signage in the public right-of-way is an allowed use without a permit per CBMC 17.230.030.
2. Option 2: Locate the sign on 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Eastside on property owned by Rex Miller. Mr. Miller has given his permission for the sign on his property. The sign at this location is also an allowed use per the CBMC, but it would need to have a permit for the placement. This is a pretty easy and fast process. The permitting fees would likely be under \$50.

Should the Council elect to simply have a “Mel Counts Way” sign, as has been requested by Mr. James, it could be located at either proposed site. If the Council would like to have an informational sign included as a part of the sign with biographical information on Mr. Counts, it would likely need to be located in the right-of-way along 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

**Short Bio on Mel Counts**

Mel Counts was born in Coos Bay (Eastside neighborhood), and he played high school basketball for Marshfield. He was drafted by the Boston Celtics in 1964, and he went on to play 12 seasons in the NBA. Mel Counts won an Olympic gold medal with the United States basketball team in 1964 and two NBA championships with the Boston Celtics in 1965 and 1966.

**ADVANTAGES:**

The advantage of this proposal is that the City is able to commemorate one of its most prominent citizens.

**DISADVANTAGES:**

None, other than the sign and possible permit cost.

**BUDGET IMPLICATIONS:**

At this time, the proposal is for the City to pay for the sign. The approximate cost is not yet determined but is expected to be between \$500 and \$1,500.

**RELATED CITY GOAL:**

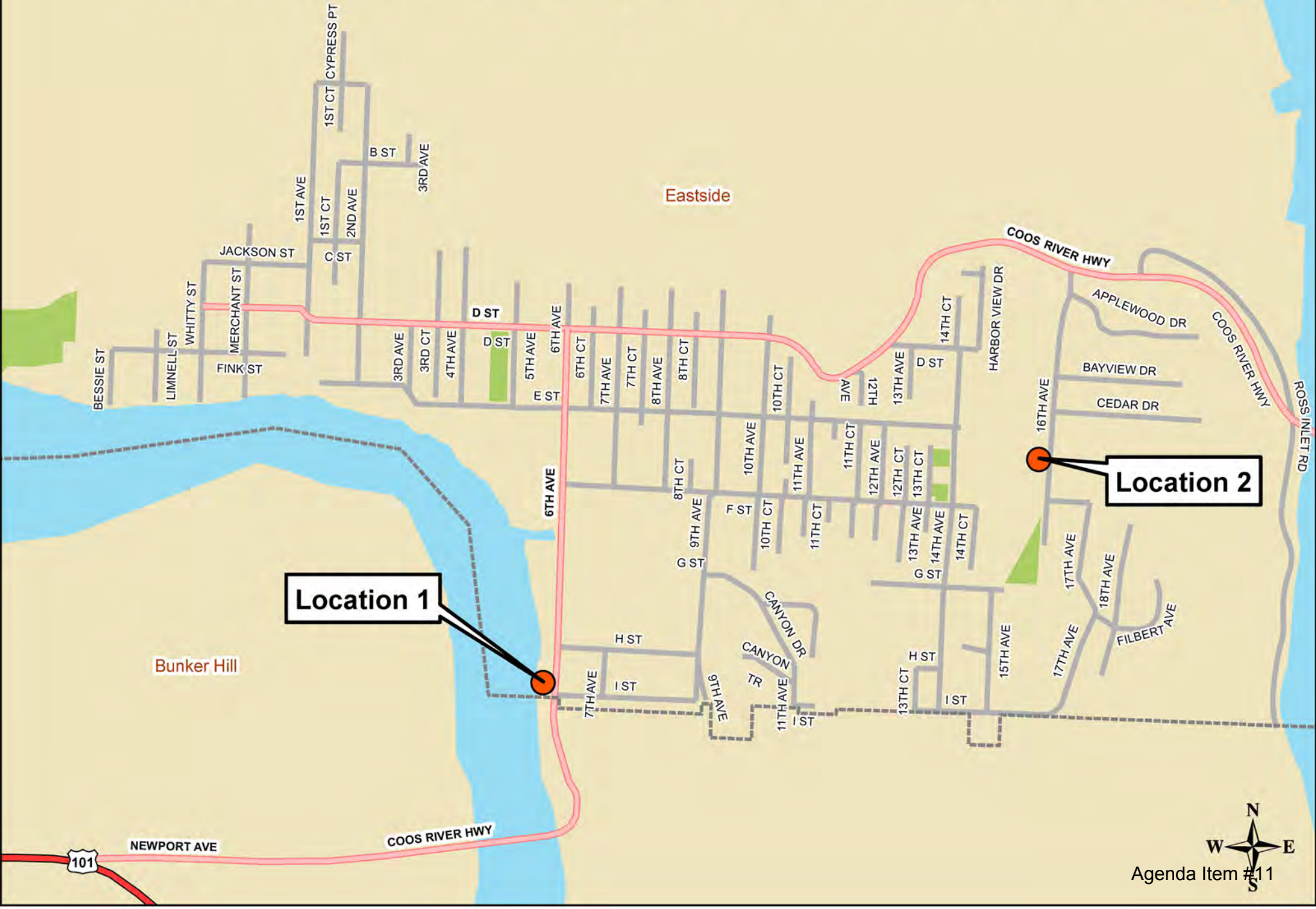
While this project was now identified as a 2014 project by the Council, it is related to the Council's goal to "provide opportunities for individuals.... to actively participation in community projects....

**ACTION REQUESTED:**

Staff is looking for direction on how to proceed with this proposal. If so, Council input on a preferred location, sign type, and language that would be needed.

Attachment A – Map showing proposed locations

# Mel Counts Way Sign Possible Locations



Location 1

Location 2

