

From: [DOLORES KESTER](#)
To: [Plan Commission Comments](#)
Cc: [Matthews, Julia](#)
Subject: OPPOSING Agenda Item 3, Legistar 90545, which would change the name of a 250' long section of Ruskin St. so it would then be called Huxley St.
Date: Monday, November 3, 2025 11:23:51 AM

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Greetings Plan Commissioners:

I am writing to oppose Agenda Item 3, Legistar 90545, which proposes renaming a 250' long section of Ruskin St. as Huxley St. This street name change appears arbitrary and makes no sense. After the many decades that this section of street has been called Ruskin Street, this name change has now suddenly been put forward ostensibly to conform with some city hall rule on street names. If for no other reason, this proposal should be sent back to the originating agency for reconsideration because it makes no sense. It will also be confusing to anyone who resides in or does business in this part of the city, as well as imposing a costly and unnecessary expense on businesses along this section of Ruskin Street to "change their name." Please vote no on this name change and send back to its origin.

If you are interested in the history of many street names in Madison, including Ruskin Street and Huxley Street, please consider the following reference; three of us produced this volume in 2010:

The Origins of Some Madison, Wisconsin, Street Names by Burr Angle, Dolores Kester, and Ann Waidelich.

(Available through Madison, WI Public Library; Wisconsin Historical Society Library; and all Madison public school libraries; 2010); available online at [www.historicmadison.org/Madison's Past/Street Names/Madison Street Names Complete.pdf](http://www.historicmadison.org/Madison's%20Past/Street%20Names/Madison%20Street%20Names%20Complete.pdf)/.

Thank you for your consideration.

Dolores Kester
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From: [Jennifer Argelander](#)
To: [Plan Commission Comments](#)
Cc: [Douglas Nelson](#); [Brenda Klecker](#); [Matthews, Julia](#)
Subject: Item 3, Legistar 90545
Date: Monday, November 3, 2025 10:14:56 AM

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Good morning Plan Commissioners:

Please oppose Agenda Item 3, Legistar 90545, which renames a 250' long section of Ruskin St. as Huxley St.

Legistar 90545, as written, would impose an unreasonable burden on Ruskin St. businesses. This name change will force businesses located on what is now Ruskin St. to change all of their stationery and online materials to reflect the new street name. They will also need to notify all of their customers of the change. Those customers will then have to update their records.

This proposed street name change would be one more time the City has harmed the businesses on Ruskin St. When Lincoln Avenue Capital's apartments were being built, the City cut off these businesses' access across the former Hartmeyer property even though these businesses had an easement allowing access. These developments have increased flooding issues for these businesses. Their roads have been blocked preventing customers getting to the businesses, and there have been losses of profit to these businesses. This move would be adding insult to injury for these local businesses. The City should be supporting local businesses and the jobs that they provide.

Poor Policy

Legistar 90545 goes into tedious detail to justify the proposed name change legally. It does not explain why the real world needs this name change or consider the pointless extra work that will ripple through the community because of the name change.

The situation at Ruskin St. illustrates why the new City policy on renaming streets is a mistake. A map of the vicinity shows that, north of Roth St., Huxley St. is two blocks east of Ruskin St. Further south, Ruskin St. just north of Commercial Ave. lines up with the rest of Ruskin St. The proposed section of Huxley St. just north of Commercial Ave. does not line up with the rest of Huxley St. The proposed street naming scheme would get even more confusing if either Ruskin or Huxley streets were ever extended south of Commercial Ave. Enacting Legistar 90545 compounds the original error.

Recommendation

All of these problems go away if the new road is named "Ruskin St." as far north as the point where it curves to the northeast to join the section of Huxley St. that runs due north to Roth St. By simply extending Ruskin St. a few hundred feet up the new road remedies the problem. With this trivial change, the two sections of Ruskin St will line up on the map, and businesses will save the time and money needed to change their stationery, online materials, and records. No one would be harmed by continuing to call Ruskin St. "Ruskin St."

The City should focus on supporting local businesses and not causing harm. There should be no name change.

Please vote NO on Legistar 90545.

Thank you for your consideration,
Jennifer Argelander, 1715 Erie Court, Madison WI