Winnipeg

CITY OF WINNIPEG POLICY NO. CO-014

POLICY TITLE	**ADOPTED BY**	**EFFECTIVE DATE**
Welcoming Winnipeg: Reconciling our History	City Council	January 30, 2020
ORIGIN / AUTHORITY	**CITY POLICY NO**	**MOST RECENT CONSOLIDATION**
Executive Policy Committee	CO-014	April 28, 2022

This document is an office consolidation of amendments to the policy. The City of Winnipeg expressly disclaims any responsibility for errors or omissions.

1. Purpose:

The Welcoming Winnipeg: Reconciling our History Policy ("Welcoming Winnipeg Policy") has been developed to guide the city in making decisions regarding requests to create new, add to or remove/rename historical makers and place names and resolve the absence of Indigenous perspectives, experiences and contributions in the stories remembered and commemorated. It aims to ensure that contributions, experiences, and perspectives of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit are reflected truthfully in Winnipeg's stories, historical markers, and place names.

The Welcoming Winnipeg Policy is an umbrella policy that enhances and coordinates existing processes and incorporates community-led input by proactively utilizing a lens of inclusion and balance that will further mobilize the Journey of Reconciliation.

The policy establishes a process for requesting and implementing initiatives to recognize and commemorate various historical people and events. This process includes an application that will require community support; input/review from the related/impacted department in partnership with the Indigenous Relations Division (IRD); publication of requests; on-line and in-person options to provide input on requests; and an established committee of community members to provide recommendations, for final decisions by Council.

The Welcoming Winnipeg Policy will act as a lens for existing naming and renaming processes, by-laws, motions and policies related to historical markers and place names. The existing by-laws, policies and council motions concerned with naming or renaming place names or historical markers processes will continue until they are reviewed by the departments in partnership with IRD. For requests that do not have a formalized process, applications will come to IRD, and IRD will review with the related/impacted department if applicable.

Naming and renaming policies will be amended and updated (following the appropriate processes) if needed to ensure the Welcoming Winnipeg Policy guiding principles, criteria, community input and processes are considered, including but not limited to:

- Street Names By-Law NO. 115/2011
- The City of Winnipeg Sponsorship Policy
- Guidelines for Naming of Parks and Recreation Sites
- Policy Guidelines for the Naming of Park Properties
- February 26 2019 SPC PCSP Motion to create a cumulative listing of assets for the purpose of creating one comprehensive by-law for naming/renaming of city assets, excluding Street Names
- Fees and Charges Schedule

2. Definitions:

2.1 **"*Community/public*"**: all Winnipeggers.

2.2 "***Historical markers***": includes an existing or new plaque, statue, commemorative marker, panel installation, monument, mural or City-owned building; does not include community centres.

2.3 **"*Journey of Reconciliation*"**: the City of Winnipeg's commitment in honouring and acknowledging its role to the 2015 Truth and Reconciliation – Calls to Action.

2.4 **"*Place names*"**: includes a neighborhood development, a park, sign, trail, or bridge; does not include streets.

3. Welcoming Winnipeg Policy

Winnipeg has an opportunity to honour our relationship with Indigenous peoples and honour the traditional lands on which Winnipeg was built. The current decision-making processes concerning naming and renaming of historical markers and place names are disjointed and complex. Choosing place names and historical markers that are culturally and historically meaningful, and resonant for the public, is a matter of current national concern.

The City of Winnipeg is committed to a Journey of Reconciliation. In January 2019, a public engagement process was launched to develop a process and policy to guide how the city recognizes and commemorates various historical people and events with markers, place names, plaques, signs, etc.

The Welcoming Winnipeg Policy aims to coordinate a process that all citizens and community groups can utilize to discuss and provide input into the City's practice of honouring and acknowledging its past through historical markers and place names.

Indigenous peoples are the original peoples of this land and have contributed to the creation and evolution of this city. However, this is not evident in our day-to-day movement, the surroundings and the environment. It is extremely important that Winnipeg take a leadership role to resolve the absence of Indigenous history and perspective within our city.

In order to create balance to the previous stories told and the stories to be told, by-laws, policies and council motions concerned with naming or renaming place names of historical markers will be amended and updated to align with the Welcoming Winnipeg Policy.

3.1 To achieve the goals of the Welcoming Winnipeg Policy, the City will implement a process that includes an application, internal review by respective departments with IRD to determine if a Welcoming Winnipeg Policy lens is required, and a review by a committee of community members and final decision by Council.

A. Options of: creating new, adding to or removing/renaming historical markers and place names will all be available on the Welcoming Winnipeg application.

B. Each option of creating new, adding to or removing/renaming historical markers and place names has defined criteria and will be used to review applications as applicable.

C. Community will have input throughout the application of the Welcoming Winnipeg Policy process prior to the application stage, during the application stage and through a committee of community members who will review applications and forward recommendations to EPC for review and then to Council for final decision.

3.2 The process for creating new, or adding to or removing/renaming historical markers or place names shall include the following:

3.2.1 Step 1 – Application Stage – Intake

A. For applications that do not have an existing process, IRD will review applications/requests by utilizing the criteria as set out in the below table along with the impacted departments, if any.

B. For existing processes, IRD will review the application in partnership with the impacted department and provide support by ensuring the policy guiding principles, criteria, and community input are aligned.

3.2.2 Step 2 – Application Stage – Due Diligence

Applications will be reviewed for completeness, and IRD will provide support to the applicant. Application completeness will be determined by using the criteria set out in the following table. Once applications are determined complete, applications will be forwarded to the committee of community members.

Options	Fee	Petition / List of Signatures	Letters of Support	Supports a Welcoming Winnipeg	Is there and impact on Indigenous people? Y/N?	If yes, is there Indigenous support for application Y/N	Project Costs	Research	Rationale
Historical markers									
Add to	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
New	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X
Remove	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Place Names									
Add to	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
New	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X
Rename	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

Criteria Descriptions:

- **Fees**: to be established by Council;

- **Petition/Signatures:** A petition/list of signatures of support is required when requesting to create new, add to and/or remove/rename. The petition/list of signatures should be from those who are impacted by the request and the surrounding community.

- **Letters of Support:** Provides additional insight/rationale and personal connectedness and/or additional impact to the request not seen with petitions/signatures alone. Letters of support will be required when the proposed change is deemed significant, such as removing a historical marker or renaming a major street in Winnipeg.

- **Supports a Welcoming Winnipeg:** is a request that depicts the spirit and intention of what a Welcoming Winnipeg is. The request needs to demonstrate that it:

    - ultimately achieves a balanced perspective/story;
    - honours the original peoples of this land;
    - offers an educational opportunity; and,
    - supports telling the complete history of Winnipeg;

- **Project Costs Acknowledgement**: The applicant acknowledges that their request will have a financial impact and identifies who will bear the cost(s) for their request.

- **Research has been conducted**: Welcoming Winnipeg aims to balance/restore historical imbalances within the city. Therefore applicants should demonstrate that research has been conducted to support the requested changes.

- **Rationale:** The rationale details why the request should be approved. This part of the application will be particularly important for applications that request a rename or a removal of a historical marker; but are required for all applications to ensure a balanced and inclusive approach going forward.

3.2.3 Step 3 – Committee of Community Members Review

The committee of community members will review applications, and forward recommendations to EPC and Council for final decision.

3.3 The Welcoming Winnipeg committee of community members will be comprised of 50% Indigenous, and 50% Non-Indigenous/diverse ethnic members. Specific details on the committee membership related to the number of members, selection process and roles and responsibilities will be articulated by IRD through the committee's Terms of Reference.

3.3.1 For the Indigenous membership, it was recommended that a member from each of the Métis, First Nation and Inuit communities be included.

i. For all members, there will be a balance of genders and LGBTG2Q/TS/NB persons; historians, archivists, researchers and academics, Elders and youth.

ii. The committee of community members should be guided by the values and principles of honouring the original peoples of this land; ensuing that the Treaty Relationship be considered; that Indigenous Rights are considered; and that traditional Indigenous laws and ways of being are acknowledged.

3.3.2 The Welcoming Winnipeg Policy aims to provide a lens for existing naming and renaming processes, by-laws, motions and policies related to historical markers and place names. Existing by-laws, policies and Council motions concerned with naming or renaming place names or historical markers will be amended and updated (following the appropriate processes) to ensure the Welcoming Winnipeg Policy guiding principles, criteria, community input and processes are considered, including but not limited to:

- Street Names By-Law NO. 115/2011
- The City of Winnipeg Sponsorship Policy
- Guidelines for Naming of Parks and Recreation Sites
- Policy Guidelines for the Naming of Park Properties
- February 2019 SPC Motion to create a cumulative listing of assets for the purpose of creating one comprehensive by-law for naming/renaming of city assets, excluding Street Names
- Fees and Charges Schedule

3.3.3 The Welcoming Winnipeg: Reconciling our History Policy will proactively utilize a lens of balance, inclusion and Indigenous perspectives, while actively informing the public.

4. Responsibilities

4.1 Indigenous Relations

4.1.1 Facilitate the application process.

4.1.2 Support other departments.

4.1.3 Provide administrative support to the committee of community members.

4.2 Departments (relevant to request)

4.2.1 Review and provide due diligence of application in partnership with the Indigenous Relations Division for existing processes and policies concerning the naming/renaming, which includes, but is not limited to, enhancing and aligning existing processes to the Welcoming Winnipeg Policy.

4.2.2 Work with the Indigenous Relations Division to develop new processes regarding Welcoming Winnipeg applications for naming/renaming.

4.3 Committee members

4.3.1 Attend meetings.

4.3.2 Review applications.

4.3.3 Provide recommendations on applications for review by EPC and then final decision by Council.

4.3.4 Provide input and advice to Indigenous Relations to align existing and newly created processes concerning naming/renaming.

4.4 Executive Policy Committee

4.4.1 Review recommendations submitted by the committee of community members and forward recommendations to Council.

4.5 Council or Delegate

4.5.1 Finalize decisions on applications for naming/renaming.