Minutes – Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services – January 30, 2015

REPORTS

Item No. 2 Renaming of Nairn Overpass Park North to El Tassi Park

STANDING COMMITTEE DECISION:

The Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services concurred in the recommendation of the Winnipeg Public Service, as amended, and renamed "Nairn Overpass Park North", located at the intersection of Talbot Avenue and Elmwood Road, to "Abdo and Samira El Tassi Park", pending approval of funding from the Land Dedication Reserve in the Elmwood-East Kildonan Ward.

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Schreyer,

That the recommendation of the Winnipeg Public Service be concurred in, with the following amendment:

- Delete “El Tassi Park” and replace with “Abdo and Samira El Tassi Park”.

Carried

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Title: Renaming of Nairn Overpass Park North to El Tassi Park

Critical Path: Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services

AUTHORIZATION

Author	Acting/Department Head	CFO	CAO
D. Domke	L. Deane, P. Eng.	M. Ruta	M. Jack A/CAO

RECOMMENDATIONS

That Nairn Overpass Park North, located at the intersection of Talbot Avenue and Elmwood Road, be renamed El Tassi Park pending approval of funding from the Land Dedication Reserve in the Elmwood-East Kildonan Ward.

REASON FOR THE REPORT

On November 24, 2014, the Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services requested that the Winnipeg Public Service report back with suggestions for commemoration of the El Tassi name.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS

The renaming will require a sign to be installed by the Winnipeg Public Service at an approximate cost of $1,500.00. If approved, the funding for the sign is to originate from the Land Dedication Reserve of the Elmwood Ward.

HISTORY

Mr. Abdo El Tassi, of Lebanese birth, immigrated to Canada in 1969 where he began work in the shipping department of Peerless Garments. By 1986, Mr. El Tassi had taken over management of the company and in 2006 was named President and Chief Executive Officer.

Mr. El Tassi has extended his assistance to immigrants and refugees to Canada through sponsorship, adoption and by providing interest free, and often forgiven, loans to cover business start-ups, mortgages and university tuition for new Canadians.

Mr. El Tassi has made generous contributions to Canadian charities such as UNICEF, Sick Kids Foundation, Canadian Red Cross, The Military Fund as well as local support for the St Boniface Research Foundation, The Children's Hospital Foundation, Health Sciences Centre Foundation, Manitoba Islamic Association, the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra and many others.

In 1996 Mr. El Tassi founded the Al-hijra Islamic School in the Elmwood Neighbourhood. To date, Mr. El Tassi provides annual operating funds as well as scholarships, bursaries and grants to students.

Mr. El Tassi is a recipient of The Queen's Jubilee Medal and the Premier's Volunteer Service Award and is named to the Order of Manitoba as well as the Order of Canada, the highest honour for Canadian Civilians.

In recognition of the significant contributions Mr. El Tassi has made to the community, the Winnipeg Public Service recommends renaming the Nairn Overpass Park North, which contains a tot lot and connection to the North East Pioneers Greenway Active Transportation Pathway, in honour of Mr. El Tassi.



Fig 1. Nairn Overpass Park North located at Talbot Avenue and Elmwood Road

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Financial Impact Statement

Date: December 30, 2014

Project Name:

Renaming of Nairn Overpass Park North to El Tassi Park

First Year of Program **2015**

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Capital					
Capital Expenditures Required	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Less: Existing Budgeted Costs	-	-	-	-	-
Additional Capital Budget Required	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Funding Sources:					
Debt - Internal	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Debt - External	-	-	-	-	-
Grants (Enter Description Here)	-	-	-	-	-
Reserves, Equity, Surplus	-	-	-	-	-
Other - Enter Description Here	-	-	-	-	-
Total Funding	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Total Additional Capital Budget Required	$ -				
Total Additional Debt Required	$ -				
Current Expenditures/Revenues					
Direct Costs	$ 1,500	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Less: Incremental Revenue/Recovery	-	-	-	-	-
Net Cost/(Benefit)	$ 1,500	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Less: Existing Budget Amounts	1,500	-	-	-	-
Net Budget Adjustment Required	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -

Additional Comments: Cost of the sign is to be charged to the Land Dedication Reserve - account distribution 210-543010-638040-63225

"Original signed by H. Schoenfeld, CA"
H. Schoenfeld, CA
Acting Manager of Finance & Administration

CONSULTATION

In preparing this report there was consultation with: N/A

SUBMITTED BY

Department: Public Works
Division: Parks and Open Space
Prepared by: Jonina Ewart
Date: December 31, 2014