Minute No. 447
Report – Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks – June 12, 2017

Item No. 1 Renaming of the West End Library - Harvey Smith (Daniel McIntyre Ward)

COUNCIL DECISION:

Council concurred in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks Committee and adopted the following:

1. That the West End Library be renamed the Harvey Smith Library.

2. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Pagtakhan,
That the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks Committee be adopted.

Carried

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On June 14, 2017, the Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks and submitted the matter to Council.

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On June 12, 2017, the Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks submitted the following to the Executive Policy Committee and Council:

1. That the West End Library be renamed the Harvey Smith Library.

2. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.

On May 28, 2017, Paul Moist submitted a communication in support of the matter.

COMMUNITY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On May 9, 2017, the City Centre Community Committee passed the following motion:

WHEREAS Councillor Harvey Smith recently passed away after having dedicated his life to serving the community;

AND WHEREAS Councillor Smith served on city council for a total of 22 years, first in 1980 for six years representing the Sargent Park Ward and then again in 1998 until 2014 representing the Daniel McIntyre Ward.;

AND WHEREAS prior to his appointment to public office, Councillor Smith served the community as a teacher and school librarian;

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

COMMUNITY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION (continued):

AND WHEREAS Councillor Smith was a well-known advocate who worked tirelessly for quality public services;

AND WHEREAS it is important to honor the numerous and lasting contributions that Councillor Smith has made to the community;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Centre Community Committee recommend to the Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks that the West End Library be renamed either the West End – Harvey Smith Library or the Harvey Smith Library.

From: Paul Moist [mailto:]
Sent: Sunday, May 28, 2017 2:53 PM
To: CLK-CityClerks
Cc: Gilroy, Cindy; Pagtakhan, Mike
Subject: Re: Agenda item: June 12, 2017 meeting of the Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks

Attention: J, marques, Senior Committee Clerk

Attached please find remarks I wish to submit in support of a motion regarding the proposed re-naming of the West End Library branch in the name of former City Councillor, Harvey Smith.

It had been my hope to attend this meeting but I will be out of town on business that day. Councillor Cindy Gilroy has advised she will read my remarks to the committee as she plans to appear on this matter as well, I submit them to you so that they can be included in the official transcript of the Standing Policy Committee.

Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Regards,

Paul Moist

Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services & Parks
Submission of Paul Moist – Re: Motion to Rename West End Library in Memory of former City Councillor, Harvey Smith (June 12, 2017)

Mr. Chairman, Committee members.

It had been my hope to attend today's meeting to speak to the above motion but I am out of the province on business so I offer the following written comments.

I speak of course in favour of the motion before you today to rename the City's West End Library Branch in the name of former Councillor, Harvey Smith.

I first met Harvey in 1980, the year he was elected to City Council. He was for me, a respected member of Council and a friend. Since he fell ill last August, I served as his Power of Attorney and am now closing out his affairs as Executor of his estate.

Harvey Smith served citizens of the West End as an elected representative for 24 years. A full 22 years as City Councillor and a two year term as a NDP MLA for the Ellice constituency.

His long tenure and many accomplishments in support of public transit, infrastructure renewal and the refurbishment of Sherbrook Pool are well documented.

In the weeks since his passing I have been approached by countless individuals and groups regarding what, if any, plans were afoot to commemorate Harvey's long and distinguished civic career. In speaking with these individuals and with Councillor Cindy Gilroy the proposal before you today has emerged and it merits support in my view for a few key reasons.

First and foremost, Harvey worked hard to relocate the former West End Library Branch from Ellice Avenue to its new location as part of the Cindy Klassen Recreation Centre. This has been a very successful re-birth for the West End Library which today is one of the city's busiest branches.

Secondly, while Harvey believed in all public services but he had a particular passion for libraries. He served for many years on the Winnipeg Library Board and I am advised that he attended these meetings regularly and was passionate in his advocacy and support for the City's public library system.

Finally, Harvey came upon this passion for public libraries honestly as he himself was a librarian in Winnipeg School Division No. 1, at Tec-Voc School in the City's West End.

While there have been other commemorative ideas emerge within the community, everyone who I have spoken with regarding this proposal has agreed with it as a fitting and appropriate gesture in recognition of Harvey's lifetime of support to the community. I feel confident in predicting that should this committee and ultimately City Council as a whole adopt this motion that it will be a popular decision, one with widespread support throughout the City.

At the memorial service held for Harvey in late March, over 200 people attended including over two dozen past and present elected officials from all levels of government and from the entire political spectrum in terms of party affiliation. This speaks to the widespread respect in which your former Council colleague was held.

I thank you for allowing my submission to be read into the record of today's meeting and I again urge you to support this very worthy motion.

Thank you.