Agenda – Council – March 20, 2020

Report – Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development, Heritage and Downtown Development – March 2, 2020

Item No. 11 Nomination of Brookside Cemetery as a National Historic Site (Point Douglas Ward)

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On March 10, 2020, the Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development, Heritage and Downtown Development and submitted the following to Council:

1. That an application with Parks Canada to designate Brookside Cemetery as a National Historic Site, be endorsed.

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

Report – Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development, Heritage and Downtown Development – March 2, 2020

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On March 10, 2020, the Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development, Heritage and Downtown Development and submitted the matter to Council.

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On March 2, 2020, the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development, Heritage and Downtown Development concurred in the recommendation of the Winnipeg Public Service and submitted the matter to the Executive Policy Committee and Council.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Title: Nomination of Brookside Cemetery as a National Historic Site

Critical Path: Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development, Heritage and Downtown Development – Executive Policy Committee – Council

AUTHORIZATION

Author	Department Head	CFO	CAO
M. Pittet	J. Kiernan	N/A	M. Ruta, Interim CAO

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Public Service is seeking Council support for the initiation of an application to designate Brookside Cemetery as a National Historic Site. Brookside Cemetery is one of the oldest cemeteries in Winnipeg and is home to a Field of Honour which is one of the largest of its kind in Canada.

A National Historic Site designation will further highlight and recognize the historical significance of Brookside Cemetery and result in increased public awareness and elevated community perception. Designation may also give rise to opportunities for future grants/funding.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That Council endorse an application with Parks Canada to designate Brookside Cemetery as a National Historic Site.

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

REASON FOR THE REPORT

Support from Council is being sought prior to the Public Service formally pursuing an application.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS

There are no implications associated with this recommendation.

HISTORY/DISCUSSION

National Historic Sites are places that have been designated by the Federal Minister of the Environment on the advice of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada as being of national historic significance. There are currently 23 National Historic Sites in Winnipeg, including the Exchange District National Historic Site of Canada and The Forks National Historic Site of Canada. Additionally, there are a number of cemeteries in Canada with a National Historic Site designation, primarily located in Ontario and Quebec.

Brookside Cemetery is one of the oldest cemeteries in Winnipeg with the first interment having taken place in 1878. It is also home to a Field of Honour, which serves as the final resting place for more than 11,000 Veterans, Peacekeepers, Merchant Marines and others with military service from the First World War, the Second World War, the Korean War, the Vietnam War and the Canadian Forces. The Field of Honour is the oldest and one of the largest of its kind in Canada.

Brookside Cemetery appears to meet the application criteria for designation as a National Historic Site. The Field of Honour would serve as the centrepiece of an application and would include the following key elements:

- The beamed design incorporating all upright Military monuments cannot be found on this scale anywhere else in Canada. It is a design used in the largest Field of Honour's across the world to commemorate Veteran's and War Dead of the two World Wars;
- The Stone of Remembrance, which is the only one of its kind in North America, commemorates the War Dead of the Commonwealth Forces of the First World War and Second World War;
- The Cross of Sacrifice which was erected by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission in memory of those who made the supreme sacrifice during the First World War. There are 24 such crosses in Canada; and
- The Tear Drop Section is the only section in a cemetery in Canada where so many war dead can be found all interred together in one section – 151 interments,145 of which are War Dead.

A National Historic Site designation will further highlight and recognize the historical significance of Brookside Cemetery and result in increased public awareness and elevated community perception. It will also open up potential opportunities for funding. For example, owners of designated sites are able to apply for funding through the National Cost-Sharing Program for Heritage Places. For 2020-2021, total funding available under the program is approximately $1,000,000.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Financial Impact Statement

Date: February 13, 2020

Project Name:

Nomination of Brookside Cemetery as a National Historic Site

COMMENTS:

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

"Original Signed By"
Mike McGinn, CPA, CA
Manager of Finance

CONSULTATION

This Report has been prepared in consultation with:

N/A

OURWINNIPEG POLICY ALIGNMENT

OurWinnipeg provides considerable support for the recommendations of this report, most notably found in Section *02-3 Heritage*. Key Directions and Enabling Strategies include:

- Direction 2: Conserve, protect and celebrate the significant heritage resources that illustrate the broad range of Winnipeg's heritage values (page 69).
- Enabling Strategy: Recognize the importance of a broad range of tangible and intangible heritage resources throughout the city that illustrate a unique sense of place and community pride (page 69).
- Enabling Strategy: Support cultural tourism opportunities with City-owned heritage assets, including historic sites and museums (page 70).
- Work with heritage stakeholders and other community partners in the establishment, coordination, and promotion of community heritage initiatives including public education and heritage awareness (page 70).

WINNIPEG CLIMATE ACTION PLAN ALIGNMENT

N/A

SUBMITTED BY

Department: Planning, Property and Development
Division: Land Development, Geomatics and Land Information Services, Cemeteries Branch
Prepared by: Brett Shenback, Cemeteries Administrator
Date: February 13, 2020
File No: