Minutes – Executive Policy Committee – July 14, 2021

REPORTS

Item No. 13 Welcoming Winnipeg – Renaming Shady Shores Park

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

The Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Winnipeg Public Service and recommended to Council:

1. That the park currently known as Shady Shores Park (located between the south side of Shady Shores Drive West and Seaside Drive) be renamed to Waterside Rotary Park and that a territorial acknowledgment accompanies the park signage subject to:

    A. Funding for the signage being approved from the East Kildonan-Transcona Land Dedication Reserve (Transcona Ward allocation).

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

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Rollins,

That the recommendation of the Winnipeg Public Service be concurred in and forwarded to Council.

Yea:	Bowman, Allard, Browaty, Gillingham, Gilroy, Mayes, Rollins	7
Nay:		0

Carried

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Title: Welcoming Winnipeg – Renaming Shady Shores Park

Critical Path: Executive Policy Committee – Council

AUTHORIZATION

Author	Department Head	CFO	CAO
C. Sveinson	M. Ruta	J. Ruby, acting CFO	M. Ruta

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On January 30, 2020, Council passed a motion to adopt the Welcoming Winnipeg: Reconciling our History Policy. This policy was developed to guide the City in making decisions regarding requests to create new, add to, or remove/rename historical markers and place names and resolve the absence of Indigenous histories and contributions in the stories remembered and commemorated. Welcoming Winnipeg will proactively utilize a lens of balance, inclusion, and Indigenous perspectives.

As recommended in this policy, the inaugural Committee of Community Members (CCM) was established in August 2020; a key function of this committee is to review requests to change historical or place names and provide a recommendation to the Executive Policy Committee and Council for final decision.

On February 12, 2021, a formal Welcoming Winnipeg request form was unveiled to the public; a request to rename the park currently known as Shady Shores Park (located between the south side of Shady Shores Drive West and Seaside Drive) to Waterside Rotary Park was submitted through this process.

The Welcoming Winnipeg: Reconciling our History policy was adopted because of a demonstrated need for changes to how the City approaches commemoration. In particular, the policy guides the City in making decisions that resolve the absence of Indigenous perspectives, experiences, and contributions in our stories remembered and commemorated. This policy aligns at a municipal level with Truth and Reconciliation Commission Call to Action #43. As the proposed new name for the park does not contribute to this objective, the CCM has requested a territorial acknowledgment accompany the park signage to align with Welcoming Winnipeg guiding principles:

- To honour Indigenous peoples as the original peoples of this land and the contemporary context in which Indigenous peoples continue to have a relationship with this land; and,
- provide an educational opportunity for visitors of the park to reflect on the longstanding history and relationships that have brought them to visit or reside on the land.

After careful consideration, the CCM is recommending that Council support this request with the addition that a territorial acknowledgment accompanies the park signage.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the park currently known as Shady Shores Park (located between the south side of Shady Shores Drive West and Seaside Drive) be renamed to Waterside Rotary Park and that a territorial acknowledgment accompanies the park signage subject to:

    A. Funding for the signage being approved from the East Kildonan – Transcona Land Dedication Reserve (Transcona Ward allocation).

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

REASON FOR THE REPORT

On January 30, 2020, Council concurred in the recommendation of the Executive Policy Committee that the recommendations of the community member-based committee be forwarded to the Executive Policy Committee and then to Council for final decision.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS

If the recommendations of this report are concurred in, the park currently known as Shady Shores Park (located between the south side of Shady Shores Drive West and Seaside Drive) will be renamed Waterside Rotary Park and a territorial acknowledgment will accompany the park signage subject to funding from the Land Dedication Reserve.

HISTORY/DISCUSSION

Decision-making history

On January 30, 2020, Council passed a motion to adopt the Welcoming Winnipeg: Reconciling our History Policy. This policy was developed to guide the City in making decisions regarding requests to create new, add to, or remove/rename historical markers and place names and resolve the absence of Indigenous histories and contributions in the stories remembered and commemorated. Welcoming Winnipeg will proactively utilize a lens of balance, inclusion, and Indigenous perspectives.

As recommended in this policy, the inaugural Committee of Community Members (CCM) was established in August 2020; a key function of this committee is to review requests to change historical or place names and provide a recommendation to the Executive Policy Committee and Council for final decision.

On October 2, 2020, the East Kildonan-Transcona Community Committee recommended to the Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks that the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to rename Shady Shores Park to Waterside Rotary Park, subject to funding for the signage being approved from the East Kildonan – Transcona Land Dedication Reserve (Transcona Ward allocation).

On October 20, 2020, the Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks referred the recommendation of the East Kildonan-Transcona Community Committee, to the Welcoming Winnipeg process, namely:

1. That Shady Shores Park be renamed to Waterside Rotary Park, subject to:

    A. Funding for the signage being approved from the East Kildonan – Transcona Land Dedication Reserve (Transcona Ward allocation).

On February 12, 2021, a formal Welcoming Winnipeg request form was unveiled to the public; a request to rename the park currently known as Shady Shores Park (located between the south side of Shady Shores Drive West and Seaside Drive) to Waterside Rotary Park was submitted through this process.

<u>Considerations for this naming request</u>

The CCM reviewed the decision-making history and the information provided by the applicant (summarized in Appendix A) and then as a delegate at the committee's April 20, 2021, meeting. Additionally, the public input that was collected over a two-week period was provided to the CCM to consider as part of their recommendation-making process. An overview of the feedback collected has been included in a Public Engagement Summary Report (Appendix B).

The CCM considered how this request meets the following definition of a "Welcoming Winnipeg" request, which was created through two phases of public engagement in 2019 and was refined by the CCM. A Welcoming Winnipeg request is one that:

- Ultimately achieves a balanced perspective/story;
- Honours Indigenous peoples as the original peoples of this land and the contemporary context in which Indigenous peoples continue to have a relationship with this land;
- Promotes Indigenous reclamation of land, space and/or language;
- Offers an educational opportunity; or,
- Supports telling the complete history of Winnipeg.

Utilizing the Welcoming Winnipeg Request Assessment Tool (Appendix C), the CCM identified the following as key considerations:

1. Welcoming Winnipeg
    - This project was led by community members (in particular parents/mothers) who organized to form the Waterside Estates Residents Association and fundraised $201,000.00 to build a new community park; the applicant would like the renaming to reflect the broader community that helped make the playground in the park happen.

2. Research and Rationale
    - The Rotary Club of Winnipeg is a partner to Winnipeg's Indigenous Accord and "holds regular training workshops for anyone in the community to learn how to walk the path of truth and reconciliation" (page 4, Appendix A). The applicant emphasized that the contributions of the Rotary Club were instrumental in getting the playground in the park constructed.

3. Community Support
    - Only eight responses were received through the public feedback process, so it is difficult to determine whether or not there is widespread support for this renaming. Additionally, the request did include three letters of support, a petition and evidence that the local area community was engaged throughout the project.

4. Other considerations
    - The Rotary Club of Winnipeg is recognized in other park names; for instance: Rotary Sunrise Park and Rotary Prairie Nature Park.

The Welcoming Winnipeg: Reconciling our History policy was adopted because of a demonstrated need for changes to how the City approaches commemoration. In particular, the policy guides the City in making decisions that resolve the absence of Indigenous perspectives, experiences, and contributions in our stories remembered and commemorated. This policy aligns at a municipal level with Truth and Reconciliation Commission Call to Action #43. Because the proposed new name for the park does not contribute to this objective, the CCM has requested a territorial acknowledgment accompany the park signage to align with Welcoming Winnipeg guiding principles:

- To honour Indigenous peoples as the original peoples of this land and the contemporary context in which Indigenous peoples continue to have a relationship with this land; and,
- provide an educational opportunity for visitors of the park to reflect on the longstanding history and relationships that have brought them to visit or reside on the land.

After careful consideration, the CCM is recommending that Council support this request with the addition that a territorial acknowledgment accompanies the park signage.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Financial Impact Statement **Date:** June 4, 2021

Project Name:

Welcoming Winnipeg – Renaming Shady Shores Park

COMMENTS:

The renaming of Shady Shores Park will require new signage for the park, inclusive of a territorial acknowledgment. As the design of the signage has yet to be determined, the cost of the new signage is not determinable at this time. The cost of the signage is to be fully recovered from the East Kildonan – Transcona Land Dedication Reserve (Transcona Ward allocation). As the renaming of the park is subject to the cost of signage being fully funded by the Land Dedication Reserve (Transcona Ward allocation), in the event that the cost of the new signage (once determined) was to exceed the funds available, the renaming of the park would not occur and there would no net impact to the City as a result of this approval.

Electronically signed by F. Dela Cruz
Fernando Dela Cruz, CPA, CGA
Acting Manager of Finance (Campus)
Corporate Finance Department

CONSULTATION

This Report has been prepared in consultation with:

- Parks and Open Spaces (Public Works)

OURWINNIPEG POLICY ALIGNMENT

Complete Communities Direction Strategy

Supporting Direction 1 - Conserve, protect, and celebrate the significant heritage resources that illustrate the broad range of Winnipeg's heritage values.

Supporting Direction 2 - Provide leadership in heritage conservation that links to broader civic goals of economic development, sustainability, and neighbourhood planning.

WINNIPEG CLIMATE ACTION PLAN ALIGNMENT

N/A

SUBMITTED BY

Department: Chief Administrative Office
Division: Indigenous Relations
Prepared by: D. Carriere
Date: June 4, 2021
File No: N/A

Attachments:

Appendix A: 2021-001 Request Summary

Appendix B: 2021-001 Public Engagement Summary Report

Appendix C: Welcoming Winnipeg – Request Assessment Tool