Welcoming Winnipeg – Renaming Shady Shores Park to Waterside Rotary Park *Feedback Summary*

June 2021

Welcoming Winnipeg

The Welcoming Winnipeg initiative is just one aspect of the reconciliation process the City of Winnipeg is committed to, and will help ensure that the contributions, experiences, and perspectives of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit are reflected truthfully in our stories, historical markers, and place names.

To date, this has included Council passing 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 perspectives, experiences and contributions in the stories remembered and commemorated.

This new process includes posting change requests on the City of Winnipeg website for two weeks, to provide the opportunity for residents to provide feedback by:

- Completing a short online survey;
- Calling 204-986-4549 and leaving a voice message;
- Registering to appear as a delegation before the Committee of Community Members.

Background

All City park renaming requests now go through the Welcoming Winnipeg process which is about ensuring a proactive lens of balance, inclusion and Indigenous perspectives is used when making changes to the City's historical markers and place names.

A request was submitted by a member of the public to rename Shady Shores Park to Waterside Rotary Park. This park is located in the Transcona Ward. Details of the request can be found here. Three letters of support and a petition with seven signatures were submitted with the request form.

Residents were invited to provided feedback from March 19, 2021 to April 2, 2021.

Following the collection of feedback, input was provided to the Committee of Community Members to make a recommendation for Council's consideration.

Promotion

Public engagement opportunities were promoted using the following methods:

- City of Winnipeg website – posted March 19
- Welcoming Winnipeg email distribution list with over 175 recipients – March 19

What We Heard

Eight responses were received through the online survey.

In response to the question: Do you think the Committee of Community Members should support this request?

- 3 respondents said yes
- 4 respondents said no
- 1 respondent was undecided

Examples of reasons identified for not supporting the change were:

- Waste of time/resources to rename a park.
- Welcoming Winnipeg is an inappropriate avenue for this type of request.
- Concern about the historical legacy of Rotary International which includes discrimination on the basis of sex. Until 1989, the Rotary International Constitution required that membership in Rotary clubs be limited to men.

Respondents who supported the change did not provide any specific reasons for supporting the request.

To learn more about Welcoming Winnipeg please visit winnipeg.ca/WelcomingWinnipeg

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How Input was Considered

Below is a summary of changes that have been made, based on input.

What We Heard	How It Was Considered
Request forms submitted in English should be translated to French to ensure the process is accessible to the francophone community in Winnipeg.	The Request Summary was subsequently translated and it was determined that all Request Summary documents will be translated from English to French moving forward.
This request does not belong in the Welcoming Winnipeg process and should be directed to whatever naming/renaming process the City has in place.	Communication materials have been updated to inform the public that Welcoming Winnipeg is now the process through which the City makes changes to city-owned historical markers and place names, excluding streets.
Waste of time/resources to rename a park.	The Welcoming Winnipeg process was established and approved by Council to allow any resident to bring forward a request. The name change is subject to funding for signage being approved from the East Kildonan-Transcona Land Dedication Reserve (Transcona Ward allocation).
Requests should include a land acknowledgment that historically this is First Nations land that was made available through the making of Treaty No. 1 with the Crown in 1871. This Treaty agreement made it possible for all immigrants, settlers and newcomers to enjoy this gift and all it provides for us to enjoy a good life.	The Committee of Community Members has recommended that a territorial acknowledgment be included on the new signage for the park currently known as Shady Shores Park.
Concern about the historical legacy of Rotary International which includes discrimination on the basis of sex. Until 1989, the Rotary International Constitution required that membership in Rotary clubs be limited to men.	The Committee of Community Members acknowledged the historical legacy of Rotary International; they assessed that and the charitable work the local Rotary club in Winnipeg has done as well as their public commitments to reconciliation as a partner to Winnipeg's Indigenous Accord.