Welcoming Winnipeg – Renaming Papoose Park

Feedback Summary

July 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 Papoose Park; a new name has yet to be determined. This park is located in the St. Boniface ward. Details of the request can be found here.

Residents were invited to provide feedback from May 20, 2021 to June 3, 2021.

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

Promotion

Opportunities to provide input on the renaming were promoted using the following methods:

- City of Winnipeg website – posted May 20, 2021
- Welcoming Winnipeg e-mail distribution list with over 190 recipients – May 20, 2021
- Internal City of Winnipeg e-mail distribution list – May 31, 2021
- City of Winnipeg Facebook post with 27,345 followers – June 2, 2021
- City of Winnipeg Twitter post with 103,400 followers – June 2, 2021

What We Heard

33 responses were received through the online survey. 0 voice messages were received.

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

- 26 respondents said yes
- 3 respondents said no
- 4 respondents said undecided

An example of a reason identified for not supporting the change was:

"Leave it as is, quit wasting time and tax payers money. Fix the streets in the area."

Examples of reasons identified for supporting the change were:

"It's time we took positive action on the TRC recommendations. This would be a good start!"

"I did not know that this was the name of a park in Winnipeg. It is wrong many times over. I think at the time this development was designed it might have been seen as ok because the names in this area all seem to be Indigenous. However, it is still a horrible name for a park no matter what generation or time."

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

Winnipeg

"Reaching out to Indigenous elders would be the next step in finding an appropriate name for this park. There is no reason that slurs should continue to grace our city signs."

How Input was Considered

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

What We Heard	How It Was Considered
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.
Respondents asked for clarification on the word "papoose" and if it is appropriate.	The etymology behind the word "papoose" is mixed, its root translation in the Ojibwe language means "baby". However, the term has racial overtones and is considered dated and offensive.
Elders should have a prominent role in the next steps of the renaming process.	The Welcoming Winnipeg Committee of Community Members has recommended that the Indigenous Relations Division facilitate a process to identify a new name for the park, in consultation with Indigenous Elders.