Welcoming Winnipeg – Renaming Andrew Currie Park to Currie Blossom 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 Andrew Currie Park to Currie Blossom Park. This park is located in the River Heights-Fort Garry ward. Details of the request can be found here. Six letters of support were submitted with the request form.

Residents were invited to provided feedback from March 26, 2021 to April 9, 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 March 26, 2021
- Welcoming Winnipeg email distribution list with over 175 recipients – March 31, 2021
- Internal City of Winnipeg email distribution list – April 7, 2021
- City of Winnipeg Facebook post with 16,797 followers – April 9, 2021
- City of Winnipeg Twitter post with 78,700 followers – April 9, 2021

What We Heard

Sixteen responses were received through the online survey in addition to 11 voice messages.

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

- 11 respondents said yes
- 14 respondents said no
- 2 respondents were undecided

Examples of reasons identified given for not supporting the change were:

- Renaming the park is a waste of time/resources.
- Welcoming Winnipeg is an inappropriate avenue for this type of request.
- Removing Mr. Currie's given name takes away from the meaning/honour of the park naming.

Examples of reasons identified for supporting the change were:

- The change would honour the memories and friendships made at the park formerly name Blossom Park.
- The change is a compromise that commemorates both Andrew Currie and the "Blossom Boys".

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

Winnipeg

How Input was Considered

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

What We Heard	How It Was Considered
Renaming the park is a waste of time/resources.	The Welcoming Winnipeg process was established and approved by Council to allow any resident to bring forward a request. If Council were to approve the renaming of this park, a funding source would still need to be determined.
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 all City-owned historical markers and place names, excluding streets. This applies to name changes that are directly related to reconciliation and those that are not. As part of the process, the Committee of Community Members reviews requests through a lens of balance, inclusion and Indigenous perspectives and makes recommendations.
Removing Mr. Currie's given name takes away from the meaning/honour of the park naming.	The Committee of Community Members considered who provided this input and their connection to the park's namesake.
The change would honour the memories and friendships made at the park formerly name Blossom Park.	The Committee of Community Members considered who provided this input and their connection to the Blossom Boys story.