Welcoming Winnipeg – Renaming Pan Am Pool Park to Rooster Town 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 Pan Am Pool Park to Rooster Town Park. This park is located in the River Heights-Fort Garry ward. Details of the request can be found here.

Residents were invited to provided 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 email distribution list with over 175 recipients – May 20, 2021
- Internal City of Winnipeg email distribution list – May 31, 2021
- City of Winnipeg Facebook post with 16,797 followers – June 2, 2021
- City of Winnipeg Twitter post with 78,700 followers – June 2, 2021

What We Heard

175 responses were received through the online survey. No voice messages were received.

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

- 119 respondents said yes
- 46 respondents said no
- 10 respondents said undecided

Examples of reasons identified for not supporting the change were:

"I am sick and tired of every time some politician or indigenous leader or other cultures COMPLAIN THEY ARE BEING MISTREATED BECAUSE THEIR LAND WAS TAKEN AWAY FROM THEM OR BELONGED TO THEM OR NEED TO CHANGE".

"Exactly where and when does this constant acknowledgment & financial reparation come to an appropriate end"?

"Generations of various backgrounds have lived in this area and contributed to the community. It could easily be named for numerous previous and present groups. Leave it as it is, that would be most appropriate".

Examples of reasons identified for supporting the change were:

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"I think this name honours important historical roots and will invite people to learn about this history - both residents and visitors".

"As someone from a Michif family that has been repeatedly dispossessed, I think this is actually the least the city can do. The land was stolen and renamed to enforce the rights of settlers to be there, it is only right that its name be restored".

"It's about time".

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. This renaming is subject to funds being approved from the City Centre Land Dedication Fund.
Confusion as to what place was being renamed; some respondents thought it was Pan Am Pool.	To ensure clarity, administrative processes have been updated to include the old name as well as the newly proposed name are on each request banner; for instance: Renaming Pan Am Pool Park to Rooster Town Park.
Respondents asking who gave the Métis community the name "Rooster Town" and is it appropriate?	In consultation with the applicant, the Committee of Community Members has recommended that additional signage or a new marker be added to acknowledge the name "Pakan Town" (Michif/Anishinaabe), which was the name the residents used to call the area.

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