Minutes – Executive Policy Committee – April 20, 2022

REPORTS

Item No. 10 Welcoming Winnipeg - Renaming Singh Trail Park to Komagata Maru Park (Point Douglas Ward)

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 Singh Trail Park (located at 80 Singh Trail) be renamed to Komagata Maru Park.

2. That in addition to the renaming of Singh Trail Park to Komagata Maru Park, supplementary signage or a new permanent marker be added that provides a land acknowledgment and explains Canada's broader colonial policy of exclusion, subject to:

    A. Funding for this project being secured, tentatively estimated at $3,000.

    B. Upon securing funding, the new marker will be drafted in consultation with the applicant and Welcoming Winnipeg Committee of Community Members. Installation will be done in consultation with the Public Service.

3. 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, Chambers, Gilroy, Mayes, Rollins	7
Nay:		0

Carried

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Title: Welcoming Winnipeg - Renaming Singh Trail Park to Komagata Maru Park

Critical Path: Executive Policy Committee – Council

AUTHORIZATION

Author	Department Head	CFO	CAO
C. Sveinson	M. Jack	C. Kloepfer	M. Jack

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.

On February 12, 2021, a formal Welcoming Winnipeg request form was unveiled to the public; a request to rename the park currently known as Singh Trail Park (located at 80 Singh Trail) to Komagata Maru Park was submitted.

The Welcoming Winnipeg: Reconciling our History policy was adopted because of a demonstrated need for changes to how the City approaches commemoration and to ensure Indigenous perspectives are reflected in the City's historical markers and place names. This policy aligns at a municipal level with Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Call to Action #43. Because the proposed new name for the park does not contribute to this objective, the CCM is recommending that Council support this request, with the addition that supplementary signage or a new permanent marker be added that provides a land acknowledgment and explains Canada's broader colonial policy of exclusion.

Funding in the amount of $2,200 has been secured through the Lord Selkirk-West Kildonan Community Committee Land Dedication Reserve (Point Douglas ward allocation) to update and replace the existing park signage. Funding has not yet been identified for the creation of the new signage or permanent marker, tentatively estimated at $3,000; Indigenous Relations will explore opportunities to secure financial support for this project on an ongoing basis. If funding is not secured, the creation of the new signage or permanent marker will be deferred to a later date when budget is available.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the park currently known as Singh Trail Park (located at 80 Singh Trail) be renamed to Komagata Maru Park.

2. That in addition to the renaming of Singh Trail Park to Komagata Maru Park, supplementary signage or a new permanent marker be added that provides a land acknowledgment and explains Canada's broader colonial policy of exclusion, subject to:

    A. Funding for this project being secured, tentatively estimated at $3,000.

    B. Upon securing funding, the new marker will be drafted in consultation with the applicant and Welcoming Winnipeg Committee of Community Members. Installation will be done in consultation with the Public Service.

3. 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 (EPC) that the recommendations of the community member-based committee be forwarded to EPC 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 Singh Trail Park (located at 80 Singh Trail) will be renamed to Komagata Maru Park. Upon securing additional funding, a supplementary signage or a new permanent marker be added that provides a land acknowledgment and explains Canada's broader colonial policy of exclusion.

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 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 Singh Trail Park (located at 80 Singh Trail) to Komagata Maru Park was submitted.

Considerations for this naming request

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 January 31, 2022 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 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 request presents an educational opportunity as many Canadians are still learning the history of the *Komagata Maru*, a ship that sailed from Hong Kong to Vancouver by in spring 1914. The majority of passengers aboard were Sikh men, who were challenging Canada's former practices of excluding immigrants from India.
    - Although it does not speak to Winnipeg's history specifically, this incident is of national significance, for which Prime Minister Trudeau formally apologized in the House of Commons in 2016.
2. Research and Rationale
    - Although not an incident that directly impacted Indigenous peoples, the CCM considered how this event highlights Canada's racist colonial policies of the time to limit or exclude the movement of certain groups of people. This practice also extended to Indigenous peoples, as exemplified by the pass system, which restricted the movement of First Nations by requiring them to have a pass approved by the reserve's Indian agent to leave the community, for any reason.
3. Community Support
    - With respect to the public input process, in response to the question: "Do you think the Committee of Community Members should support this request", 77% of respondents to the online survey said 'yes'. There were 34 responses received. The city does have a sizeable Sikh population and although there is not a direct link between the incident and the City of Winnipeg, this request does resonate with the community which was demonstrated with the petition submission.

4. Other considerations
    - The Welcoming Winnipeg Policy states that it will proactively utilize a lens of balance, inclusion and Indigenous perspectives. This is a chance to reflect and educate on the impacts of institutional racism in Canada.

The Welcoming Winnipeg: Reconciling our History policy was adopted because of a demonstrated need for changes to how the City approaches commemoration and to ensure Indigenous perspectives are reflected in the City's historical markers and place names. This policy aligns at a municipal level with Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Call to Action #43. Because the proposed new name for the park does not contribute to this objective, the CCM is recommending that Council support this request, with the addition that supplementary signage or a new permanent marker be added that provides a land acknowledgment and explains Canada's broader colonial policy of exclusion.

Funding in the amount of $2,200 has been secured through the Lord Selkirk-West Kildonan Community Committee Land Dedication Reserve (Point Douglas ward allocation) to update and replace the existing park signage. Funding has not yet been identified for the creation of the new signage or permanent marker, tentatively estimated at $3,000; Indigenous Relations will explore opportunities to secure financial support for this project on an ongoing basis. If funding is not secured, the creation of the new signage or permanent marker will be deferred to a later date when budget is available.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Financial Impact Statement

Date: March 25, 2022

Project Name:

Welcoming Winnipeg - Renaming Singh Trail Park to Komagata Maru Park

First Year of Program **2022**

	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Capital					
Capital Expenditures Required	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Less: Existing Budgeted Costs	-	-	-	-	-
Additional Capital Budget Required	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Funding Sources:					
Debt - Internal	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Debt - External	-	-	-	-	-
Grants (Enter Description Here)	-	-	-	-	-
Reserves, Equity, Surplus	-	-	-	-	-
Other - Enter Description Here	-	-	-	-	-
Total Funding	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Total Additional Capital Budget Required	$ -				
Total Additional Debt Required	$ -				
Current Expenditures/Revenues					
Direct Costs	$ 2,200	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Less: Incremental Revenue/Recovery	-	-	-	-	-
Net Cost/(Benefit)	$ 2,200	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Less: Existing Budget Amounts	2,200	-	-	-	-
Net Budget Adjustment Required	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -

Additional Comments:

Direct costs represent the amount to update and replace the existing park signage to rename the park currently known as Singh Trail Park to Komagata Maru Park and will be funded by the Lord Selkirk-West Kildonan Community Committee Land Dedication Reserve (Point Douglas ward allocation).

Funding has not yet been identified for the creation of the new signage or permanent marker, estimated at $3,000; Indigenous Relations will explore opportunities to secure financial support for this project on an ongoing basis. If funding is not secured, the creation of the new signage or permanent marker will be deferred to a later date when budget is available.

(Approved electronically by J. Duke for J. Peters)

Jocelyn Peters, CPA, CGA

Manager of Finance & Administration (Campus)

CONSULTATION

This Report has been prepared in consultation with:

- Parks and Open Space (Public Works)

OURWINNIPEG POLICY ALIGNMENT

Complete Communities Direction Strategy (Existing)

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.

OurWinnipeg 2045 (Subject to Council Third Reading)

5.4 Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples
Prioritize municipal implementation responsibilities within the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Calls to Action and the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls' Calls for Justice. LG, ER, EP, HW, CB

5.8 Community Cohesion
Provide opportunities for creative, cultural, and artistic expression through municipal facility design, public place-making, and community-led initiatives to promote community relationship-building, identity and sense of belonging. HW, CB

5.9 Heritage Conservation
Provide opportunities for heritage education, truth-telling, and reconciliation, through the commemoration, conservation, and stewardship of both tangible and intangible heritage resources, including Indigenous land-based practices and artifacts, public names, places, and art, museum artifacts, and archived information. LG, HW

6.37 Heritage Conservation
Conserve cultural, natural, and heritage resources and districts, as defined in Complete Communities, and Indigenous land-based practices to celebrate sense of place through community history, architecture, civic identity and cultural perspectives. ER, HW

WINNIPEG CLIMATE ACTION PLAN ALIGNMENT

N/A

WINNIPEG POVERTY REDUCTION STRATEGY ALIGNMENT

The information and recommendations presented in this report align with and advance the Winnipeg Poverty Reduction Strategy (2021 – 2031) as follows:

They embody the following Guiding Principles:

- We will Uphold Human Rights
- We will Honour Relationships and Reconciliation with Indigenous People

SUBMITTED BY

Department: Chief Administrative Office
Division: Indigenous Relations
Prepared by: D. Carriere
Date: March 30, 2022
File No: N/A

Attachments:

Appendix A: 2021-011 Request Summary

Appendix B: 2021-011 Public Engagement Summary Report

Appendix C: Welcoming Winnipeg – Request Assessment Tool