Minutes – Executive Policy Committee – May 18, 2022

REPORTS

Item No. 19 Welcoming Winnipeg – Renaming Wellington Park to Theodore Niizhota Fontaine Park (River Heights-Fort Garry 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 Wellington Park (located at S/S Wellington Crescent E of Kenaston Boulevard) be renamed Theodore Niizhota Fontaine Park and that a territorial acknowledgment accompanies the park signage.

2. That in addition to the renaming of Wellington Park to Theodore Niizhota Fontaine Park, supplementary signage or a new permanent marker be added to acknowledge Theodore Fontaine's background and contributions, subject to:

    A. The new marker will be drafted in collaboration with the applicants and the Welcoming Winnipeg Committee of Community Members and installed 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, Rollins	6
Nay:		0

Carried

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Title: Welcoming Winnipeg – Renaming Wellington Park to Theodore Niizhota Fontaine 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 August 12, 2021, a formal Welcoming Winnipeg request form was unveiled to the public; a request to rename the park currently known as Wellington Park (located at S/S Wellington Crescent E of Kenaston Boulevard) to Theodore Niizhota Fontaine Park was submitted.

The Welcoming Winnipeg: Reconciling our History policy aligns at a municipal level with Truth and Reconciliation Commission Call to Action #43 and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, particularly Article 15:

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to the dignity and diversity of their cultures, traditions, histories and aspirations which shall be appropriately reflected in education and public information.
2. States shall take effective measures, in consultation and cooperation with the Indigenous peoples concerned, to combat prejudice and eliminate discrimination and to promote tolerance, understanding and good relations among Indigenous peoples and all other segments of society.

After careful consideration, the Committee of Community Members (CCM) is recommending that Council support this request with the addition that a territorial acknowledgment accompanies the park signage. Further, the CCM is recommending supplementary signage or a new marker be added to give greater context to Theodore Fontaine's background and contributions. Funding in the amount of $2,500 has been secured through the City Centre Land Dedication Reserve (River Heights-Fort Garry ward allocation) to update and replace the existing park signage. Indigenous Relations has allocated up to $3,000 from the Journey of Reconciliation budget for the creation of the new signage or permanent marker.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the park currently known as Wellington Park (located at S/S Wellington Crescent E of Kenaston Boulevard) be renamed Theodore Niizhota Fontaine Park and that a territorial acknowledgment accompanies the park signage.

2. That in addition to the renaming of Wellington Park to Theodore Niizhota Fontaine Park, supplementary signage or a new permanent marker be added to acknowledge Theodore Fontaine's background and contributions, subject to:

    A. The new marker will be drafted in collaboration with the applicants and the Welcoming Winnipeg Committee of Community Members and installed 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 Wellington Park (located south of Wellington Crescent east of Kenaston Boulevard) will be renamed Theodore Niizhota Fontaine Park and a territorial acknowledgment will accompany the park signage.

Further, supplementary signage or a new permanent marker will be added to acknowledge Theodore Fontaine's background and contributions.

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 (EPC) and Council for final decision.

On August 12, 2021, a formal Welcoming Winnipeg request form was unveiled to the public; a request to rename the park currently known as Wellington Park (located at S/S Wellington Crescent E of Kenaston Boulevard) to Theodore Niizhota Fontaine 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 October 19, 2021, 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
    - The project offers an opportunity to celebrate Theodore Fontaine, an Indigenous leader who dedicated his life to promoting understanding, empathy, awareness, and reconciliation with regard to Canada's legacy of Indian Residential Schools.
    - It was determined that this request meets all aspects of the Welcoming Winnipeg definition.
2. Research and Rationale
    - The new park name, along with the addition of an informational marker, will provide an educational opportunity for visitors. The renaming of Wellington Park enhances this education by honouring someone who was a tireless educator about residential schools.
    - Currently Wellington Park is named after Arthur Wellington Ross, a lawyer, politician, and land speculator. Ross is also remembered through Wellington Crescent. In the mid-to-late 1880s, he held much of the Fort Rouge area. He did so by acquiring Métis scrip, employing "claim runners" to buy the scrip as soon as it was issued. To this extent, Wellington's name is associated with Indigenous dispossession.
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", 96% of respondents to the online survey said 'yes'. There were 311 responses received in total, the most any Welcoming Winnipeg request had received at the time.
4. Other considerations
    - This park is connected historically to 621 Academy Road, the former Julia Clark School and Assiniboia Residential School Classroom Building. These fields are very important to the legacy and commemoration of the Assiniboia Residential School.

- Theodore Fontaine spent the final years of his life advocating for the commemoration of this site to bring it to the attention of the people of Winnipeg.

The Welcoming Winnipeg: Reconciling our History policy aligns at a municipal level with Truth and Reconciliation Commission Call to Action #43 and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, particularly Article 15:

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to the dignity and diversity of their cultures, traditions, histories and aspirations which shall be appropriately reflected in education and public information.
2. States shall take effective measures, in consultation and cooperation with the Indigenous peoples concerned, to combat prejudice and eliminate discrimination and to promote tolerance, understanding and good relations among Indigenous peoples and all other segments of society.

After careful consideration, the CCM is recommending that Council support this request with the addition that a territorial acknowledgment accompanies the park signage. Further, the CCM is recommending supplementary signage or a new marker be added to give greater context to Theodore Fontaine's background and contributions.

Funding in the amount of $2,500 has been secured through the City Centre Land Dedication Reserve (River Heights-Fort Garry ward allocation) to update and replace the existing park signage. Indigenous Relations has allocated up to $3,000 from the Journey of Reconciliation budget for the creation of the new signage or permanent marker.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Financial Impact Statement

Date: April 8, 2022

Project Name:

Welcoming Winnipeg – Renaming Wellington Park to Theodore Niizhota Fontaine 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	$ 5,500	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Less: Incremental Revenue/Recovery	-	-	-	-	-
Net Cost/(Benefit)	$ 5,500	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Less: Existing Budget Amounts	5,500	-	-	-	-
Net Budget Adjustment Required	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -

Additional Comments:

Direct costs of $5,500 represent the estimated costs to rename the park currently known as Wellington Park to Theodore Niizhota Fontaine Park as outlined in the report. Funding of $2,500 will come from the City Centre Land Dedication Reserve (River Heights-Fort Garry ward allocation) and $3,000 from the Indigenous Relations Division Journey of Reconciliation budget.

"electronically approved by J. Peters"

Jocelyn Peters, CPA, CGA
Manager of Finance (Campus)
Corporate Finance Department

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: T. Prystupa and D. Carriere
Date: April 19, 2022
File No:

Attachments:

Appendix A: 2021-010 Request Summary

Appendix B: 2021-010 Public Engagement Summary Report

Appendix C: Welcoming Winnipeg – Request Assessment Tool