Welcoming Winnipeg – Adding to Markers on Dawson Trail

Feedback Summary

April 2022

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 requests to add to historical markers 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 community heritage organization to add to an existing historical marker. These markers are located at the southeast corner of Lagimodière Blvd at TransCanada Hwy 1. Details of the request can be found here.

Residents were invited to provide feedback from March 11, 2022 to March 25, 2022.

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 11, 2022
- Welcoming Winnipeg e-mail distribution list with over 190 recipients – March 11, 2022
- Internal City of Winnipeg e-mail distribution list – March 17, 2022

What We Heard

13 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?

- 12 respondents said yes
- 1 respondent said no
- 0 respondents said undecided

Examples of reasons identified for not supporting the change were:

n/a

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"This is an easy YES! While the Dawson Trail is historically important, not including acknowledgement of Indigenous ties to the site is both inaccurate historically, and morally/ethically wrong. We need to start acknowledging Indigenous history and recognizing its value and significance in the history of our country/city. This is a great place to do so."

"Changes like this are long overdue by the City of Winnipeg. We need to live in an updated era of Truth and Reconciliation."

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
Important to include Indigenous perspectives when looking at the history of Dawson Trail.	The applicant highlighted consultation with local First Nation and Red River Métis representatives. They also noted there will be Indigenous representation on their Content Review Committee who will oversee the content for all trail markers.