**Agenda – Council – September 22, 2022**

**Report – Executive Policy Committee – September 14, 2022**

**Item No. 9 Welcoming Winnipeg – Naming Healing Forest at St. John's Park (Mynarski Ward)**

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On September 14, 2022, the Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Winnipeg Public Service and submitted the following to Council:

1. That the forest at St. John's Park be named Kapabamayak Achaak Healing Forest and that signage be installed at the site subject to:

    A. The text for the sign, once finalized, be reviewed and supported by the Committee of Community Members (CCM) prior to installation.

2. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.

## Report – Executive Policy Committee – September 14, 2022

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On September 14, 2022, the Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Winnipeg Public Service and submitted the matter to Council.

# ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

**Title:** Welcoming Winnipeg – Naming Healing Forest at St. John's Park

**Critical Path:** Executive Policy Committee – Council

## AUTHORIZATION

| Author | Department Head | CFO | CAO |
|---|---|---|---|
| C. Sveinson | M. Jack | N/A | 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 name the healing forest at St. John's Park to Kapabamayak Achaak Healing Forest was submitted. This name was offered by Elder Peetanacoot Nenakawekapo and means Wandering Spirit in Anishinabemowin (Ojibway). The applicant is also proposing to include a sign to inform visitors about the name of the space and its intended purpose. Funding for this project has been secured by Kapabamayak Achaak Healing Forest Winnipeg Inc.

The Welcoming Winnipeg: Reconciling our History policy aligns at a municipal level with Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Call to Action #43 and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), 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 Welcoming Winnipeg Committee of Community Members (CCM) is recommending that Council support this request, with the addition that the supplementary signage includes a translation of "Wandering Spirit" in the other six Indigenous languages of Manitoba as defined by the Aboriginal Languages Recognition Act, where it is possible. The CCM acknowledged that not all languages may have a translation that is appropriate in this context. The signage will be installed in consultation with the Public Service.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the forest at St. John's Park be named Kapabamayak Achaak Healing Forest and that signage be installed at the site subject to:

    A. The text for the sign, once finalized, be reviewed and supported by the CCM prior to installation.

2. 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 forest at St. John's Park will be named Kapabamayak Achaak Healing Forest. Signage will be installed to inform visitors about the name of the space and its intended purpose, with costs fully secured by the applicant.

## 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.

On February 12, 2021, a formal Welcoming Winnipeg request form was unveiled to the public; a request to name the healing forest at St. John's Park to Kapabamayak Achaak Healing Forest was submitted. This name was offered by Elder Peetanacoot Nenakawekapo and means Wandering Spirit in Anishinabemowin (Ojibway). The applicant is also proposing to include a sign to inform visitors about the name of the space and its intended purpose.

Considerations for this 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 June 6, 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
    - It was determined that this request meets all aspects of the Welcoming Winnipeg definition. Particularly, there is an opportunity to promote the reclamation of language with this naming and to honour Indigenous children who died or were affected by the residential school system.
2. Research and Rationale
    - This land was a meeting place for Indigenous peoples, buffalo hunting grounds, a fur trading centre and home of the first settlers to farm on the Prairies. This site continues to be meaningful to Indigenous residents.
    - St. John’s Park was one of the first four parks created by the Winnipeg Public Parks Board and was established in 1893.
    - The proposed name was offered by Elder Peetanacoot Nenakawekapo and means Wandering Spirit in Anishinabemowin (Ojibway).
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”, 83% of respondents to the online survey said ‘yes’. There were 18 responses received.
4. Other considerations
    - Kapabamayak Achaak Healing Forest (KAHF) is a living memorial to Indigenous children lost to, or affected by, the residential school system. It is located within St. John’s Park in the North End of Winnipeg. The Healing Forest has its roots in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action and is part of a network of Healing Forests to be developed across Canada that are responsive to the experiences of each local community.
    - The Healing Forest is more than a memorial. This land is, and will continue to be, a gathering place for families and communities; a place for healing and contemplation; an open-air, land-based classroom for students; a place for Elders to share teachings and ceremony; it is a place for reconciliation by remembering the past and envisioning the future. This community-based project encourages meaningful dialogue by creating space to examine the differences between Indigenous and settler perspectives and heal past and ongoing tensions.
    - Funding for this project has been secured by Kapabamayak Achaak Healing Forest Winnipeg Inc.

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

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**FINANCIAL IMPACT**

## Financial Impact Statement Date: August 19, 2022

## Project Name:
## Welcoming Winnipeg – Naming Healing Forest at St. John's Park

**COMMENTS:**

The financial impact of naming the healing forest at St. John's Park to Kapabamayak Achaak Healing Forest will be determined by the cost of any signage approved for this location. If approved, the cost of signage will be fully offset by funding from Kapabamayak Achaak Healing Forest Winnipeg Inc., resulting in no net impact to the City. The design of this signage has not yet been determined so costs are not yet known.

*Jocelyn Peters - August 19, 2022*

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

## CONSULTATION

This Report has been prepared in consultation with:

- Public Works Department - Parks and Open Space

## OURWINNIPEG POLICY ALIGNMENT

**Complete Communities Direction Strategy 2.0**

1.2 Recognize and celebrate Indigenous heritage
Work collaboratively with Indigenous communities and stakeholders to recognize and celebrate Indigenous heritage values and spaces.

**OurWinnipeg 2045**

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.

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.

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.

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.

## 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: August 19, 2022
File No:

Attachments:

Appendix A: 2022-006 Request Summary

Appendix B: 2022-006 Public Engagement Summary Report

Appendix C: Welcoming Winnipeg – Request Assessment Tool