Welcoming Winnipeg – **Naming Healing Forest at St. John's Park to Kapabamayak Achaak Healing Forest**

Feedback Summary

June 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 park naming 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 on behalf of a community organization to name the Healing Forest at St. John's Park to Kapabamayak Achaak Healing Forest. The Healing Forest is located at 1 Fowler Street within St. John's Park. This park is located in the Mynarski ward. Details of the request can be found here.

Residents were invited to provide feedback from May 11, 2022 to May 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 naming were promoted using the following methods:

- City of Winnipeg website – posted May 11, 2022
- Welcoming Winnipeg e-mail distribution list with over 190 recipients – May 12, 2022
- Internal City of Winnipeg e-mail distribution list – May 19, 2022
- City of Winnipeg Facebook post with 29,000 followers – May 19, 2022
- City of Winnipeg Twitter post with 112,000 followers – May 19, 2022

What We Heard

18 responses were received through the online survey. 1 voice message was received.

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

- 16 respondents said yes
- 3 respondents said no
- 0 respondents said undecided

Examples of reasons identified for not supporting the change were:

No specific reasons were identified in the feedback collected.

Examples of reasons identified for supporting the change were:

"We are all connected to this request, whether we live in the area or not. I am non-Indigenous and support all efforts to create and support Indigenous-led efforts to acknowledge and support Indigenous peoples."

"The KAHF is a fantastic addition to St. John's Park and the North End neighbourhood. I often walk through the healing

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forest and stop to admire the landscape architecture and beautifully painted rocks with prairie animals and Indigenous peoples represented. The new name honouring the original inhabitants of this land makes sense."

How Input was Considered

Below is a summary of changes that have been made, based on input.

What We Heard	How It Was Considered
Positive feedback and an emphasis on the importance of Indigenous reclamation regarding place names in the neighbourhood.	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.