Welcoming Winnipeg – Naming Park at 100 Comanche Road to Tikina'gaan Park

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 renaming 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 to rename Papoose Park; following consultation with Indigenous Elders, Tikina'gaan Park was recommended unanimously as the new name. This park is located in the St. Boniface ward. Details of the request can be found here.

Residents were invited to provide feedback from May 18, 2022 to June 1, 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 May 18, 2022
- Welcoming Winnipeg e-mail distribution list with over 190 recipients – May 20, 2022
- Internal City of Winnipeg e-mail distribution list – May 25, 2022
- City of Winnipeg Facebook post with 29,000 followers – May 25, 2022
- City of Winnipeg Twitter post with 112,000 followers – May 25, 2022

What We Heard

28 responses were received through the online survey, 12 e-mails were received by the ward councillor and 0 voice messages were received.

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

- 17 respondents said yes
- 8 respondents said no
- 3 respondents said undecided

Examples of reasons identified for not supporting the change were:

"Names should be words that are understood by all walks of life. Children, newcomers, elderly. Names should be easy to pronounce. I suppose heritage but not to the expense of many others in the community. A better balance must be struck."

"…Names were suggested by Indigenous children, residents in Niakwa Park. The children gave the name careful thought as they talked about their culture and what the park represents to them as indigenous people. They talked about the wildlife, the trees, and the many different people in the park every day. In the childrens' culture (Ojibwe) the word for rabbit is "Waboose" and rabbits are very plentiful in the park, hence the suggestion that the park be named "Waboose". An alternate name, "Macoons",

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suggested by the children, means "bear cub". They referenced the small children that frequent the park. The children were unanimous in saying that Macoons is their favourite."

"…Had Terry Fox been able to complete his Marathon of Hope, Niakwa Park residents would have gathered shoulder to shoulder, as a community in the present 100 Comanche Park and marvelled as Terry ran past on Highway #1 (Fermor). Running for all Canadians!

I believe the City of Winnipeg should choose to honour Terry Fox and the values stood for, by naming our park after Canada's Winnipeg born hero... Terry"

Examples of reasons identified for supporting the change were:

"We thank our elders for considering the request and providing their thoughtful advice. We support the name Tikina'gaan… I understand 2 additional names have been put forward, but my family much prefers the proposed name Tikina'gaan because:

(a) the Waboose submission suggested it is preferable because of its similarity to the former park name. We do not think it is preferable or appropriate to choose a new park name that reminds us of something out-of-date and offensive. The more distance from that term - and from what it represents - the better.

(b) the proposed name refers to the cradleboard that our Indigenous people used to carry children on these lands, which is a beautiful reference to the loving, parent-child relationship in Indigenous families. We believe this relationship should be acknowledged and honoured as an act of reconciliation."

"I am a resident of Niakwa Park. I just want to state that I support the renaming of this park and I think that Tikina'gaan is a great name for it (this actually isn't important as my approval as a settler should not be a factor.)"

How Input was Considered

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

What We Heard	How It Was Considered
A proposal from Indigenous children from the neighbourhood to name the park either "Waboose" (rabbit) or "Macoons" (bear cub) in Ojibwe, and a different proposal to name the park "Terry Fox Park".	The Committee believes that it is important to prioritize the human experience, and saw the name of Tikina'gaan Park as an opportunity to expand residents' understanding of Indigenous history and culture.
Concerns over the pronounceability of "Tikina'gaan."	As part of the report back to Council, the Committee has included a recommendation for the City to develop an educational resource to be shared with the community about the cultural significance of the tikina'gaan. This would also include the phonetic spelling to help residents pronounce the park name.

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