Welcoming Winnipeg – Naming Unnamed Trail in Transcona to Cousineau Family Trail

Feedback Summary

July 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 create new place names 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 name an unnamed trail in Transcona to Cousineau Family Trail. The trail is located at the west side of Day Street starting at Kildare Avenue and extending north. This trail is located in the Transcona ward. Details of the request can be found here.

Residents were invited to provide feedback from May 6, 2022 to May 20, 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 6, 2022
- Welcoming Winnipeg e-mail distribution list with over 190 recipients – May 6, 2022
- Internal City of Winnipeg e-mail distribution list – May 11, 2022
- City of Winnipeg Facebook post with 29,000 followers – May 11, 2022
- City of Winnipeg Twitter post with 112,000 followers – May 11, 2022

What We Heard

41 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?**

- 36 respondents said yes
- 3 respondents said no
- 2 respondents said undecided

Examples of reasons identified for not supporting the change were:

"It is unclear from the application how the signage will further the community's understanding of the history and culture French speaking Métis members of the community. Without some information about the connection between the trail, the Cousineau family, and the Métis history and culture this does not meet the criteria for a Welcoming Winnipeg."

Examples of reasons identified for supporting the change were:

"Members of the Cousineau family have dedicated great time into benefiting the community. The planning and executing Transcona Trails, along with continued support of activities on the trail (annual bike to work day, story walk with local author/illustrators, photography contests, etc.) …"

To learn more about Welcoming Winnipeg please visit winnipeg.ca/WelcomingWinnipeg

Winnipeg

"Members of the Cousineau Family have been active leaders in the development of Transcona's Trail system.

It would be great to see their contributions recognized within the trail system."

How Input was Considered

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

What We Heard	How It Was Considered
What connects this request to local Métis history and culture?	The trail's new name could serve as an opportunity for relearning and reclamation of Métis histories and heritage in the area.
Support for the renaming in the public feedback due to the family's work in the community and specifically with the trail system in Transcona.	The family has largely contributed to the trail's growth. When the trail was started, it began with 4 km and now with family's work, there is 43 km of trail.