Welcoming Winnipeg – Renaming Appletree-Bridgeland Drive North Park to Emeka Nnadi Park

Feedback Summary

March 2023

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 Appletree-Bridgeland Drive North Park to Emeka Nnadi Park. This park is located in the Waverley South ward. Details of the request can be found here.

Residents were invited to provide feedback from January 6, 2023 to January 20, 2023.

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 January 6, 2023
- Welcoming Winnipeg e-mail distribution list with over 200 recipients – January 9, 2023
- City of Winnipeg Facebook post with 36,000 followers – January 10, 2023
- City of Winnipeg Twitter post with 118,000 followers – January 10, 2023
- City of Winnipeg Instagram story with 1,600 followers – January 10, 2023
- Internal City of Winnipeg e-mail distribution list – January 10, 2023

What We Heard

366 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?**

- 334 respondents said yes
- 11 respondents said no
- 21 respondents said undecided

Examples of reasons identified for not supporting the change were:

"Generally I feel places should be named after individuals who have completed their life journey. Emeka Nnadi is a good designer who contributes to his community, but his career is far from over. It would be fitting to name a place after him at the end of his career, but it seems early to do this now."

"This request in NO way honours the Indigenous history of the land. The renaming will do NOTHING to teach about the first inhabitants of the land on which the park is situated nor about the Treaty obligations of those who use it. The request continues the colonial history of naming which Welcoming Winnipeg was developed to address."

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

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Examples of reasons identified for supporting the change were:

"By granting this request, it will help to encourage many talented individuals especially the immigrants to feel welcomed and the opportunity to develop their talent and apply it for the growth of the community."

"Emeka has made an indelible mark in the Bridgwater community and it would be a very poignant nod to his work within the city of Winnipeg. I wholeheartedly believe that name is an appropriate solution to naming the park rather than a more generic 'Appletree-Bidgeland Drive North Park'."

How Input was Considered

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

What We Heard	How It Was Considered
Lack of Indigenous significance in the request.	The Welcoming Winnipeg Committee of Community Members considered how this renaming has ties to the greater concept of newcomer and Indigenous relations, outside the scope of European settlers.
Questions surrounding naming parks and other City assets after individuals.	As part of the Welcoming Winnipeg process, a set of guidelines are currently being developed to inform the Committee of Community Members decision making process when it comes to naming assets after individuals.

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