Agenda – Executive Policy Committee – April 16, 2024

REPORTS

Item No. 6 Park Renaming – A New or Future Park in the Sage Creek Community to D'Eschambault Park (St. Vital Ward)

COMMUNITY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On February 29, 2024, the Riel Community Committee recommended to the Executive Policy Committee that the following be referred to the Welcoming Winnipeg process:

1. The naming of a new park in the Sage Creek Community to D'Eschambault Park.

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On March 12, 2024, the Executive Policy Committee laid the matter over for 30 days.

COMMUNITY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On February 29, 2024, the Riel Community Committee passed the following motion:

WHEREAS the D'Eschambault family has been a part of the St. Boniface and St. Vital Wards since the early 1900's;

AND WHEREAS the family were original landowners of 78 aces on John Bruce Road;

AND WHEREAS three members of the D'Eschambault family ran a business on Provencher Boulevard for 70 years, and still own the building to this day;

AND WHEREAS many members of the family continue to live in Sage Creek, Southdale, Bonavista, St. Boniface and St. Vital;

AND WHEREAS the family includes Indigenous and Metis ancestry;

AND WHEREAS a motion was previously submitted to the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development to add D'Eschambault to the Riel Street name reserve list, however a Rue D'Eschambault already exists;

AND WHEREAS a new assessment tool has been adopted in regards to naming or renaming assets after individuals and groups of people in the Welcoming Winnipeg: Reconciling our History policy;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Executive Policy Committee be requested to refer the following to the Welcoming Winnipeg process:

1. The naming of a new park in the Sage Creek Community to D'Eschambault Park.

On Nov 5, 2023, at 2:46 PM, e.t. cox wrote:

I prepared the request file for a naming of a park in the new development and sent it last year to Qualico following purchase of our Sage Creek property. At the time Mile Armstrong advised that I forward it to our councillor (Brian Mayes) and he would send it to the correct location. I was advised by Brian Mayes that First Nations get first recognition. I felt the fact that we have five metis grandchildren and one treaty grandchild should add some weight to our request. We could have documentation made available for the children. We are all part of the past, present and future of Winnipeg. I am re- submitting this proposal below . We would very much appreciate any help you may be able to give us. We await your response.

D'ESCHAMBAULT PARK proposal

I would like to submit a proposal to the committee that is in charge of park name designations. The proposal is PARC D'ESCHAMBAULT PARK.

Our family name has been part of the history of the St. Boniface area since the early 1900's. The patriarch was Henri d'Eschambault (1895-1970) who married Jeanne Beliveau in 1929 in St. Boniface GreyNuns Chapel, by her uncle Bishop Arthur Beliveau. They had two sons, Arthur (1931-1997), who married Therese Chabot in 1951. Gilbert was born in 1935-) He married Elsie Cox in 1960. The 3 men operated a family business at 136 Provencher Blvd for about 70 years, DESCHAMBAULT Travel and Insurance, when the business was sold. The building is still owned by a family member, but is rented to a cheese shop and jewelry store.

Our involvement with Sage Creek began with Henri, Arthur and Gilbert buying 78 acres of Land, in 1956, from Credit Foncier in France. At the time the address assigned was Lot 122 John Bruce Road. It was described as a long narrow Seigneury property 400' in width and went from the end of the Farmer Dormer's land and finished at Plessis Road.
Over the years parcels of land were sold for the perimeter highway #101, Manitoba Hydro, and Kotelko Drive service Rd. Gilbert was under 21 years old (legal age at that time of purchase) so his father signed papers and turned it over to him when he turned 21. The address changed over the years and I am not sure of the chronological order but these are my recollections:
(#?) Mazenod Rd.
Lot 122 Highway 59,
281 Lagimodiere ,
15 Kotelko Drive.

Sometime in the early 1970's Gilbert and Arthur sold a large portion of the property and each kept 5 acres each on the east and west sides of Lagimodiere for their respective families. The land was rented on a crop sharing basis to the Roeland brothers on Plessis Rd.

The remaining acreages have been sold to Qualico and the final transaction happened in 2016 when Gilbert and Elsie sold their 15 Kotelko Dr. 5 acres to Qualico.

We took pride in our properties, and they were attractively groomed serving as a beautiful entrance into the city of Winnipeg. Queen Elizabeth waved to our family as she passed by from St. Pierre to Winnipeg in 1970. We were blessed with 52 years in that lovely spot, building very treasured memories, with extended family and friends.
My son`s family has had the pleasure of maintaining it until the developers are ready to start in that location. We expect that very soon.

As a matter of interest, a brother of Henri, Monseigneur Antoine d'Eschambault (1896-1960) served as a beloved parish priest for many years at St. Emile Church in St. Vital. The d`Eschambault roots are very deep in St. Boniface and St. Vital.

Rue Deschambault in St. Boniface is named after Henri`s uncle Georges Deschambault who was a factor for the Hudson's Bay Co. in Saskatchewan in the 1800`s. He was a great supporter of the Indigenous people as he was married to an Indigenous lady, Marguerite McKenzie and they raised a family together. He retired on land where the street is located.

I believe my memories of these events capture the history of the ownership and interesting background of this land.

Many of our children and grandchildren, nieces, nephews live in the surrounding areas of Sage Creek, Southdale, Bonavista, St. Boniface, and St. Vital. We would be extremely proud to have a park space named to honor the family and our contribution to the area from 1956-2016, where we had the privilege to live,work, and play in that peaceful pretty corner of Manitoba prairie that we all love so much.

Regards,

Gilbert and Elsie d`Eschambault,