Welcoming Winnipeg – Adding to an Existing Marker: Dr. Jose Rizal

Feedback Summary

July 2024

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 historical markers 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 community organization to create a new historical marker. This marker would be located at Waterford Green Common (north-west of the intersection of Old Commonwealth Path and Dr. Jose Rizal Way) in the Point Douglas ward. Details of the request can be found here.

Residents were invited to provide feedback from May 9, 2024 to May 23, 2024.

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 new marker were promoted using the following methods:

- City of Winnipeg website – posted May 9, 2024
- Welcoming Winnipeg e-mail distribution list with over 230 recipients – May 9, 2024
- City of Winnipeg Facebook post with 41,000 followers – May 14, 2024
- City of Winnipeg X (formerly Twitter) post with 128,000 followers – May 14, 2024
- City of Winnipeg Instagram story with 7,000 followers – May 14, 2024
- Internal City of Winnipeg e-mail distribution list – May 15, 2024

What We Heard

28 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?**

- 24 respondents said yes
- 2 respondents said no
- 2 respondents said undecided

Examples of reasons identified for not supporting the change were:

"…There seems to be some potential evidence that his status as a national hero is fairly artificial and that his direct impact on the Philippine rebellion against the Spanish may have become exaggerated over time."

Examples of reasons identified for supporting the change were:

"The Filipino community has been a strong force in promoting cohesiveness among multi-culturally diverse Winnipeg. An additional marker to an existing statue providing information about Dr. Jose Rizal wo shaped the Filipinos love for country and with one another would inspire all Winnipeggers."

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

Winnipeg

How Input was Considered

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

What We Heard	How It Was Considered
How does the additional historical marker contribute to a Welcoming Winnipeg?	Honouring Dr. Jose Rizal with this new plaque not only calls attention to the historical impacts of colonization around the world, but also recognizes the people who speak out against colonialism.