Welcoming Winnipeg – Renaming Bonaventure Park to Tunngasugit Park

Feedback Summary

December 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 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 Ward Councillor to rename Bonaventure Park to Tunngasugit Park. This park is located in the St. Vital ward. Details of the request can be found here.

Residents were invited to provide feedback from September 6, 2024 to September 20, 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 September 6, 2024
- Welcoming Winnipeg e-mail distribution list with over 250 recipients – September 17, 2024
- City of Winnipeg Facebook post with 41,000 followers – September 18, 2024
- City of Winnipeg X (formerly Twitter) post with 129,000 followers – September 18, 2024
- City of Winnipeg Instagram story with 9,000 followers – September 18, 2024
- Internal City of Winnipeg e-mail distribution list – September 19, 2024

What We Heard

21 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?**

- 5 respondents said yes
- 15 respondents said no
- 1 respondent said undecided

Examples of reasons identified for not supporting the change were:

"The names chosen for all renaming are mostly indigenous which unfortunately not many people can pronounce. I still call Bishop Grandin - Bishop Grandin or route 165 as I cannot pronounce the other given (new names)"

Examples of reasons identified for supporting the change were:

"All actions toward Reconciliation benefit all of us, not just some of us. It signals to migrants, immigrants and those born here, the importance the First Nations play in our story as a nation and communities - not only the past; in the present and the future."

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
Renaming the park is a waste of time/resources.	Welcoming Winnipeg helps ensure that the contributions, experiences, and perspectives of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit are reflected truthfully in our stories, historical markers, and place names. If Council were to approve the renaming of this park, a funding source would still need to be determined.
Questions in regard to the location of the park and ties to the Inuit community.	The Committee of Community Members approached this request through a proactive lens of balance, inclusion and Indigenous perspectives. Committee members considered the greater history and experience of Inuit in the city and would like to provide additional context to the renaming with an interpretive panel in the park.