Minutes – Executive Policy Committee – March 18, 2025

REPORTS

Item No. 14 Welcoming Winnipeg – Renaming Bonaventure Park to Tunngasugit Park

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

The Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Winnipeg Public Service and recommended to Council:

1. That Bonaventure Park (located at 70 Evelyne Reese Boulevard) be renamed to Tunngasugit Park.

2. That, in addition to the park renaming, supplementary signage or a new permanent marker be installed that speaks to the history of Inuit presence in Winnipeg, explains how to pronounce “tunngasugit”, and its meaning, in consultation with the Public Service.

3. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Lukes,

That the recommendation of the Winnipeg Public Service be concurred in and forwarded to Council.

Carried

David Grant submitted a communication with respect to the matter.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Title: Welcoming Winnipeg – Renaming Bonaventure Park to Tunngasugit Park

Critical Path: Executive Policy Committee – Council

AUTHORIZATION

Author	Department Head	CFO	CAO
C. Sveinson	S. Armbruster	T. Graham	S. Armbruster, Interim CAO

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On January 30, 2020, Council passed 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 histories and contributions in the stories remembered and commemorated. Welcoming Winnipeg will proactively utilize a lens of balance, inclusion, and Indigenous perspectives.

On March 12, 2024, the Executive Policy Committee (EPC) concurred in the recommendation of the Riel Community Committee and referred the renaming of “Bonaventure Park”, located at 70 Evelyne Reese Boulevard in the Bonavista Community, to “Tunngasugit Park” to the Welcoming Winnipeg process.

Tunngasugit is an Inuktitut word that means “welcome.” The urban Inuit population is often under-served, and this renaming would be an acknowledgement of their distinct identity and place in Winnipeg.

After careful consideration, the Welcoming Winnipeg Committee of Community Members (CCM) is recommending that Council support this request and that a territorial acknowledgement be added to the signage. The CCM has also recommended that supplementary signage or a new permanent marker be installed that speaks to the history of Inuit presence in Winnipeg, explains how to pronounce “tunngasugit” and includes its meaning. This should be developed in consultation with Tunngasugit Inuit Resource Centre and the CCM. Installation will be done in consultation with the Public Service.

Costs for this project are tentatively budgeted between $5,000 and $10,000 and will be allocated to the Indigenous Relation Division’s 2025 Journey of Reconciliation budget.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That Bonaventure Park (located at 70 Evelyne Reese Boulevard) be renamed to Tunngasugit Park.

2. That, in addition to the park renaming, supplementary signage or a new permanent marker be installed that speaks to the history of Inuit presence in Winnipeg, explains how to pronounce “tunngasugit”, and its meaning, in consultation with the Public Service.

3. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.

REASON FOR THE REPORT

On January 30, 2020, Council concurred in the recommendation of EPC that the recommendations of the community member-based committee be forwarded to EPC and then to Council for final decision.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS

If the recommendations of this report are concurred in, Bonaventure Park (located at 70 Evelyne Reese Boulevard) will be renamed to Tunngasugit Park. In addition, supplementary signage or a new permanent marker will be installed that speaks to the history of Inuit presence in Winnipeg, explains how to pronounce “tunngasugit”, and its meaning.

HISTORY/DISCUSSION

On January 30, 2020, Council passed 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 histories and contributions in the stories remembered and commemorated. Welcoming Winnipeg will proactively utilize a lens of balance, inclusion, and Indigenous perspectives.

As recommended in this policy, the inaugural Committee of Community Members (CCM) was established in August 2020; a key function of this committee is review requests to change historical or place names and provide a recommendation to the Executive Policy Committee (EPC) and Council for final decision.

On February 12, 2021, a formal Welcoming Winnipeg request form was unveiled to the public.

On March 12, 2024, the Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Riel Community Committee and referred the renaming of “Bonaventure Park”, located at 70 Evelyne Reese Boulevard in the Bonavista Community, to “Tunngasugit Park” to the Welcoming Winnipeg process.

<u>Considerations for this naming request</u>

The CCM reviewed the decision-making history and the information provided (summarized in Appendix A) at the committee’s November 18, 2024, meeting. Additionally, the public input that was collected over a two-week period was provided to the CCM to consider as part of their recommendation-making process. An overview of the feedback collected has been included in a Public Engagement Summary Report (Appendix B).

The CCM considered how this request meets the following definition of a “Welcoming Winnipeg” request, which was created through two phases of public engagement in 2019 and was refined by the CCM. A Welcoming Winnipeg request is one that:

- Ultimately achieves a balanced perspective/story;
- Honours Indigenous peoples as the original peoples of this land and the contemporary context in which Indigenous peoples continue to have relationship with this land;
- Promotes Indigenous reclamation of land, space and/or language;
- Offers an educational opportunity; or,
- Supports telling the complete history of Winnipeg.

Utilizing the Welcoming Winnipeg Request Assessment Tool (Appendix C), the CCM identified the following as key considerations:

1. Welcoming Winnipeg
    - It was determined that this request meets all aspects of the Welcoming Winnipeg definition.
    - It also supports Council’s February 16, 2022, adoption of the following motion:
        - That to be consistent with the United Nations General Assembly (Resolution A/RES/74/135) which proclaimed the period between 2022 and 2032 as the International Decade of Indigenous Languages, to draw global attention on the critical situation of many Indigenous languages and to mobilize stakeholders and resources for their preservation, revitalization and promotion, that the City of Winnipeg declare the decade as International Decade of Indigenous Languages.

2. Research and Rational
    - Tunngasugit is an Inuktitut word that means “welcome.” The urban Inuit population is often under-served, and this renaming would be an acknowledgement of their distinct identity and place in Winnipeg.
    - Renaming a park in Inuktitut acknowledges the Inuit population in Winnipeg, some of whom reside here permanently and others that come and go as necessary for a variety of reasons, such as: medical appointments, educational opportunities, and other services that are not accessible in their home communities.

3. Community Support
    - In response to the question: Do you think the Committee of Community Members should support this request, 24 percent of online survey respondents said “yes.” There were 21 respondents to the online survey.
    - Tunngasugit Inuit Resource Centre, a non-profit organization that helps Inuit transition and live in Winnipeg, has been consulted and are in support of the naming/renaming of this park.

4. Other considerations
    - It is important that the local community be informed about how to correctly pronounce the new name and its meaning, as well as the long history of Inuit in Winnipeg.

The Welcoming Winnipeg: Reconciling our History Policy aligns at a municipal level with Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Call to Action #43 and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), particularly Article 15:

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to the dignity and diversity of their cultures, traditions, histories and aspirations which shall be appropriately reflected in education and public information.
2. States shall take effective measures, in consultation and cooperation with the Indigenous peoples concerned, to combat prejudice and eliminate discrimination and to promote tolerance, understanding and good relations among Indigenous peoples and all other segments of society.

After careful consideration, the CCM is recommending that EPC and Council support this request and that a territorial acknowledgement be added to the signage. The CCM has also recommended that supplementary signage or a new permanent marker be installed that speaks to the history of Inuit presence in Winnipeg, explains how to pronounce “tunngasugit,” and its meaning. This should be developed in consultation with Tunngasugit Inuit Resource Centre and the CCM. Installation will be done in consultation with the Public Service.

Costs for this project are tentatively budgeted between $5,000 and $10,000 and will be allocated to the Indigenous Relation Division’s 2025 Journey of Reconciliation budget.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Financial Impact Statement

Date: February 13, 2025

Project Name:

Welcoming Winnipeg – Renaming Bonaventure Park to Tunngasugit Park

First Year of Program **2025**

	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Capital					
Capital Expenditures Required	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Less: Existing Budgeted Costs	-	-	-	-	-
Additional Capital Budget Required	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Funding Sources:					
Debt - Internal	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Debt - External	-	-	-	-	-
Grants (Enter Description Here)	-	-	-	-	-
Reserves, Equity, Surplus	-	-	-	-	-
Other - Enter Description Here	-	-	-	-	-
Total Funding	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Total Additional Capital Budget Required	$ -				
Total Additional Debt Required	$ -				
Current Expenditures/Revenues					
Direct Costs	$ 10,000	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Less: Incremental Revenue/Recovery	-	-	-	-	-
Net Cost/(Benefit)	$ 10,000	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Less: Existing Budget Amounts	10,000	-	-	-	-
Net Budget Adjustment Required	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -

Additional Comments:

Direct costs of $10,000 represents the estimated cost to rename Bonaventure Park as outlined in the report. Funding will come from the Indigenous Relations Division's Journey of Reconciliation budget.

Randy Bernard

Randy Bernard, CPA, CMA
Manager of Finance & Administration (Campus)
Corporate Finance Department

CONSULTATION

This Report has been prepared in consultation with:

- Parks and Open Space (Public Works Department)

OURWINNIPEG POLICY ALIGNMENT

Complete Communities Direction Strategy 2.0

1.2 Recognize and celebrate Indigenous heritage
Work collaboratively with Indigenous communities and stakeholders to recognize and celebrate Indigenous heritage values and spaces.

OurWinnipeg 2045

5.4 Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples
Prioritize municipal implementation responsibilities within the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Calls to Action and the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls' Calls for Justice. LG, ER, EP, HW, CB

5.8 Community Cohesion
Provide opportunities for creative, cultural, and artistic expression through municipal facility design, public place-making, and community-led initiatives to promote community relationship-building, identity and sense of belonging. HW, CB

5.9 Heritage Conservation
Provide opportunities for heritage education, truth-telling, and reconciliation, through the commemoration, conservation, and stewardship of both tangible and intangible heritage resources, including Indigenous land-based practices and artifacts, public names, places, and art, museum artifacts, and archived information. LG, HW

6.37 Heritage Conservation
Conserve cultural, natural, and heritage resources and districts, as defined in Complete Communities, and Indigenous land-based practices to celebrate sense of place through community history, architecture, civic identity and cultural perspectives. ER, HW

WINNIPEG CLIMATE ACTION PLAN ALIGNMENT

Consideration was given as to whether this report connects to the Winnipeg Climate Action Plan (CAP), and it was determined that the CAP is not applicable to this specific report.

WINNIPEG POVERTY REDUCTION STRATEGY ALIGNMENT

The information and recommendations presented in this report align with and advance the Winnipeg Poverty Reduction Strategy (2021 – 2031) as follows:

They embody the following Guiding Principles:

- We will Uphold Human Rights
- We will Honour Relationships and Reconciliation with Indigenous People

SUBMITTED BY

Department: Chief Administrative Office
Division: Indigenous Relations Division
Prepared by: D. Carriere
Date: February 13, 2025
File No: N/A

Attachments:

Appendix A: 2024-001 Request Summary

Appendix B: 2024-001 Public Engagement Summary Report

Appendix C: Welcoming Winnipeg – Request Assessment Tool