

Memorandum

Date: February 22, 2022

To: Members of Council

From: Sally Drummond, Heritage Resource Officer, Strategic Policy Planning, Planning Department

Subject: Supplementary Information Regarding Staff Report 2022-0042 – Recommendation to Rename Bolton Mill Park, Ward 5

Background

Further to discussion at the February 15, 2022, Planning and Development Committee meeting, Staff Report 2022-0042 Recommendation to Rename Bolton Mill Park, Ward 5 was deferred, directing staff to consult with Fire & Emergency Services, the Indigenous community and the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority.

Consultation

Caledon Fire & Emergency Services

Caledon Fire & Emergency Services is of the opinion that re-naming of Bolton Mill Park as 'George Bolton Park' would not be in the best interest of any emergency service.

Caledon Fire & Emergency Services staff reviewed the proposed park name in the same manner as a street name, using the regional street naming criteria wherein consideration is given to duplication of names, pronunciation or complex wording, spelling and similar sounding words.

Staff concluded that the name 'George Bolton Park' would be a direct duplication of the existing street name 'George Bolton Parkway', and as a result, may cause confusion and possibly a delayed response in emergency situations where 911 calls would need to first confirm if the call was to the street or to the park.

Indigenous Community

Staff contacted the representative of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation (MCFN) who has been actively involved with the Downtown Bolton Revitalization Task Force (Task Force). It should be noted that the proposed re-naming of Bolton Mill Park is an initiative of the Bolton Bicentennial Committee and has not been discussed by the Task Force.

The Humber River has long been home to Indigenous peoples and served as an important trade and transportation route known as the Carrying Place Trail. MCFN has encouraged the Task Force, and by extension the Town, to be mindful of the broader geographical and historical significance of the river valley and consider opportunities for advancing reconciliation with Indigenous peoples through its various initiatives in Bolton. The naming of public assets is recognized as one such opportunity.

MCFN's representatives were not consulted initially, and have since expressed interest in being involved in any renaming of Bolton Mill Park together with their Culture and Design Advisory Committee.

Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA)

The TRCA has no concerns with the proposed park name from a property perspective, as any associated covenants and indemnities would be covered under the existing management agreement with the Town.

TRCA staff noted that the Humber River is designated as a Canadian Heritage River and requested that opportunities to integrate messaging around this designation be considered by the Town in new park signage or other river related initiatives.

Community Services Department

Additional consultation occurred with staff in Community Services regarding its current review of the Town's Facility Naming Policy. Community Services staff will be bringing forward a proposed Facility and Park Assets Naming Policy and Facility and Park Assets Naming Procedure at the March 22, 2022, General Committee meeting for Councils consideration.

Recommendation

As a result, Members of Council have a couple of options regarding the deferred matter (Staff Report 2022-0042 – Recommendation to Rename Bolton Mill Park, Ward 5).

Option 1 – Council to make a decision on the deferred matter based on the information outlined in this memo. Decision to either maintain the existing name as Bolton Mill Park, or to support the re-naming to George Bolton Park.

Option 2 – Council to refer the report back to staff to consider the new information outlined in this memo and present this information to the Heritage Caledon Committee for further discussion regarding the re-naming request. Based on the discussion with the Heritage Caledon Committee an update will be provided to Council at a future meeting.