

# Memorandum

Meeting: Council Meeting

Date: November 26, 2024

To: Members of Council

From: Michael Hoy, Manager, Parks and Natural Heritage

Subject: Facility and Park Naming Policy Review

## Background

The Town's Facility and Parking Naming policy was adopted by Council on May 23, 2023, which included updates to the criteria for naming of Parks, Outdoor Facilities and Indoor Facilities. In 2023, staff developed and expanded the Memorial Bench, Memorial Tree, and Sports Hall of Fame programs to provide suitable platforms for memorialization, recognition of individuals, and dedication of park amenities such as trees and benches.

At the July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024 General Committee meeting a delegation on a "Petition to Rename Caledon East Ball Park to Karen Hamilton Ball Park" was heard by Council. The delegation and petition asked Council to rename the "old" Lions ball diamond in Caledon East Park to the "Karen Hamilton Memorial Ball Diamond".

## Facility and Park Naming Policy

As directed by General Committee on July 9<sup>th</sup>, staff have reviewed the Facility and Park Naming Policy and maintain its exclusion of naming facilities and parks after individuals is still valid. The reasons to avoid naming facilities and parks after individuals include:

- Potential for reputational harm to the Town;
- Staff resources to develop and operate a thorough and transparent vetting and evaluation process; and
- Implications to facility and park redevelopment opportunities.

## Potential Criteria and Process for Naming Facilities and Parks after Individuals

If Council wishes to proceed with naming facilities and parks after individuals, a set of criteria should be developed to ensure that Town assets are named for individuals who have demonstrated significant contributions to the Town. The following list was generated through a review of other municipal naming protocols:

- Municipal assets may be named in honour of individuals with extra-ordinary achievement and/or significant contributions to the municipality, five years posthumously, prioritizing those with strong local ties.
- Names should portray a strong positive image and have historical, cultural, Indigenous or social significance or contributions to the community, the Township, the Province of Ontario or Canada.
- Risked their life for the safety of others.

- Volunteered extensively in community services, humanitarian causes, or social justice.
- Outstanding in the fields of art, culture, community engagement, economics, education, literature, politics, military, religion, science, social development, and/or athletics.
- Made a significant contribution to the municipality or to a group or association within the community, which has improved the quality of life for residents.
- Contributed to the conveyance of lands or buildings and/or its subsequent development or renovation (beyond legislative requirements).
- Demonstrated excellence, courage, or exceptional service to the citizens of the municipality, to the Province of Ontario, to Canada, or to the world.
- Put themselves in harm's way - through Military service, Fire service, or Police service.
- Worked to foster inclusion, equality and reduce discrimination.
- Promoted the municipality to the world.
- Demonstrated themselves to be a recognized national or international figure, commonly acknowledged to have high standing and repute.

In addition, if Council intends to name facilities and/or parks after individuals it should consider establishing a thorough submission and evaluation process that involves a citizen-led advisory committee to recommend individual names to Council. Applications for naming after an individual should include an in-depth biography of the individual, community testimonials, the facility or park asset to be named, and demonstrated broad community support for naming the facility or park asset.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

None.