



Date: August 8, 2003

TO: Board Members - Parks and Recreation
FROM: General Manager - Parks and Recreation
SUBJECT: DOWNTOWN SOUTH PARK NAMING

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Board consider the following names for the Downtown South Park Site:

- **Richards Park**
- **Yaletown Park**
- **Emery Barnes Park**

POLICY

Guidelines For Naming Parks, Trails, Roads Or Other Features Coming Under the Park Board's Jurisdiction

1. In the first instance, the park, trail, road or other feature being named generally should relate to a "constant" feature either nearby or within that park. This could relate to a bordering street name or a natural or man-made feature. This does not preclude the consideration of a name already in "common" use for the park. Criteria such as the above gives ease of identification with relation to the park.
2. When no such "constant" feature is present or it is desired to commemorate an historical event or person important to the Park Board, City of Vancouver, or a person having made a substantial donation to the Park Board, a park may be named for that person.
3. When deemed appropriate, the Park Board will submit a short list of suggested names to concerned community groups for their input regarding the selection of a name.

BACKGROUND

Phase One of the Downtown South park site, bounded by Davie, Richards, Helmcken and Seymour Streets, is scheduled to officially open on September 27, 2003. Cost to purchase the site for park purposes was \$16 million and was primarily funded through an area specific development cost levy. Phase One is just under 1 acre in area and will cost \$1.4 million to develop. Park elements will include many ornamental trees, flower beds, a lovely water feature and benches. A large central lawn will serve as a community focal point with many smaller garden room spaces located off the main axis. The park has been designed with safety in mind, avoiding low canopy tree species and shrubs which block site lines.

A name gathering process for the park was conducted within the community during June with a report to the Board outlining the results being received for information at the July 7, 2003 meeting. (*See Appendix I*)

DISCUSSION

Staff are recommending three names for the Board's consideration, each falling within Park Board Guidelines for Naming Parks. Justification for the selected names is cited.

Richards Park

Named for one of the bounding streets, this name was suggested within the name gathering process and falls within the Guidelines for Naming Parks under the "constant feature" section. The street was named for Albert Norton Richards, Lt. Governor of British Columbia from 1876-1881.

Yaletown Park

Yaletown is the closest neighbourhood to the new Downtown South location and was frequently suggested in the name gathering process. It falls within the Guidelines for Naming Parks under both the "historic" and "constant feature" section. When Vancouver became the new terminus for the Canadian Pacific Railway in 1888, the City of Vancouver offered the CPR tax free use of land on the north shore of False Creek if they moved their repair/maintenance staff and facilities from the town of Yale located on the Fraser River. CPR agreed and the new location was quickly nick-named "Yaletown". The Yale Hotel in the area also dates from this era.

Emery Barnes Park

Community activist and a long-time member of the British Columbia Legislature, Emery Barnes was put forward in the name gathering process and further supported by a delegation to the Board. This submission falls within the Guidelines for Naming Parks under the “person important to the City of Vancouver” section. Emery Barnes was elected as one of the first two Black members to the Legislative Assembly in 1972, in the riding of Vancouver Centre and subsequently re-elected four times and also served as Deputy Speaker and then, Speaker of the BC Legislature. Barnes was an outstanding athlete excelling particularly in high jump, track and field and football. His life was dedicated to helping the disadvantaged. He was a strong advocate for worldwide human rights and raised the profile of Black people in BC.

SUMMARY

The three names recommended for the Downtown South parksite all fall within the Park Board’s Guidelines for Naming Parks.

Prepared by:
Communications /Corporate Services
Vancouver Board of Parks & Recreation
Vancouver, BC

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