



February 17, 2005

TO: Board Members - Parks and Recreation

FROM: General Manager - Parks and Recreation

SUBJECT: Park Naming Report

RECOMMENDATION

- A. *THAT the Board approve naming the park site at Redbud and Vine Streets the Rosemary Brown Park.***
- B. *THAT the Board approve a park naming ceremony on International Women's Day to honour and recognize Rosemary Brown's dedication to the citizens of Vancouver and her importance as a role model for women.***

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.

At the Park Board meeting of December 13, 2004 the Board unanimously passed the following motion:

WHEREAS International Women's Day is celebrated annually on March 8 since 1909 to recognize women as makers of history, and is an occasion marked by women's groups around the world, commemorated at the United Nations, and designated by many countries as a national holiday; and

WHEREAS Rosemary Brown who served as MLA from 1972 to 1986 in Vancouver and Burnaby, and was the first black woman elected to a Canadian Legislature and a passionate defender of human rights and an inspiration to British Columbians; and

WHEREAS Rosemary Brown was a regular user of her local parks and public recreation facilities, meeting other park patrons and using these encounters to enrich her knowledge of the community she served, swimming in Park Board pools and partaking in numerous exercise programs, she advocated to her community the importance that public park and recreation facilities play in enhancing the quality of life in Vancouver;

THEREFORE be it resolved that the Vancouver Park Board request staff to report back on naming a park, to coincide with International Women's Day, in Rosemary Brown's former riding of Vancouver Burrard to honour and recognize her dedication to women and people of colour who were inspired by her role as an activist, educator and role model.

DISCUSSION

Further to the Park Board's direction, staff reviewed the unnamed park sites in and near the late Rosemary Brown's former Provincial riding known as Vancouver Burrard. A short list of appropriate parks was submitted to the Planning & Environment Committee for their consideration in January 2005. The Committee selected the recently developed park bounded by Redbud and Vine Streets (just west of 12th Avenue and Arbutus Street). The Committee also asked staff to seek community feedback and comment on naming this site the Rosemary Brown Park.

The park is a 0.12 hectare greenspace with rose gardens, flower beds, shrubs, trees and benches. The site has an interesting history as it was once the location of the Brewmaster's house of one of Vancouver's first beer companies. Elements and equipment from the Vancouver/Carling breweries are now incorporated into the park's landscape design in recognition of the site's history.

Feedback regarding the proposed naming was sought in a variety of ways:

- The Kitsilano Community Centre Association Board was contacted in late December and they had no objections to the park being named for Rosemary Brown.
- A news release was issued to local media soliciting feedback.
- A feedback process was set up at the Park Board web site for residents to provide input.
- A sign was erected at the proposed site asking for community comment.

In total, 42 responses were received by email and through the Park Board comment line at the website. While there was one response indicating the preference to name a park with historical significance, there were 41 responses in favour of naming the park for the late Rosemary Brown.

SUMMARY

Community feedback indicates strong support for naming the park at Redbud and Vine Streets for the late Rosemary Brown. In addition, the suggested name meets the park naming criteria under Guidelines 2 and 3.

Prepared by:

Corporate Services
Board of Parks & Recreation
Vancouver, BC