

Date: March 19, 2008



**TO: Board Members – Vancouver Park Board**  
**FROM: General Manager – Parks and Recreation**  
**SUBJECT: Commemorative Naming - Wallace Field**

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## RECOMMENDATION

*THAT the Board approve the commemorative naming of the playing field in Jericho Park after RCAF pilots Blake, Richard, Philip and David Wallace.*

## POLICY

Commemorative Naming Policy for Park Board Community Facilities.

## BACKGROUND

In April 2007, the Park Board approved a comprehensive new policy and process to direct the evaluation of naming proposals for its community facilities. This Commemorative Naming Policy was developed to assist community members in bringing naming suggestions forward to the Board. It provides a clear set of guidelines and a decision making framework for Park Commissioners and staff to consider naming requests. The Commemorative Naming Policy addresses requests for naming facilities in honour of outstanding achievement, distinctive service or significant community contribution generally without financial consideration. A companion policy, the Naming Rights Policy, was approved at the same time and addresses granting of naming rights for property or portions of property in exchange for financial consideration.

## DISCUSSION

Note, this report relates to a cairn and memorial plaque which had been installed in Jericho Park in 1944. The plaque was installed more than 60 years ago and an applicant (B.C. Veterans Commemorative Association, the Air Crew Association - Vancouver Branch, the Air Force Officers Association and 801 (Vancouver) Wing, Air Force Association of Canada) is putting forward a proposal to replace the cairn by a 3-4 ft pedestal stand and to reinstall the plaque on the pedestal stand since the cairn was demolished and the plaque had been lost when the military vacated the property.

The following outlines key requirements of the Commemorative Naming Policy that the proposal to name the playing field at Jericho Park needs to meet.

*For all Commemorative Naming requests, the Applicant shall submit a written proposal including information demonstrating the proposed name is of significance to the community and letter of support for the naming. A direct relationship should exist between the Naming Entity and the Applicant.*

In 2007 and 2008, the Park Board received correspondence and background information from Jerold Vernon, on behalf of the Air Force Officers' Association, and Bryan Quinlan, Chair of the Jericho Beach Project Committee (a project committee developed by the four applicants), about replacing the cairn and reinstalling the memorial plaque that had gone missing from Jericho Park many years before. The plaque, and its associated cairn, was originally installed in 1944 in honour of the four sons of Clarence Wallace, a prominent Vancouver shipbuilder. Blake, Philip, Richard and David, the 'fighting Wallaces', all served in the Royal Canadian Air Force.

Back in 1969, the Federal Government transferred ownership of the property north of Fourth Avenue (Jericho Hill) to the City of Vancouver.

The Applicant has proposed that a 3-4 ft. pedestal stand be made to reinstall the plaque. The technical information of this restoration project has been reviewed and supported by Planning and Operations staff. The cost of this restoration project will be borne by the Applicant as outlined by the Commemorative Naming Policy.

*Commemorative Naming Rights may be granted in recognition of individuals who have made a significant contribution to the community through outstanding achievement. The contributions must be well documented and broadly acknowledged.*

Jericho Air Station's big playing field was officially dedicated to the four sons of Clarence Wallace on September 1944. At the ceremonies, a stone cairn was unveiled, 'in appreciation of the keen interest which Clarence Wallace has always taken in activities of the RCAF here' and in recognition of the contribution of the Wallace sons to the war. The bronze plaque was inscribed with the names of the four men: Flt Lieut. Blake Wallace, FO Philip Wallace and his twin PO Richard Wallace, and Sgt. David Wallace. At the time, Blake was reported missing and presumed dead, Richard was reported a prisoner of war, Philip was reported missing in action (but later found alive), and David was an instructor at Lethbridge. In attendance on the day were the highest ranking officers of Western Air Command and more than 400 RCAF personnel and their families and friends. Following the dedication, a sports day program was held on the field. The events were widely reported in the Vancouver media.

*Commemorative naming requests for Park Board facilities will be considered by an ad hoc Commemorative Naming Committee appointed by the General Manager; this Committee will publish a notice of intent to consider the naming in a newspaper of general circulation.*

The proposal to restore the memorial plaque at Jericho Park playing field was considered and endorsed by the Park Board Committee at its meeting of February 18, 2008. An advertisement outlining the Board's intention to approve the commemorative naming of this community facility ran in the Courier newspaper on February 27, 2008.

*If a proposal is approved by the Park Board, an Approval Agreement (outlining the terms and conditions of approval in granting Commemorative Naming Rights to a Naming Entity) will be executed between the Park Board and the Naming Entity to the satisfaction of the General Manager and the City's Director of Legal Services.*

Staff has reviewed this proposal with Legal Services and we have been advised that a Commemorative Naming Rights Agreement is not required in this case.

## **SUMMARY**

The proposal to reinstall the plaque in Jericho Park after RCAF pilots Blake, Richard, Philip and David Wallace meets the guidelines of the Commemorative Naming Policy, and would be an appropriate way to recognize the original dedication of the field in 1944 and the contributions to the war effort by this Vancouver family.

Prepared by:

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