



September 13, 2000

**TO: Board Members - Parks and Recreation**  
**FROM: General Manager - Parks and Recreation**  
**SUBJECT: PARK NAMING REPORT**

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## RECOMMENDATION

**THAT the Board name the park site at Alexander Street and the Main Street Overpass "Wendy Poole Park."**

## POLICY

**The Park Board's *Guidelines for Naming Parks* is attached as Appendix I.**

## BACKGROUND

In the first instance for naming parks, the Guidelines suggest using bounding streets for ease of navigation. Since Alexander Park is so similar to Alexandra Park, located at Bidwell and Beach, it is appropriate to pursue another naming approach in this case.

This small space of .43 hectares (just over 1 acre) is located in Gastown north of the railroad tracks on a steeply sloping "bench" land. It is owned by the Vancouver Port Authority but is leased to the City for a 49-year term that commenced on September 1st, 1986. Plans for redevelopment of the area were approved by the Park Board in September 1999 and are progressing with the Engineering Department's construction of a new retaining wall which is critical to further development of the site. Plans for landscaping include grassy areas, irrigation, trees, benches and pathways plus bright lighting. The costs for the landscape improvements are anticipated to be \$40,000.

## DISCUSSION

In February 2000 the Park Board received a letter from the Crab- Water for Life Society requesting that the Alexander Street park site be formally named after Wendy Poole. Ms. Poole was a young First Nations woman from northern British Columbia who was one of two dozen women whose murders in the Downtown Eastside have remained unsolved. Her body was discovered in a dumpster a block away from the park area in 1989. Mr. Larson of the CRAB Society feels that she is representative of a terrible malaise in the area and that the naming will help bring to light the plight of these forgotten women.

In early March staff, working through the Vancouver East District Office and the Strathcona, Carnegie and Ray Cam Community Centres, initiated a public process with respect to the naming of the site. This was accomplished through posters and newsletters in the area. As a result of this and a further initiative in July involving a canvassing by fax of organizations within the park's neighbourhood, we received nine formal letters of support for the name Wendy Poole and a phone call from the Gastown Police detachment who also are in favour of that name. The Police Officer had also been in touch with the family of Wendy Poole who reside in a small village in Northern BC who gave consent to the naming if it was favourably decided upon by the Park Board.

Other names were suggested as attached (included in Appendix 2 along with an original request letter) but none with the same level of support as that for Wendy Poole.

The Crab - Water for Life Society has pledged to sponsor an inscribed boulder for the park whose final wording would be approved by Park Board staff if the park is named for Wendy Poole.

## **SUMMARY**

Your consideration of naming the park site at Alexander and the Main Street Overpass has been initiated by representatives of the local community and is within the established guidelines for the naming of parks, trails, roads or other features.

Prepared by:

Public Affairs  
Board of Parks & Recreation  
Vancouver, BC  
TC  
Attachments

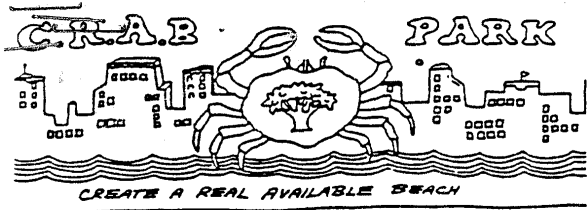
# Appendix 1

October 4, 1990

## 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.

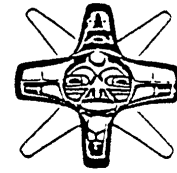
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PH: 321-9365.

PO DON LARSON, #34-185 E. HASTINGS, VANCOUVER, BC. V6A-1N5

Appendix 2  
WHERE THERE IS NO WATER, THERE IS NO LIFE



**WATER FOR LIFE**

to Terri Clark,  
Vancouver parks board,

Febr. 2/2,000

(FAX)-  
257-8427

re: Wendy Poole Park -  
i.e. Naming Mini Park at Alexander  
+ Main St.

CRAB-Water for Life Society requests that  
the minipark at Alexander and Main St. -  
be named the "Wendy Poole" park.

Wendy Poole was a Native aboriginal woman  
from N.W.-B.C. She was found murdered  
one block from the minipark site.

She is one of dozens of unsolved murders  
of Native Aboriginal Women in the Downtown  
Eastside.

We would appreciate if you would forward  
our request to the General manager, as soon  
as possible.

Truly,

Don Larson

Appendix 2

# Downtown Eastside Residents Association

working to end homelessness

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August 18, 2000

To Terri Clark,  
Manager, Public Affairs  
Vancouver Parks Board:

Dear Ms. Clark:

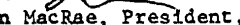
Your fax correspondence regarding the naming of a new park at Alexander and Main was presented to our Board for consideration on August 16.

Two suggestions were forthcoming and I am submitting them both as we believe they each have considerable merit.

Bea Fernyehough: was a dedicated community activist who worked tirelessly well into her 80's for social justice and human rights. She was a past vice-president of DERA, had an extensive background in the labour movement locally and internationally, volunteered enthusiastically with the Four Sisters Co-op, where she spent her final years, and was very active with the Vancouver Status of Women organization.

Harry Rankin Q.C.: Is not only a Vancouver "institution" for his many years of public service as a city councillor, but also, as a trial lawyer, has for many years represented low-income and other disadvantaged people for little or no recompense; people who would otherwise be denied access to the courts. His offices at 157 Powell, immediately adjacent to the proposed park have been located at this site for many years. His unwavering commitment to social justice and poverty issues spans 50 years or more and he remains active and vigorous every day in these much valued endeavours.

Thank you for your attention:

  
Ian MacRae, President,  
Downtown Eastside Residents' Association.

#1 - 425 Carrall Street, Vancouver, B.C. V6B 6E3 Tel: 682-0931 Fax 669-5499

地址: 卑斯省溫哥華市 卡勞街425號地下一室 電話: (604)682-0931 · 傳真: (604)669-5499

Aggendum 2

Vancouver Parks Board  
2099 Beach Ave.  
Vancouver BC V6G 1Z4

Sept 12/2000

Att: Terri Clark  
Public Relation Mgr.

Dear Ms. Clark:            Re: Alexander St and Main St Overpass Park

I understand that the Parks Board is soliciting for appropriate names for our small green space at the above stated location.

I would like to suggest the name HERITAGE PARK.


This particular area has seen a wide aspect of diversity pass through its streets. To name a few, Chinese and Japanese railway and fishplant workers as well as a multitude of seafaring individuals using this gateway into Chinatown, Japantown, Gastown and Vancouver downtown.

To give a name such as HERITAGE PARK provides a proper connection for our current populace to relate to this rich heritage part of our city.

To name this park for an individual would be a disservice to the many people who have contributed much to the cultural fabric of our community.

I hope you take the name HERITAGE PARK into consideration. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Jo Mulder  
502- 27 Alexander St.  
Vancouver BC V6A 1B2  
683-2378

cc: Jim Lowden, Director, Stanley District

