

Date: December 14, 2006



TO: Board Members – Vancouver Park Board
FROM: General Manager – Parks and Recreation
SUBJECT: Park Naming - Selkirk Street & 72nd Avenue Park Site

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Board approve one of the following names for the park site at West 72nd, Selkirk & Osler Streets:

- *Selkirk Park or*
- *Gyoson 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

This new park is 0.40 hectares or just under an acre and is located at West 72nd Avenue and bounded by Selkirk and Osler Streets. It was recently completed at a cost of \$465,000. As part of the public process, the residents of the area were given the opportunity to assist with the design of the park at an Open House held June 1, 2005. This meeting was attended by 48 residents, and 33 questionnaires were completed. Park Board staff used this information to develop two conceptual plans that were presented at a subsequent Open House on August 11, 2005, which was attended by 32 residents. The concept plan was approved by the Park Board at its meeting September 19, 2005.

Park features include: lawn, trees, shrubs and flowers, benches, picnic tables, a drinking fountain, paths, entry features and a children's playground. The inclusion of active sports facilities was not supported and the size of the park also limits the opportunity for sports facilities. Generally, the residents preferred a park with an area for children to play and a quieter area for relaxing and for seniors. The configuration of the park parcels lends itself to this idea. The park concept plan is attached as Appendix 1.

DISCUSSION

As noted in the Guidelines, there are two general categories for park names: geographic (or constant feature) and commemorative. Two names are proposed, which fall within these guidelines.

(1) Selkirk Park

Historically the Park Board prefers to name parks by bounding streets for ease of identification and way finding, as outlined in its policy. Selkirk Street is still available for use as a park name and can be recommended as falling within the constant feature (or geography) guideline.

(2) Gyoson Park

During the design phase, some members of the community who attended the sessions suggested that the name of the park reflects the historical significance of the neighbourhood. While there are a number of historical options which could be explored, the neighbourhood was home to a significant community of Japanese fishermen prior to 1942. Staff researched several names that might convey the historical reference to the Japanese fishing village that was once located near the area. The Japanese word *Gyoson* means "fishing village".

It should be noted that the Board's Planning Committee received a proposal to name the park site after Vancouver author Joy Kogawa. Subsequent to this suggestion, the Land Conservancy was successful in purchasing the house and grounds where Ms. Kogawa was raised creating an appropriate recognition for this area celebrity.

SUMMARY

Naming the park after a bounding street, such as **Selkirk** provides the community with a familiar home and an ease of way finding. Alternatively, by choosing a name such as ***Gyoson Park***, the community will be able to celebrate an important part of its social history

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