

Date: March 19, 2008



TO: Board Members – Vancouver Park Board
FROM: General Manager – Parks and Recreation
SUBJECT: Commemorative Naming – Oak Park Tennis Courts

RECOMMENDATIONS

THAT the Board approve the commemorative naming of two tennis courts in Oak Park after Vancouver tennis player Lorne Main.

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

The following outlines key requirements of the Commemorative Naming Policy that the proposal to name the Oak Park tennis courts 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 2006 and 2007, the Park Board received background and biographical information as well as media articles from the Hon. Garde Gardom (the Applicant) about the tennis achievements of Vancouver native Lorne Main, and a proposal to recognize his long time friend and colleague by naming tennis courts in Oak Park after him. Mayor Sam Sullivan has referred the Applicant's request to the Park Board with his support in principle.

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.

Vancouver born Lorne Main has been a successful competitor on the local, national and international tennis scene for nearly 70 years. He began playing tennis in 1939 at age nine on the public courts in Oak Park (63rd Avenue and Oak Street), adjacent to his home. He attended neighborhood elementary and high schools and played out of the Jericho Tennis Club.

A three time Canadian Junior Champion and one time US Junior Champion, he ranked in Canada's top five players for ten years. He is known as one of the first players to effectively use two hands for a backhand shot. Mr. Main was a Canadian Davis Cup team member for seven years (serving as captain for five), competed at Wimbledon, and has won over 30 Canadian national singles and double championships.

As a senior, he has held nine world singles titles; ten world doubles titles and ten Canadian team championships in the 45 to 75 years category. Mr. Main still plays competitively all over the world, having won the Italian Open Singles and the European Open last summer in the 75 and over age bracket.

Mr. Main is considered one of the best tennis players Canada has produced and is an ambassador of the sport for British Columbia and Canada. In acknowledgement of his numerous successes, he was inducted into the B.C. Sports Hall of Fame in 1975 and Tennis Canada Hall of Fame in 1991.

Written permission and agreement must be obtained from the individual who is being commemorated prior to consideration.

Mr. Main has given written permission to the proposed commemorative naming, stating that it would be an honour to have the tennis courts named after him.

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 name the Oak Park tennis courts after Lorne Main was reviewed and endorsed by the Park Board Committee at its meeting of February 18, 2008 and an

advertisement outlining the Board's intention to approve the commemorative naming of this community facility was posted 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.

SUMMARY

The proposal to name two tennis courts in Oak Park after acclaimed Vancouver tennis player Lorne Main meets the guidelines of the Commemorative Naming Policy, and would be an appropriate way to acknowledge Mr. Main's many athletic successes and his significant contribution to the sport of tennis in Vancouver and B.C.

Prepared by:

Corporate Services
Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation
Vancouver, BC