



July 7, 2016

TO: Park Board Chair and Commissioners
FROM: General Manager - Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation
SUBJECT: Park Naming Committee Appointments

RECOMMENDATION

- A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board appoint the following Park Naming Committee standing members, each serving a 2-year term from date of appointment:
- Chantelle Chan
 - John Atkin
 - Vancouver Public Spaces Network (representative varies by park site)
- B. THAT the Vancouver Park Board appoint the following Park Naming Committee ad hoc members for the naming of Empire Fields and Plateau Park, each serving for the local park naming only:
- Anne Thompson
 - Patricia Barnes
 - Harry Quon
- C. THAT the Vancouver Park Board appoint the following Park Naming Committee ad hoc members for the naming of the Trillium park site, each serving for the local park naming only:
- Anne Thompson
 - Elana Zysblat
 - Sharon Kallis

POLICY

The Park Board has jurisdiction over Vancouver Parks, including the naming of parks as guided by the Park Naming Process adopted in 2007.

BACKGROUND

Historically, names for most new parks came forward from staff through the park development process, or indirectly from the community by way of open houses. On occasion, names were solicited by the Park Board from residents.

In 2007, the Park Board approved a new Park Naming Process for naming parks that is more consistent and ensures community input in the development of park names. The process included Terms of Reference for a Park Naming Committee as well as Naming Guidelines. As

per these guidelines, evaluation of the proposed park names will consider historical, cultural, and geographic elements:

Geographic:

The name of a park, trail, road or other feature should relate to a constant feature either nearby or within that park. For example, a well-known street bordering the park, a natural or man-made feature, or a name already in common use for the park. The geographic criteria should make the location of the park easy to identify.

Commemorative:

When no constant geographic features exist or if there is an opportunity to commemorate a historical event or person important to the Park Board or the City, or someone who has made a substantial contribution to the Park Board, a park may be named for that person. Names of individuals should only be used posthumously, except where a living person has a lifetime achievement consistent with the Park Board's mandate.

The 2007 Park Naming Process policy was first implemented in 2008 to name Ebisu Park and Oak Meadows Park. Since then, no other parks have been officially named. On March 23 and September 14, 2015 respectively, the Park Board passed motions to officially name the Trillium park site and Empire Fields/Plateau Park, as per the Park Board policy.

DISCUSSION

The Park Naming policy outlines the process for establishing the Naming Committee and how the public will be engaged in the naming process. The Park Naming Committee includes two types of members: 1) Standing Members who have a 2-year term and; 2) Ad hoc members who are retained for a specific park naming process (approximately six-month term).

The policy outlines the make-up of the Committee as follows:

The Park Naming Committee will consist of five volunteers:

- Three (3) standing members will provide knowledge, expertise, and representation from the following interests:
 - a. Environmental/naturalist realm
 - b. Commemorative/historical realm
 - c. Youth realm
- Two (2) ad hoc members to provide community specific representation
 - a. Local community groups closest to the park
 - b. Neighborhood group, such as a Business Improvement Association

In addition to the policy recommendations outlined above, Park Board staff will engage the First Nations in all park naming processes. Staff will bring forward any information, requests or suggestions provided by the First Nations to the Committee. As well, an ad hoc member representing field sports will be included for park sites with sport field facilities.

As per the policy, the Committee is established through an invitation to various interest groups, organizations, and individuals and the Board will appoint members to the committee.

Organizations solicited for membership on the Park Naming Committee include:

- Vancouver Natural History Society
- Evergreen
- Vancouver Public Spaces Network
- The Vancouver Historical Society
- Heritage Vancouver
- Vancouver historian or historical author
- Environmental Youth Alliance (EYA)
- Frog Hollow Youth Advisory Council
- Hastings BIA
- Kiwassa Neighbourhood House
- Hastings CC Association
- Strathcona Residents Association
- Earthland Gleaners Society
- Vancouver Field Sports Federation
- Vancouver Sport Network

Liaisons to the Park Naming Committee include a Park Board staff member to act as Committee Co-Chair and a staff member to provide support and act as a resource to the Committee.

Once appointed, the Park Naming Committee, with the assistance of staff, will engage the public to solicit name suggestions. The Naming Committee will shortlist the suggestions received and make a recommendation to the Manager of Park Research and Planning for review and evaluation. Staff will then make a recommendation to the Park Board for final approval.

Recommended Committee Members

Invitations seeking candidates interested in joining the Park Naming Committee were extended to the community groups listed above. Response was positive for representation in most areas. There were no candidates put forward to fill the “youth realm” standing position, however the addition of an ad hoc member for field sports will help ensure youth interests are represented for these park sites.

To supplement the standing committee membership, staff recommend including a representative from the Vancouver Public Spaces Network, which is a grassroots collective that engages in advocacy, outreach, and education on public spaces.

Based on their experience and ability to provide overall cultural and historical expertise, or on their community-specific familiarity of the area, staff recommend the following appointments to the Park Naming Committee:

Standing Members (2-year term):

- Chantelle Chan (environmentalist/naturalist)
- John Atkin (noted historian and author)
- Vancouver Public Spaces Network (representative varies by park site)

Ad Hoc Members for Empire Fields/Plateau Park and Trillium (to serve for the local park naming only):

- Anne Thompson (field sports)
- Patricia Barnes (Hastings)
- Harry Quon (Hastings)
- Elana Zysblat (Strathcona)
- Sharon Kallis (Strathcona)

Chantelle Chan (standing member - environmentalist/naturalist)

Chantelle Chan is the Project Coordinator for Uncover Your Creeks, a Greenspace Program of Evergreen BC. She works with the Park Board to facilitate environmental restoration activities in public parks that advance the City's goals and engage community volunteers in hands-on stewardship activities. Chantelle has worked in and visited national, provincial, and municipal parks across Canada, and is fascinated by how past and current communities engage with, recreate in and value parks.

John Atkin (standing member - noted historian and author)

John Atkin is a civic historian and author who organizes and conduct tours for groups and individuals. John has explored Vancouver like few others have and offers an interesting and offbeat insight to the city's architecture, history, and neighbourhoods. He has created, and conducts, unique and popular walking tours throughout the City of Vancouver. John brings an insight of urban planning and development, a love of architecture, and the fascination of the curious to all his tours.

Vancouver Public Spaces Network (standing member - representative will vary by park site)

The Vancouver Public Space Network is a grassroots collective that engages in advocacy, outreach, and education on public space issues in and around Vancouver to preserve and celebrate public space as an essential part of a vibrant, inclusive city.

Anne Thompson (ad hoc member - field sports)

Anne Thompson is an experienced leader and advocate for field sports in Vancouver. She is currently a member of the Executive Committee, and Chair of the Facilities Committee for the Vancouver Sports Network. Anne is also the Vice President of the Vancouver Field Sport Federation, past President of the Vancouver Hawks Field Hockey Club and previous volunteer with the Dunbar Soccer Association. Anne has been working to improve sport facilities across Vancouver for over 15 years, volunteering directly with youth and advising on sport-related policy, programming, facility, and event priorities. She brings her knowledge and passion for sport to Vancouver's expanding parks system.

Patricia Barnes (ad hoc member - Hastings community)

Patricia Barnes has been the executive director of the Hastings North Business Improvement Association for 15 years. During that time she has been very active in the community and participated in many city processes, including the Hastings Park Planning process, the Hastings Sunrise Community Planning Process, and the Grandview-Woodland Planning Process. She is also on the Community Advisory Committee for Hastings Park and the PNE. She partners with many of the local community organizations and has a great deal of experience and insight into this area.

Harry Quon (ad hoc member - Hastings community)

Harry Quon retired in May 2010 after 28 1/2 years with Telus. He participated in volunteer work and workshop programs at Hastings Community Centre and built many strong relationships. Two years ago he joined the Hastings Community Association. He is involved in many committees, including Fitness, Programs, and Community Affairs Committee involving HNCPG (Hastings North Community Partners Group). He has been a resident of the Hastings Sunrise area for 25 years and has a passion for community involvement.

Elana Zysblat (ad hoc member - Strathcona community)

Elana Zysblat is an accomplished heritage consultant and educational program developer with expertise and experience in heritage conservation, cultural tourism, and community engagement. She has been a resident of Strathcona since 2002. Elana has been a member of the Strathcona Residents Association since 2004 and has held the position of Chair and Executive Council member. Her professional practice includes the preparation of Statements of Significance and Heritage Conservation Plans. Elana also sits on Heritage BC's Program Committee and is a Director of the Friends of the Vancouver Archives.

Sharon Kallis (ad hoc member - Strathcona community)

Sharon Kallis is a founding member of EarthHand Gleaners Society - an arts-based organization that fosters ecological diversity and community. She co-manages Trillium North Park with Vancouver Park Board. For the last two years, Sharon has also partnered with a private daycare running an outdoor program (Extra Steps) and the local elementary school (Lord Strathcona) educating children about the diverse and complex Strathcona Community, using contemporary environmental education methods emphasizing the importance of place-based learning.

SUMMARY

The Park Naming Committee will help support the Park Board with the challenge of naming the twenty 21 currently unnamed parks in Vancouver, using Board adopted criteria and a consistent approach. This new process will start with Empire Fields, Plateau Park and the Trillium park site.

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