

Date: 2022-08-10

Subject: **Naming Gore Meadows Community Centre Aquatics Facility In Recognition Of Swimmer And Paralympian Stéphanie Dixon (RM 70/2021)**

Contact: **Anand Patel, Director, Recreation**

Report Number: Community Services-2022-799

Recommendations:

1. That the report from Anand Patel, Director, Recreation, dated August 10, 2022 to the Council meeting of August 10, 2022, re: **Naming Gore Meadows Community Centre Aquatics Facility In Recognition Of Swimmer And Paralympian Stéphanie Dixon (RM 70/2021)**, be received; and
2. That Council approve staff recommendation to name the Gore Meadows Community Centre Aquatics Facility after swimmer and Paralympian Stéphanie Dixon.

Overview:

- **At the August 11, 2021 Committee of Council meeting, staff were directed to report back on options for recognizing and commemorating the accomplishments of Brampton-raised swimmer and Paralympian Stéphanie Dixon.**
- **Staff recommend naming the Gore Meadows Community Centre Aquatics Facility after swimmer and Paralympian Stéphanie Dixon.**
- **The cost to add the interior signage and commemorative plaque at Gore Meadows Community Centre totals approximately \$8,000 plus HST, and funding is available from capital project #215560 – Recreation - Misc. Initiative.**

Background:

Brampton native Stéphanie Dixon began swimming competitively with the Dorado Stars in 1996 and moved to the COBRA swim club in 1998 where she commenced her 15-year swimming career. She is a 19-time Paralympic Games medallist and two-time Chef de Mission (2019 Parapan American Games and the 2020 Paralympic Games). In addition to her Paralympic accomplishments, she is a six-time Parapan American Games champion. She is also a 10-time world champion. Ms. Dixon retired from competitive swimming in 2010.

As a broadcaster, she was part of the Canadian Paralympic Committee's team at Sochi 2014 and television host for the 2013 IPC World Swimming Championships in Montreal. For the 2016 and 2018 Paralympic Games, she participated in the broadcast coverage on CBC. She is a highly sought public speaker and emcee, and an official ambassador for Canadian Tire's Jumpstart Play Finds a Way, advocating for inclusive and accessible sport.

Ms. Dixon was inducted into the Brampton Sports Hall of Fame in 2015 and Canada's Sports Hall of Fame in 2016. In 2018 she was appointed to the Order of Canada.

At the August 11, 2021 Committee of Council meeting, staff were directed to report back on options for recognizing and commemorating the accomplishments of Brampton-raised swimmer and Paralympian Stéphanie Dixon.

Current Situation:

Stéphanie Dixon has portrayed a strong, positive image of the City, region, and country throughout her athletic career. Staff recommend naming the Gore Meadows Community Centre Aquatics Facility the Stéphanie Dixon Aquatics Centre in honour of her achievements in sport and her positive contribution to the Brampton community.

Gore Meadows Community Centre is located at the intersection of The Gore Road and Castlemore Road in northeast Brampton. The aquatics centre is one of two locations where Ms. Dixon's former club, COBRA Swim Club, holds practices and swim meets. The aquatics centre features a full lap pool and leisure pool and is equipped with a wheelchair ramp and wheelchair lift.

The approximate cost to add interior signage and a commemorative plaque at the Gore Meadows Community Centre is \$8,000 plus HST.

Corporate Implications:

Financial Implications:

Funding to add the interior signage and commemorative plaque at Gore Meadows Community Centre totaling \$8,000 plus HST is available from capital project #215560 – Recreation - Misc. Initiatives, subject to Council approval as follows:

Project #	Budget	Available Balance	Amount Required
215560	\$1,465,000	\$390,582	\$8,200*

* Includes non-recoverable HST of 1.76%

For any future unplanned initiatives, should funding not be available from within existing capital budgets, staff will request a budget amendment as required.

Other Implications:

Legal Implications

Staff will ensure compliance with the Sponsorship and Naming Rights Policy (ECD-100), and that the appropriate agreement is executed between the City and the named individual for this location.

Term of Council Priorities:

Brampton is a well-run City, continuously improving the day-to-day operations of the corporation by effectively managing municipal assets. A continued legacy of naming the City's Assets after outstanding individuals reflects a positive image for the City, including highlighting its history, diversity, and citizenry.

Conclusion:

The naming of municipal assets plays an important role in unambiguous identification of location and navigation within the City of Brampton. It also serves as a method of commemorative recognition to honour significant community contributions. Naming the Gore Meadows Community Centre Aquatics Facility to the Stéphanie Dixon Aquatics Centre in honour of her achievements in sport would highlight Ms. Dixon's connection to the Brampton sporting community.

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