

Date: 2022-06-15

Subject: Emancipation Park – Ward 7 (RM 61/2021)

Contact: Gregory Peddie, Supervisor, Events and Protocol,
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Report Number: Corporate Support Services-2022-733

Recommendations:

1. That the report from Gregory Peddie, Supervisor of Events and Protocol, Strategic Communications, Culture and Events dated June 15, 2022, to the Council Meeting of July 6, 2022, re: **Emancipation Park – Ward 7 (RM 61/2021)**, be received; and
2. That the installation of four flagpoles at Emancipation Park be approved.

Overview:

- On July 7, 2021, Council passed a motion to allocate \$50,000 for an Emancipation Park memorial, in alignment with the Public Art framework and in consultation with the Afro-Caribbean community.
- Staff were directed to report back on feasibility on the servicing costs, and implementation. Permanent servicing was deemed unachievable, however, there is a potential option of providing portable servicing generators for small-scale events.
- Staff recommend investigating properties towards the Northeast quadrant of the City as a premium event space and passive park for all the amenities requested and maintaining the current intended use for Emancipation Park as sports fields.
- On April 20, 2022, Council directed staff to report back on the feasibility of installing a permanent flagpole at Emancipation Park including the potential to require additional three flag poles to accommodate the Canadian, Provincial and Municipal flags according to flag protocol.

Background:

In June 2020, Councillor Williams requested consideration for naming a park Emancipation Park to be announced during the August 2020 community recognition event. In response to this request, City staff reviewed options for candidate parks within Wards 7 and 8 for consideration by the Reference Committee. The Wards 7 and 8 Reference Committee considered possible parks and recommended the renaming of the Dixie 407 Park to be named Emancipation Park, which was approved by Council (C259-2020). The Strategic Communications, Culture and Events Division held a public unveiling for its renaming in August 2020, and hosts an annual corporate event in recognition of the emancipation of the Afro-Caribbean diaspora in the park.

At the July 7, 2021, Council meeting, staff were further directed (C244-2021) to acknowledge the legacy and importance of Emancipation Day at the park. Council direction was given to allocate up to \$50,000 for a memorial, in keeping with the Public Art Framework, and in consultation with the Afro-Caribbean community, apply to Heritage Canada for further funds to cover costs of installation and maintenance of the memorial; and report back to Council on servicing costs and implementation steps for Emancipation Park.

On April 20, 2022, Council directed staff to report back on the feasibility of installing a permanent flag pole in Emancipation Park, including the potential to require additional flag poles to accommodate the Canadian, Provincial and Municipal flags according to flag etiquette. Council directed that staff report back in a timeframe that would allow for the installation of the flag poles for Emancipation Month in August 2022 and the Emancipation Cup Soccer tournament with a date to be confirmed.

Current Situation:

Memorial

Canadian Heritage is a department within the Government of Canada that has roles and responsibilities related to initiatives that promote Canadian identity, values, cultural development, and heritage. It provides funding for many cultural projects and initiatives however, the scope of the Emancipation Memorial does not currently qualify for any of their grants. Required budget for the memorial project will be included as part of the 2023 Cultural Services capital budget request for Council consideration.

Servicing

Emancipation Park was built over 15 years ago. The park is landlocked to the east and blocked from servicing to the north by the Highway 407 and Brampton city limits directly to the south. The City of Mississauga is the closest service connection available within the area. The Ministry of Transportation has a land option for a sizable portion of the south area of the park that is planned to be utilized for a Bus Rapid Transit line. This

option is currently in the Environmental Assessment planning phase and staff expect the Ministry will exercise their rights to have the City vacate those areas of the park resulting in the loss of existing parking, up to four soccer fields, one cricket field, and the batting cages. The City has not invested a significant capital budget in the park infrastructure.

Staff recently explored options to provide electrical service to light the sports fields. It was noted that due to the proximity of the highway and on - ramp it could be a serious safety concern and pose a distraction to drivers. Consultation with the Ministry of Transportation and Highway 407 Authority will be required to gain permission for additional amenities and servicing to be added to the park.

Sanitary servicing for a potential washroom building was previously explored and were also not approved to proceed due to the Bus Rapid Transit construction that would remove access, prohibiting the City from connecting to any services.

From servicing investigations conducted the City would lose several recreation facilities on-site, services and any potential connections leaving very minimal City facilities with no access to parking and servicing. As a result, permanent servicing was deemed unachievable, however there is a potential option of providing portable power generators for small-scale events.

With these operational considerations and the communities desire to deliver programming above the parks current capabilities staff recommend investigating properties towards the northeast quadrant of the city as a premium event space and passive park for all the amenities requested and maintaining the current intended use for Emancipation Park as sports fields.

Flag Poles

Staff can install the requested flagpoles at Emancipation Park (location to be determined) as outlined in the Council motion at a cost of approximately \$5,000.00 per pole. The estimated installation timeline would be five to six weeks. Staff recommend the length of the flagpole and the size of the flag for exterior permanent poles should correspond to the following dimensions:

Flag	Pole
4 1/2 X 9 feet	30 to 35 feet

When displaying flags of several nations, all flags including the National Flag of Canada, should be flown on separate flagpoles at the same height and size without, changing the flags' proportions. As the delegation requested the Pan-African flag be raised, the order of precedence will be as such:

- National flag of Canada

- Pan-African
- Ontario
- Brampton

The National Flag of Canada occupies the position of honour and the left most position in accordance with National Flag of Canada etiquette and the City of Brampton's Flag Policy.

Corporate Implications:

Financial Implications:

The cost of installing a flagpole at Emancipation Park is dependent on the material selected, ranging between \$4,000 and \$6,000 per flagpole. Four flagpoles are estimated to cost between \$16,000 and \$24,000.

Material	Cost per Flagpole	# of Flagpoles	Total Cost
Aluminum	\$ 6,000	4	\$ 24,000
Fiberglass	\$ 4,000	4	\$ 16,000

Sufficient funding is available for the initiative from Project #215430-001 – Wayfinding and Signage – Outdoors.

Project #	Original Budget	Expenditures and/or Commitments to Date	Balance Available
215430-001	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 10,049.12	\$ 89,950.88

Required budget for the memorial project will be included as part of the 2023 Cultural Services capital budget request for Council consideration.

Term of Council Priorities:

This report has been prepared in consideration of the Term of Council Priorities.

Through exploration of incorporating a memorial within a City asset this report demonstrates that Brampton is a Well Run City.

Through the consideration of installing four flagpoles for an array of flags to be hoisted demonstrates that Brampton is a Mosaic.

Conclusion:

In response to having a memorial and servicing at Emancipation Park, staff is recommending that other properties be explored to accommodate a passive park and premium event space. Resources are available for the installation of four flagpoles.

Authored by:

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Reviewed by:

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Approved by:

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