

Date: 2023-08-17

Subject: **Commemorating Terry Fox with a Monument**

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Report Number: Community Services-2023-724

Recommendations:

1. That the report titled: **Commemorating Terry Fox with a Monument** dated August 17, 2023, to the Council meeting of September 13, 2023, be received; and
2. That Council direct staff to include a capital budget request in 2024 to design and fabricate a memorial sculpture commemorating Terry Fox at Chinguacousy Park, within proximity to the Terry Fox Stadium, pending final approval from the Fox family as outlined in this report.

Overview:

- Terry Fox entered Brampton on July 24, 1980, during the Marathon of Hope.
- The City has recognized the contributions of Terry Fox through its existing Terry Fox Stadium walking track and community events flag-raising program.
- At the September 12, 2022, Special Meeting of City Council, staff were directed to explore and implement additional and appropriate ways to memorialize Terry Fox in the City with a monument (C274-2022).
- Staff considered three different types of monuments with varying levels of impact, budget and timelines for implementation.
- Including a memorial project, with educational panels, at the Terry Fox Stadium would create a more complete and meaningful commemoration project for residents and visitors to Chinguacousy Park and the walking track.

- A memorial tree or commemorative bench will be installed in Q4 2023 along Queen Street to recognize the route Terry Fox travelled during his remarkable Marathon of Hope.

Background:

Terry Fox entered Brampton on July 24, 1980, during the Marathon of Hope, running east along Bovaird from Halton Hills, south on Hurontario Street through downtown Brampton before heading east on Queen Street out of Brampton on Highway 50.

The City of Brampton recognizes and honours Terry Fox as a Canadian athlete, humanitarian, and cancer research activist. The City has recognized the contributions of Terry Fox through its existing Terry Fox Stadium walking track and community events flag-raising program.

In addition to City-led commemoration, Peel District School Board named a Brampton elementary school after Terry Fox.

At the September 12, 2022, Special Meeting of City Council, staff were directed to explore and implement additional and appropriate ways to memorialize Terry Fox in the City with a monument (C274-2022).

Current Situation:

Commemorative Projects across Canada

Staff have reviewed current monuments and memorials dedicated to Terry Fox. These include commemorative namings of parks, roads, sports venues and schools across Canada, plaques, monuments and mile markers in several communities and memorial statues in notable geographic locations such as 'Mile 0' in Newfoundland, where the Marathon of Hope began, Thunder Bay, Ontario where the marathon ended early and Victoria, B.C., where the marathon was intended to finish. There is a bronze statue in the City of Ottawa and another at Simon Fraser University, where Terry was a student.

Monument Options

Three types of monuments were considered with varying levels of impact, required budget and project timelines are considered in the table below.

Monument Type	Impact	Budget	Timeline
Plaque	Low	\$5,000	2023
Granite Monument	Medium	\$25,000	2024
Memorial Sculpture	High	\$150,000	2025

While the memorial sculpture requires the most significant budget and has the most extended timeline for completion, 2025 represents 45 years since the Marathon of Hope, and the sculpture could be planned for unveiling on July 24, the anniversary of Terry's time in Brampton. The sculpture would become part of the City's permanent Public Art collection and creates a commissioned opportunity for a professional artist, supporting the Culture Master Plan and Public Art Strategy (currently in development).

It is important to note that before the fabrication and installation of any monument, the Fox family must review the project proposal and provide their written approval.

Proposed Location

Terry Fox Stadium at Chinguacousy Park welcomes over 50,000 visitors annually, hosting local student sporting events and recreational users. While the stadium has been named in Terry Fox's honour, there is no onsite information about his life or legacy. Including a memorial project with educational panels at this location in line with turf (2024) and track (2025), upgrades would create a more complete and meaningful commemoration project for residents and visitors to the park.

While the Terry Fox Stadium is the ideal location for a monument, the community also desires to see the Marathon of Hope route commemorated. As such, a memorial tree or commemorative bench will be installed in Q4 2023 along Queen Street to recognize Terry's route during his remarkable Marathon of Hope.

Corporate Implications:

Financial Implications:

Sufficient funding is available within Community Services' 2023 operating budget for the commemorative tree planting/bench to be installed in Q4 2023.

Pending Council direction for the monument, staff will include the required budget request as part of its capital budget submission for 2024.

Other Implications:

None.

Strategic Focus Area:

This report advances strategic focus areas of Health and Well-being and Culture and Diversity by enhancing recreational spaces through creative placemaking and commemorating Canadian athlete, humanitarian, and cancer research activist Terry Fox.

Conclusion:

As directed by Council, this report provides additional and appropriate ways to memorialize Terry Fox with a monument in the City of Brampton.

Authored by:

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