

Date: 2023-11-08

Subject: **Enhancement Update on Two Parkettes Identified for Renaming - Ward 5 (RM 51/2023)**

Contact: Kelly Stahl, Director, Cultural Services
Ed Fagan, Director, Parks Maintenance & Forestry

Report Number: Community Services-2023-992

Recommendations:

1. That the report from Tonian Reid, Coordinator, Business Planning, Parks Maintenance & Forestry to the Committee Meeting of November 29, 2023, re: **Enhancement Update on Two Parkettes Identified for Renaming - Ward 5 (RM 51/2023)**, be received; and
2. That upon conducting public engagement with the community, staff be directed to report back with suitable names to rename Whitewash Parkette and Native Landing Parkette for Council's approval.

Overview:

- **At the June 21, 2023, Committee of Council Meeting, a motion was passed for staff to investigate and report on the condition of Whitewash Parkette and Native Landing Parkette, to align with the City of Brampton's Asset Naming Policy.**
- **A detail assessment was conducted summer 2023 for both parks identifying short and long-term enhancements to maintain the parks' beautification and functionality.**
- **Pending approval of the 2024 Budget, playground replacements will be conducted at both parkettes and a lead artist will be commissioned to work with the community and stakeholders to design and install artwork at both locations.**
- **Public engagement will be conducted between January and mid-April 2024 to gain input on various installations such as art, medicine gardens**

and other environmentally friendly upgrades and to source appropriate names to rename both parkettes for Council's approval.

Background:

The City of Brampton is one of the youngest and most diverse cities in Canada and has a mosaic made up of 234 cultures with 115 different languages and growing. Hence, the City recognizes the need to create and maintain assets that meet the needs of the growing mosaic and align with the City's equity, diversity, inclusion and anti-racism vision.

At the June 21, 2023, Committee of Council Meeting, a motion was passed for staff to investigate and report on the condition of Whitewash Parkette and Native Landing Parkette. Direction was also given to incorporate Indigenous art at the local parkettes, in consultation with the community and to proceed with next steps to rename both parkettes.

The City of Brampton's Asset Naming Policy was revised in September 2021 to include equity and diversity criteria for naming assets, to ensure names are not offensive, discriminatory or insensitive to Indigenous peoples and diverse communities. To align with the policy, appropriate names are being considered to rename Whitewash Parkette and Native Landing Parkette.

Current Situation:

Parkette Condition and Enhancements

The Parks Maintenance & Forestry division oversees the cleanliness and maintenance of parks citywide and follows a 20-year replacement cycle for all playgrounds. A detailed assessment was conducted summer 2023 for both parks, identifying short and long-term enhancements to maintain the parks' beautification and functionality.

Pending the approval of the 2024 Capital Budget, both playgrounds are scheduled to be replaced in 2024. The replacement will include new play structures, upgraded playground surfaces and park benches. In the interim, staff conducted mulching and pruning of existing trees and general playground improvements, such as sand maintenance and mulch refills.

Indigenous Artwork

The two parkettes have been included in the 2024 Public Art Investment Capital request under 'My Neighbourhood' public art program. Pending budget approval, Cultural Services staff will commission a lead artist to work with the community and stakeholders to design and install artwork in both locations.

Renaming

The Equity Office will provide outreach and set up in person and group meetings with members of the Indigenous Network for the purpose of holding focus groups and gaining their input on name suggestions, place making and any historical and cultural significance for suggestions. Meetings will also generate ideas for installations such as art, medicine gardens and other environmentally friendly upgrades and suggestions. There will be between (2) two to (4) four consultations to ensure that there is a good representation from the Indigenous community with meetings taking place between January and mid-April 2024.

Next Steps

Through community engagement and partnership building, staff will report back to Council with appropriate names to be considered for renaming Whitewash Parkette and Native Landing Parkette. Upon the approval of the new park names, steps will be taken to rename both parkettes. In consultation with community partners, a strategy will be developed for the installation of suitable art at both locations.

Corporate Implications:

Financial Implications:

Funding for the replacement of the (2) two playgrounds and artwork installation will be included as part of the Community Services 2024 capital budget submission, subject to Council approval. The renaming of both parks will be absorbed within the operating budget.

Strategic Focus Area:

Health & Well-being: Focusing on citizens' belongings, health, wellness, and safety by providing suitable parks for all residents.

Government & Leadership: Focusing on service excellence with equity, innovation, efficiency, effectiveness, accountability, and transparency through community engagement and partnership building.

Culture and Diversity: Focusing on cultural diversity, cross-cultural understanding to align with the City of Brampton's equity, diversity, inclusion and anti-racism vision.

Conclusion:

Staff conducted a detail assessment of Whitewash Parkette and Native Landing Parkette. Upon approval of the 2024 budget, both playgrounds will be replaced and the parks will be incorporated under the 'My Neighbourhood' public art program. Through community engagement and partnership building, staff will report back to Council with appropriate names to be considered for renaming Whitewash Parkette and Native Landing Parkette, to align with the City of Brampton's Asset Naming Policy.

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