

Temporary Pause of Civic Naming Program

ISSUE

In the 2022/2023 Business Plan and Budget, City Council approved the Legacy Review Capital Project (Legacy Review). This project will develop a phased strategy to address naming, recognition, commemorations and other aspects that could contribute to improving the recognition of Indigenous history throughout Saskatoon. Methods to recognize and celebrate the histories, cultures and identities of Indigenous peoples, and other diverse communities in Saskatoon, through the Civic Naming Program are expected to result in changes to both the policy and program administration associated with Civic Naming. Continuing to administer the program, as is, may not align with the future goals of the program and will require administrative time and effort that could be used to further the Legacy Review Project.

RECOMMENDATION

That a temporary pause of the Civic Naming Program, with respect to receiving and processing new submissions for names to be added to the Names Master List, until such time as a new or amended Naming of City Property and Development Areas Policy, or related policy is developed, be approved.

BACKGROUND

[Council Policy C09-008, the Naming of Civic Property and Development Areas Policy](#), (Naming Policy) speaks to the policy, principles and procedures associated with the naming of streets and other civic property.

A request to change the name of McPherson Avenue was considered at the [March 9, 2021 meeting of the Civic Naming Committee](#). This resulted in the resolution:

“That the Administration report back with examples from other communities as to how to handle renaming requests of this nature, and in consultation with local stakeholders, include options about how Saskatoon could respond to renaming requests that come forward on the basis of historical context.”

City Council, at its [Regular Business meeting held on June 28, 2021](#), resolved:

1. “That the Administration begin the process for the renaming of John A. Macdonald Road as a way to acknowledge the on-going harm in the community experienced by the Indian Residential School Survivors and the role that John A. Macdonald played in this part of history;
2. That the renaming process include public education and public engagement including:
 - Consultation with Indigenous community leaders, residential school survivors and Elders and Knowledge Keepers;

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- Direct communication with John A. Macdonald Road residents;
 - Informing Confederation Park neighbourhood residents;
 - A wider community public education campaign; and
 - A look at options to manage any costs of changing names and what tools could be used to facilitate a change; and
3. That the Administration report back not later than Quarter 4 of 2021 and include information related to the proposed Legacy Review currently being developed.”

The resolutions outlined above led to creation of the Legacy Review Project, which was outlined in a [report to Civic Naming Committee](#) in September 2021 and approved for funding by City Council as part of the 2022/2023 Business Plan and Budget.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

Civic Naming Program Administration

The main activities associated with the administration of the Civic Naming Program include:

- The receipt and review of naming submissions from members of the public. This includes review by staff in Planning and Development within the Development Review team, as well as the City Archivist.
- Communications with members of the public regarding status of their submissions and/or use of an approved name. This includes staff predominantly in Development Review and the City Clerks Office.
- Reporting to the Civic Naming Committee. This is prepared by Development Review staff.
- The Civic Naming Committee includes three members of Council and staff from City Clerks, Development Review, City Archives and Community Development.
- Approved names are included on the Names Master List (Names List), which has been themed and prioritized. When required for a new street or civic facility, names are applied, according to their priority, by Development Review staff in consultation with the Planning Technologists, in accordance with the approved theme for a particular area or facility.

The application and use of names from the Names List occurs when a name is required for a new street, park or civic facility. Between 2016 and 2021, 115 names were added to the Names List, including 68 names resulting from the “Name the North Commuter Parkway Bridge”, while over the same period of time, only 48 names were required for new streets, parks or civic facilities. On average there are only 8 to 12 names required per year. As of the writing of this report, 125 names are currently on the Names List that may be assigned with 75 names identified for streets and 50 names for parks or major facilities.

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Proposed Temporary Pause

Administration is proposing to pause the receipt and review of new naming submissions at this time, until the Legacy Review has brought forward a new or amended policy to address civic naming. This pause will allow staff to focus on the efforts involved in the Legacy Review and the renaming of John A Macdonald Road.

Given the significant number of names already on the Names List, which have been prioritized and themed, names will be available for any required new streets, parks or facilities until a new policy is in place.

Administration will continue to communicate with applicants who have already submitted applications and advise on the status of their requests, as needed. Communications will be developed for the website, and key messages will be available to support members of City Council, as well as through Service Saskatoon, when questions are received related to naming submissions.

OTHER IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial, privacy or CPTED implications at this time. If approved, Administration will develop communication tools related to the temporary pause of naming submissions.

NEXT STEPS

A new or amended Council Policy will be developed as part of the Legacy Review Project. Once a new policy is in place, administration of the program will resume in accordance with the new policy.

A Communication and Engagement Plan, including education and awareness activities, will be developed as part of the Legacy Review Project, which will inform the policy development.

REPORT APPROVAL

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