

Potential Shakamohtaa Street Renaming

ISSUE

Shakamohtaa Street was named in 2021, in the Brighton neighbourhood. Following announcement of the name, feedback was received that this word has different meanings for speakers of the different Michif language dialects. Administration held discussions with representatives from the Métis Nation - Saskatchewan (MN-S) to pursue the renaming of this street and a communication from MN-S is expected to be directed to the Civic Naming Committee.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Civic Naming Committee recommend to the Standing Policy Committee on Planning, Development and Community Services that this report be forwarded to City Council recommending that:

- 1) The request to rename Shakamohtaa Street be approved and that Administration apply a name from the Names Master List to this street;
- 2) That Administration work with the Métis community to identify an appropriate name to recommend for addition to the Names Master List and subsequent application to a new street; and
- 3) That Administration continue discussions with the Métis community through the Legacy Review project to identify naming opportunities that represent the diversity of Saskatoon.

BACKGROUND

The word shakamohtaa is a Michif word or concept that embodies the spirit of coming together or connection. It was submitted for consideration during the Name the North Commuter Parkway process and was vetted by an Indigenous Elder. It was added to the Names Master List, along with numerous other Indigenous language submissions, in January 2020.

In early 2021, it was applied to a new street in the Brighton neighbourhood. Since street names are applied during the neighbourhood planning stage, the physical street did not yet exist when the name was chosen. As of the writing of this report, the properties on Shakamohtaa Street all remain under the ownership of Saskatoon Land.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

Several discussions have occurred with representatives from MN-S related to the potential to rename this street.

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[Policy C09-008 - Naming of Civic Property and Development Areas](#) provides a process for requests for renaming, in section 4.2. This includes:

“The Community Services Division, Planning and Development Department, shall reasonably notify all property owners, civic departments, agencies, community associations, etc. who may be affected by the proposed renaming and gather comments”; and

“The Civic Naming Committee will screen all requests for renaming any Municipally-Owned or Controlled Facility, Street, Suburban Development Area, Neighbourhood or Park, and will forward a recommendation to Council through the Standing Policy Committee on Planning, Development and Community Services.”

At this time, Administration has provided a preliminary notification to the current property owner (Saskatoon Land) as the affected properties are proceeding to sale to builders in the near-term. Due to the pending sale of these properties, Administration recommends that a name from the existing Names Master List be applied to this street to reduce the potential impacts to the builders and potential lot purchasers. This will allow completion of the name change to occur in the shortest possible time.

Further discussions with the Métis community can continue in order to identify upcoming opportunities to apply a Michif name to a new street. There is currently one other Michif word on the Names Master List: “waahkoomiqayhk”, signifying the concept of “kinship”.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

At this time, there would be a minor financial impact of pursuing this renaming, limited to the cost of changing the name on the subdivision plan and with Information Services Corporation.

Should this item be deferred and the lots on Shakamohtaa Street be sold to individuals, additional costs can be expected, although are not significant.

OTHER IMPLICATIONS

The current near-term implication of this renaming is for the developer, Saskatoon Land, who has been marketing the lots to the building industry. Individual lots will transfer ownership to builders in the near term. Renaming the street in advance of this change will reduce the impact to individual purchasers.

Through the Legacy Review, additional engagement and discussions with the Métis community will be pursued.

NEXT STEPS

A recommendation from Civic Naming Committee is required to proceed to the Standing Policy Committee on Planning, Development and Community Services and City Council to pursue this renaming.

APPENDICES

1. Map – Brighton: Shakamohtaa Street

REPORT APPROVAL

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