



City of
Peterborough

To: Members of the Arenas Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee

From: Rob Anderson, Recreation Division Coordinator

Meeting Date: April 17, 2018

Subject: Report APRAC18-011
Request to Rename Olympus Park

Purpose

A report to provide an update on the request to change the name of Olympus Park to Stillman Park.

Recommendations

That the Arenas Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee approve the recommendations outlined in Report APRAC18-011 dated April 17, 2018, of the Recreation Division Coordinator, as follows:

- a) That the request to rename Olympus Park as Stillman Park be endorsed; and,
- b) That Staff be directed to present a report to Council recommending that Olympus Park be renamed Stillman Park.

Budget and Financial Implications

The approximate \$600.00 expense associated with changing the park sign can be accommodated within the approved Park Bench and Sign capital budget (reference number 6-1.03).

Background

The Request

On March 21, 2017, Mr. Steve Terry submitted a letter to City Hall requesting that consideration be given to renaming Olympus Park as “Stillman Park”, in honour of former National League Hockey Player, Cory Stillman. Olympus Park is a neighbourhood park located in the City’s Northcrest Ward, bordered by Royal Drive and Olympus Avenue. An aerial map showing the park’s location is attached as Appendix “A”. Mr. Terry informed City Staff that he contacted the Stillman family prior to approaching the City, to obtain their support and permission to proceed with the proposed name change.

Rationale for the Name Change

On April 25, 2017 Mr. Terry made a presentation to the Arenas Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee (APRAC), providing a rationale for the suggested renaming of the park, as follows:

The Stillman family home, where Mr. Stillman was raised is located on Olympus Avenue. For many years throughout the 1970's, the Stillman family built and maintained the skating rink in Olympus Park, for the entire neighbourhood to enjoy. It is within this park that Mr. Stillman would learn the basic skating and hockey skills that would eventually lead to a successful Ontario Hockey League career (1990 – 1993) with the Windsor Spitfires, and the Peterborough Petes. He went on to enjoy an NHL career, ending with the 2010-2011 season, during which time he was part of two Stanley Cup Championship teams. Mr. Stillman’s success brought recognition to Peterborough, as his hometown.

Following his NHL career, Mr. Stillman returned to Peterborough where he continues to be supportive of youth sports. He is often seen giving his time to local youth aspiring to follow in his footsteps.

APRAC directed Staff to investigate the possibility of the request and report back to APRAC at a future meeting. Given other 2017 priorities, Staff was not able to take any action on this matter until early in 2018.

Authority to Support the Proposed Name Change

There is no significance to the current name of Olympus Park. The name Olympus was assigned to this park due to its proximity to Olympus Avenue.

Part B Section 6.1 of the City's Naming Policy states that Parks should be named to recognize individuals or organizations that have made a significant contribution to the public life and well-being of the City of Peterborough, the Province or the Country, or to recognize significant local geographical or historical features/events.

Section 6.2 defines the criteria for which names will be chosen, which states under subsection (c) that Peterborough citizens who have received Peter Robinson Awards, Pathway of Fame, or Sports Hall of Fame recognition shall automatically be considered.

Mr. Stillman was inducted into the Peterborough and District Sports Hall of Fame in 2014. Therefore, he is eligible to be considered.

Neighbourhood Input

In considering the proposal to rename the park, City Staff sought input from the residents surrounding Olympus Park, to determine the level of neighbourhood support for the proposed name change. On March 9, 2018, a total of 111 notices were hand delivered to residences within 120 metres of the park. The notice provided the background on the proposed name change and invited feedback, with a response deadline of March 23, 2018.

There were 15 responses received. Thirteen of the respondents were highly supportive of the proposed name change. One of the respondents was completely opposed, and one provided comments for consideration but, didn't have any preference as to what the park is named.

Comments in opposition are as follows:

- Mr. Stillman hasn't lived near the park for many years;
- He hasn't contributed to anything in the park;
- It may create controversy among other notable athletes or talented people, or friends of, in various parts of town that have made Peterborough great, and at one time lived near a park or street, etc;
- Us older people would assume Olympus Park is on Olympus Avenue;
- The fact Mr. Stillman's family maintained the park over 40 years ago is irrelevant;
- While Mr. Stillman deserves his success as a professional hockey player and am glad he volunteers his time to be supportive of youth sports, I don't believe this is a significant contribution to public life or the wellbeing of the City of Peterborough;
- There is much more to this community than the sport of hockey and its players. Hockey is already more than adequately recognized in this community.

Staff interpret that those who did not respond as being unconcerned about the park's name.

Staff supports the proposed name change and are seeking input and endorsement from APRAC. If endorsed by APRAC, Staff will seek approval from Council.

Summary

The City has received a request to rename Olympus Park to Stillman Park in honour of former National League Hockey Player, Cory Stillman. Mr. Stillman meets the criteria in the City's Naming Policy for persons whose names will be automatically considered. There is no significance to the current name of Olympus Park. The 111 residences within 120 metres of the park have been consulted with via a hand delivered notice, with opportunity to provide input. Of the 15 responses received, only two provided comments in opposition to the proposed name change. Staff recommends that APRAC endorse the proposed name change.

Submitted by,

Rob Anderson
Recreation Division Coordinator

Contact Name:
Rob Anderson
Phone: 705-742-7777 Ext. 1833
Toll Free: 1-855-738-3755
Fax: 705-748-8824
E-Mail: randerson@peterborough.ca

Attachments:

Appendix A – Aerial Map of Olympus Park

Appendix A

Location of Olympus Park

