



City of
Peterborough

To: Members of the General Committee

From: Allan Seabrooke, Commissioner of Community Services

Meeting Date: May 7, 2018

Subject: Report CSRS18-008
Request to Rename Olympus Park

Purpose

A report to inform of the request to change the name of Olympus Park to Stillman Park.

Recommendation

That Council approve the recommendation outlined in Report CSRS18-008 dated May 7, 2018, of the Commissioner of Community Services, as follows:

That the request to rename Olympus Park as Stillman Park be approved.

Budget and Financial Implications

The approximate \$600 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 to “Stillman Park”, in honour of former National League Hockey Player, Cory Stillman. Olympus Park is a neighbourhood park located in the City’s North Crest 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. Staff reported back to APRAC on April 17, 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 was opposed, and one provided comments for consideration but, didn't have any preference as to what the park is named. Staff interpret that those who did not respond are unconcerned about the park's name.

Staff is comfortable with changing the name of Olympus Park to Stillman Park, given the rationale of the name change, the neighbourhood comments received, and the Naming Policy criteria.

Arenas Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee Endorsement

On April 17, 2018, APRAC approved the recommendations of report APRAC18-011, providing their endorsement to change the name of Olympus Park to Stillman Park.

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 via a hand delivered notice, with opportunity to provide input. Of the 15 responses received, only two provided comments for consideration in opposition to the proposed name change. The proposed name change has been endorsed by APRAC. Staff recommends that Council also support the proposed name change.

Submitted by,

Allan Seabrooke
Commissioner of Community Services

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Attachment:
Appendix A – Aerial Map of Olympus Park

Appendix A

Location of Olympus Park

