



City of
Peterborough

TO: Members of the Arenas Park and Recreation Advisory Committee

FROM: Erik Hanson, Heritage Resources Coordinator

MEETING DATE: March 15, 2011

SUBJECT: Report APRAC11-010
Request to Rename Sandlewood Park

PURPOSE

A report seeking approval for the renaming of Sandlewood Park to Blodgett Park to recognize the long historical association of the Blodgett family with farming in the Peterborough area.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Arenas Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee endorse the recommendation outlined in Report APRAC11-010 dated March 15, 2011, of the Heritage Resources Coordinator, as follows:

That the park currently known as Sandlewood Park be renamed Blodgett Park.

BUDGET AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

All expenses related to the re-signing of the park can be accommodated within the approved 2011 budgets of the Recreation and Public Works Divisions.

BACKGROUND

In March of 2006 Donald Blodgett made a request to the City's Naming Committee have a street named in honour of his grandfather, James Arthur Blodgett, as several generations of the family had farmed the area where Fair Avenue, Ravenwood Drive, Melody Crescent, and Sandalwood Drive are now situated. Unfortunately, the City had already named the streets that were constructed in this area. The committee did not support changing any of the established street names, due to the significant imposition to the residents of those streets.

The Naming Committee instead recommended that Sandalwood Park, located on the western edge of the old Blodgett farmlands, be renamed in honour of James Arthur Blodgett. The Naming Committee typically will not consider renaming requests for roads and parks that already have a commemorative name. Sandelewood Park is named after the main street running past it.

Mr. Blodgett was at first reluctant to accept this compromise but eventually accepted. In March of 2008 a report was presented to the Committee of the Whole (COW) (CSACH08-004) recommending the renaming of Sandalwood Park in honour of the Blodgett family. The COW chose to refer the report to Arenas Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee (APRAC) to confirm the suitability of the renaming request of the park.

In May 2008, a report went to APRAC (APRACH08-001) recommending that the park be renamed in honour of James Arthur Blodgett. APRAC directed staff to find out if the park land was donated by the Blodgett family or if they sold the land. Staff were to report back to APRAC in June 2008.

In June 2008, Staff reported to the APRAC that the land was sold by the Blodgett family for a profit. Based on this information, the APRAC did not support the renaming of Sandalwood park because it did not consider it appropriate to commemorate a family that had sold property for development purposes.

Staff supports the renaming of the park in honour of the Blodgett family. The City has a Naming Policy (see Appendix A), ratified by Council, that speaks directly to criteria for naming of streets, parks and facilities. Part B refers to park naming:

Parks and Municipal Buildings/Facilities 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.

Specifically Section 6.2.f supports the naming of a park after a family's association with the land:

6.2.f Names may recognize local history (people, events etc.) or cultural diversity (aboriginal, pioneer, ethnic)

While the policy does indicate that names of individuals or groups who have donated money/land towards the purchase or development of the park/building may be used, it does not make this a requirement.

The Blodgett family traces its roots in North America back to the 17th century in New England. The family emigrated to Haldimand Township in 1819 and arrived in Peterborough County by the 1860s where they farmed continuously until the 1960s. James Arthur Blodgett took over the family farm in 1924. The family continued to farm the land until 1963 when the City annexed a large section of the township to support the growing west end suburbs. In that year the farm was sold to a company assembling land for subdivisions, although a small parcel was severed and remained in the family until 1986.

Staff would be pleased to receive input from the Arenas Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee, at this time.

Submitted by,

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Heritage Resources Coordinator

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Attachments:
Appendix A- Naming Policy