

Proposed renaming of Stamford Park to Jim McPherson Park

Date:	June 3, 2010
To:	Scarborough Community Council
From:	Brenda Patterson, General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation
Wards:	Ward 35 – Scarborough Southwest
Reference Number:	P:\2010\Cluster A\PFR\SC36-062210-AFS#12111

SUMMARY

This staff report is about a matter for which Community Council has delegated authority from City Council to make a final decision.

This report responds to the request made at Scarborough Community Council, regarding the renaming of Stamford Park located at 1255 Victoria Park in honour of Jim McPherson.

Parks, Forestry, and Recreation staff is recommending that Stamford Park situated at 1255 Victoria Park be officially renamed “Jim McPherson Park” in honour of Mr. McPherson’s significant contributions to the community and the enhancement of soccer in the City of Toronto.

Parks, Forestry and Recreation staff have exercised due diligence in ensuring that all criteria in the Naming and Renaming for Parks and Recreation Facilities Policy have been met. At the community meeting held on May 19th at Scarborough Soccer Centre, residents expressed that the proposed name of “McPherson Park” should be amended to “Jim McPherson Park” to distinguish among other residents in the ward with the McPherson name.

RECOMMENDATION

The General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division recommends that Scarborough Community Council:

1. Rename Stamford Park situated at 1255 Victoria Park to “Jim McPherson Park” in honour of Mr. McPherson’s significant contributions to the community and the development of soccer in the City of Toronto.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There are no financial implications resulting from the adoption of this report.

DECISION HISTORY

Scarborough Community Council, at its meeting of April 27, 2010, considered a letter from Councillor Adrian Heaps relating to the request to rename Stamford Park located at 1255 Victoria Park, to “Jim McPherson Park” and referred the matter to the General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation for a report to Scarborough Community Council. (Item SC34.24)

[2010-04-27 Decision Document - Scarborough Community Council](#)

COMMENTS

Jim McPherson has been a patriarch of Scarborough Soccer for the last forty years. In the 1960s, Mr. McPherson started the soccer club which flourished under his management and philosophy that “leaves no child behind”. It is primarily because of this philosophy that thousands of children and youth were provided with the opportunity to play soccer, and, in return, assist in refereeing, working as linesmen and many other soccer-related activities.

Jim McPherson believed that people of various faiths and cultural diversities could be brought together through the game of soccer. He extended an invitation to youth from both the Protestant and Catholic faiths from Northern Ireland to participate in a soccer exchange program. The program was a great success with the Irish families reciprocating with invitations to their Canadian hosts.

Mr. McPherson has been honoured several times over the years for his volunteer work in soccer and with the Presbyterian Church. He has been inducted into the Ontario Soccer Association Circle of Excellence and has been recognized as part of the Scarborough Soccer Centre’s Wall of Fame. His Clairlea-Westview soccer club is the only predominantly house league club to win Club of the Year honours from the Ontario Soccer Association. Jim McPherson continues to serve as a role model in the community.

CONTACT

Andrew Koropeski, Director, Parks, Tel: 416-392-7911, Fax: 416-397-4899,
Email: akoropes@toronto.ca

SIGNATURE

Brenda Patterson,
General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation