Renaming of Jack Evelyn Wiggins Drive

Date: May 22, 2009
To: City Council
From: Executive Director, Technical Services
Wards: Ward 8
Reference Number: P:\2009\Cluster B\TEC\CN09023

SUMMARY

This staff report is in respect of a matter the authority over which to make a final decision has not been delegated to Community Councils by City Council.

This report is being forwarded to City Council for authorization to amend the names of two lanes and one street as noted in the recommendations.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Executive Director of Technical Services recommends that, subject to City Council authorizing an exception to its policy that the names of streets and lanes should not be changed:

(1) The street named Jack Evelyn Wiggins Drive be renamed as “Evelyn Wiggins Drive”;

(2) The lane named Elia Lane be renamed as “Jack Wiggins Lane”;

(3) The walkway identified as Block 348 (The Walkway) on Plan 66M-2439 be named “Elia Lane”; and

(4) The appropriate City officials take the necessary action to give effect thereto, including the introduction of the appropriate by-laws.

Financial Impact

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

At its meeting held on April 23 and 24, 2007, City Council approved, among other things, the use of Jack Evelyn Higgins Drive at the York University subdivision (NY4.37).
At its meeting held on April 21, 2009, North York Community Council requested the City Surveyor to conduct a poll of affected property owners and residents in respect of a proposal to amend the names of two lanes and one street, including Jack Evelyn Wiggins Drive (NY25.31).

At its meeting held on May 14, 2009, North York Community Council requested the City Surveyor to submit a report directly to City Council for its meeting on May 25 and 26, 2009, on the results of the poll that was conducted (NY26.26).

ISSUE BACKGROUND

We have a request from Councillor Perruzza to rename Jack Evelyn Wiggins Drive to “Evelyn Wiggins Drive”. The current street name is a long and somewhat confusing name, and does not properly recognize the contributions of Evelyn and Jack Wiggins, and each individual should be honoured with separate street names. The street is still under construction with 12 units occupied, and the remaining 31 units still being built.

Covering letters and ballots were hand delivered on April 24th, 2009 to the 12 occupied units and e-mailed to Tribute Homes, who are the owners of the 31 units still being built. Of the 12 occupied units, only five responses were received, three were supportive of the name change, and two objected. Tribute Homes, owners of the remaining units under construction, have no objections to the name changes. The results of the poll and Tribute Homes support represent a majority in favour of the name change.

Councillor Perruzza suggested that Elia Lane be renamed as “Jack Wiggins Lane” and the walkway identified as Block 348 (The Walkway) on Plan 66M-2439, be named as “Elia Lane”. Naming the walkway will better identify the units fronting thereon. The proposed name changes are shown on Attachment No. 1

Should City Council adopt the recommendations of this report, staff will advise the affected residents, Emergency Services, City divisions, MPAC, Canada Post, Bell 911 and other relevant agencies of the street name changes, and will make arrangements for the installation of street name signs.
CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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William G. Crowther, P. Eng.
Executive Director, Technical Services

Attachment No. 1 - Map
Renaming of Jack Evelyn Wiggins Drive

PROPOSED NAME CHANGES
1. JACK EVELYN WIGGINS DRIVE TO BE CHANGED TO 'EVELYN WIGGINS DRIVE'
2. ELIA LANE TO BE CHANGED TO "JACK WIGGINS LANE"
3. WALKWAY (BLOCK 348) TO BE NAMED "ELIA LANE"