Celebrating and recognizing Toronto's rich history via biographies for City namesakes on parks, trails, public squares, recreation centres, zoos and other properties and attractions - by Councillor James Pasternak, seconded by Councillor Ana Bailão

* Notice of this Motion has been given.
* This Motion is subject to referral to the Parks and Environment Committee. A two thirds vote is required to waive referral.

**Recommendations**
Councillor James Pasternak, seconded by Councillor Ana Bailão, recommends that:

1. City Council request the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation, in conjunction with other appropriate divisions, to review the feasibility of adding an explanatory online and/or on site history brief on the background naming of City sites such as parks, trails, public squares, recreation centres, zoos and other properties and attractions, such review to examine but not be restricted to:
   a. the number of properties that have or lack an online and/or on site explanatory biography;
   b. the feasibility of working with the families and friends of honourees well as local community groups and resident associations to prepare biographies of City properties that have been named for a notable person;
   c. options for including these biographies or historical briefs in the facilities themselves;
   d. ensuring all future sites named in recognition of residents have backgroupers and/or biographies prepared at the time of opening; and
   e. working with local preservation societies, Heritage Toronto and other groups to reduce the likelihood of duplication and enhance accuracy.

**Summary**
As a City that values its history and the individuals who helped build it, it is important that we ensure these historical figures are not forgotten. One way Toronto recognizes its past is by
naming our parks, trails, zoos, public squares, recreation centres and other sites after residents who made a difference in the local community or the entire city. However, not all properties contain plaques or displays about the person they are named after. In some cases there is no or only limited information available on the City's website.

By adding biographical or history briefs to the City of Toronto web page for each named property, we would ensure information about those who made an impact in our communities is readily available for residents and tourists who want to learn more about neighbourhoods and the City.

(Submitted to City Council on May 7 and 8, 2013 as MM33.10)

**Background Information (City Council)**
Member Motion MM33.10
([http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2013/mm/bgrd/backgroundfile-58063.pdf](http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2013/mm/bgrd/backgroundfile-58063.pdf))