

Potential Renaming Caribou Park to Phil Givens Park

Date:	April 14, 2016
To:	North York Community Council
From:	General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation
Wards:	Ward 16 – Eglinton - Lawrence
Reference Number:	P:\ 2016\Cluster A\PFR\NY14-051016-AFS#22813

SUMMARY

On February 4, 2016, a request was made to rename the park located at 99 Caribou Avenue to honour Phil Givens.

Property naming and renaming are a matter for which a Community Council has delegated authority from City Council to make a final decision.

The Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division has reviewed this renaming proposal and acknowledges the significant contributions of Phil Givens to the Caribou Park neighbourhood and the City of Toronto. As part of its due diligence, Parks, Forestry and Recreation reviewed the Council approved *City of Toronto Property Naming Policy* and found that this naming proposal meets the policy criteria and process.

Parks, Forestry and Recreation is recommending that the park located 99 Caribou Avenue be renamed to honour Phil Givens.

RECOMMENDATION

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

1. North York Community Council adopt the renaming of the Caribou Park located at 99 Caribou Avenue, to Phil Givens Park.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

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

DECISION HISTORY

At its meeting of February 4th, 2016, City Council directed the General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division to undertake community consultation regarding the potential renaming of "Caribou Park" to "Phil Givens Park", and to report back to the North York Community Council with a recommendation based on the criteria and process outlined in the Property Naming Policy. (MM12.24)

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2016.MM12.24>

COMMENTS

Phil Givens was the 54th Mayor of Toronto from 1963-1966. He was instrumental in securing Henry Moore's "The Archer" sculpture that is found at Nathan Phillips Square outside of Toronto City Hall. Characterized as "a mayor of the all people," he later personally donated the sundial at Nathan Phillips Square and dedicated it to Torontonians "in appreciation of the opportunity to serve."

He was active in the local community around Caribou Park through his political activities, memberships and leaderships in many local and national community organizations. He represented the neighbourhood where Caribou Park is located, at the municipal, provincial and federal levels of government and was active in politics for more than 25 years.

He was an Alderman with the former City of Toronto (1951-1960) and Councillor (1960-1963) with the Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto. He represented the Federal "York West" riding from 1968 to 1971. He also represented the provincial "York-Forest Hill" and "Armourdale" Ridings from 1971 to 1977. Phil Givens further served as a provincial judge and a Metropolitan Toronto Police Commissioner.

He lived across the street from Caribou Park with his family throughout his years as Mayor of Toronto. He passed away in 1995, and his widow still lives across the street from the park. There are currently no public memorials in the City of Toronto which recognize Mayor Phil Givens and his exceptional contributions to the local community, the City of Toronto, the Province of Ontario and Canada.

Public Consultation

Parks, Forestry and Recreation staff produced and posted a temporary sign in the park advising the local community and parks users of the request to rename Caribou Park to Phil Givens Park. The sign requested that anyone interested should send comments and feedback via email to parksnaming@toronto.ca. This notice only received 2 letters of feedback, one in support and one against the renaming proposal.

To broaden consultation efforts, the local councillor's office sent an email blast to Ward residents, resulting in over 100 email responses from residents. The majority of comments (85%) were in support of the proposed name "Phil Givens Park". There were 15 further comments that did not support the renaming. The general theme of these comments were that "parks should not be named after former politicians" and/or that "the park should retain its original name as that is what the community knows and remembers of their Caribou Park experiences".

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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