TORONTO

STAFF REPORT
ACTION REQUIRED

Renaming Bain Avenue Parkette to Erica Stark Parkette

Date:	February 26, 2016
To:	Toronto and East York Community Council
From:	General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation
Wards:	Ward 30 – Toronto-Danforth
Reference Number:	P:\2016\Cluster A\PFR\TE15-040516-AFS#22334

SUMMARY

On June 15, 2015, a request was made to rename the parkette located at 208 Bain Avenue to honour Erica Stark.

As per the Delegation of Authority to Community Councils, property naming and renaming are a matter for which Community Council has delegated authority from City Council to make a final decision. On July 7, 2015, City Council rescinded the former *Honourific and Street Naming Policy* and adopted the *City of Toronto Property Naming Policy*, which came into effect in October, 2015.

This report responds to a request that was initiated and substantially completed prior to the implementation of the current *Property Naming Policy*. During the review of the naming proposal, it was determined that the principles were in line with the current policy.

Parks, Forestry, and Recreation, therefore, recommends that Bain Avenue Parkette, located at 208 Bain Avenue, be renamed to honour Erica Stark.

RECOMMENDATION

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

1. Toronto and East York Community Council adopt the renaming of Bain Avenue Parkette, located at 208 Bain Avenue, to Erica Stark Parkette.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

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

COMMENTS

Erica Stark was passionate about her family and the importance of giving back to others. Her extensive volunteer work focused on children, people with disabilities, service dogs and improving her community park.

In 2005 and 2006, Erica and her son participated in the Roots of Empathy program, in which parents and their infants visited elementary school children in their classrooms, every three weeks, during the school year. The program reduces levels of aggression among school children, while raising social and emotional competence and increasing empathy.

Erica Stark was also instrumental in having Withrow Avenue Junior Public School added to Canadian schools participating in the No Child Without charitable program. This program ensures that students with medical conditions or allergies receive free MedicAlert service, regardless of their financial status.

In 2012, Erica and her family were accepted by the Lions Foundation Dog Guides of Canada to foster future service dogs. Over the next two years, the family prepared three dogs for training.

Erica inspired friends and family by giving her time, love, enthusiasm and dedication to the Withrow community. She was passionate about parks and participated in activities to improve safety. She took an active role in the development of the Friends of Withrow Park community group and volunteered at their events. This community group also took on a stewardship role within Bain Avenue Parkette, which is located adjacent to Withrow Park.

Erica worked closely with the local Councillor to make improvements to the parkette, including advocating for better lighting, new playground equipment and the replacement of the gate at the south park entrance to make it safer for children. Through Erica's active

involvement, all of these improvements have made the parkette a much more inviting place for children and families.

Public Consultation

Parks, Forestry and Recreation staff produced and posted a sign in the park advising of the request to rename the Bain Avenue Parkette to Erica Stark Parkette and requested that anyone interested should send comments to parksnaming@toronto.ca. To date, no objections have been received.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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