

Feasibility of Renaming the Park at 45 William Hancox Avenue, "Bob Acton Park"

Date: November 22, 2016

To: Toronto and East York Community Council

From: General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation

Wards: Ward 32 - Beaches-East York

SUMMARY

On November 15, 2016, a request was made to rename the park located at 45 William Hancox Avenue to 'Bob Acton Park'. Parks, Forestry, and Recreation has reviewed the proposal, and acknowledges the significant contributions Mr. Acton has made to the City of Toronto; however, this proposal does not meet a requirement in the Council-approved Property Naming Policy, specifically section 3.8.7, "Criteria to Name or Rename a City Property" which indicates: "Names of recent events or recently deceased individual may be considered after two years". As Mr. Acton passed away June 3, 2016, this request cannot be recommended by the Division.

Parks, Forestry and Recreation recommends that this report be received for information. Community Council may bring the naming proposal forward at such time when the proposal is in compliance with all of the criteria set out in the Property Naming Policy and not require approval by City Council; or, Community Council may bring forward the naming proposal through a recommendation to City Council requesting an exception to the Property Naming Policy.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

1. Toronto and East York Community Council receive this report for information.

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 investigate the feasibility of renaming the parkette at 45 William Hancox Avenue as Upper Beach Gardens and report back to Toronto and East York Community Council with a recommendation based on the criteria and process outlined in the Property Naming Policy (MM12.36)

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2016.MM12.36>

At its meeting of June 14, 2016, Toronto and East York Community Council indefinitely deferred the staff report from the General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation recommending the renaming of William Hancox Parkette to Upper Beach Gardens. (TE17.60)

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2016.TE17.60>

At its meeting of November 15, 2016, Toronto and East York Community Council moved to consent to reopen the decision on Item TE17.60 – to defer indefinitely the Renaming of William Hancox Parkette to Upper Beach Gardens Park; and request Parks, Forestry and Recreation staff to investigate the feasibility of renaming the parkette at 45 William Hancox Ave to "Bob Acton Park", and to report back to the January 17, 2017 meeting of the Toronto and East York Community Council (TE20.75).

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2016.TE20.75>

COMMENTS

William Hancox Parkette is located in an open green space in the community known to area residents and businesses as the Upper Beach. It was originally called Brockville Park, post construction, but the name was changed over time to William Hancox Parkette to reflect the adjacent street name, William Hancox Avenue. The street was named in honour of William (Bill) Hancox in the summer of 1999, based on a recommendation from Toronto Community Council:

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/1999/agendas/council/cc/cc990928/to12rpt/cl039.htm>

William (Bill) Hancox was a Toronto Police Constable slain on duty in August 1998.

Parks, Forestry, and Recreation has reviewed the proposal, and acknowledges the significant contributions Bob Acton made to the City of Toronto. For over fifty years, Mr. Acton trained and mentored thousands of children in the Beach community through his hockey school and afterschool programs.

Mr. Acton passed away June 3, 2016, after a two-year illness. The Council-approved Property Naming Policy, "Criteria to Name or Rename a City Property" - item number 3.8.7 indicates: "Names of recent events or recently deceased individual may be

considered after two years". This request does not meet this policy criteria and, therefore, this renaming request cannot be recommended by the Division.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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