TORONTO

REPORT FOR ACTION

Request to Rename "Hupfield Park" to "Viola Desmond Park"

Date: May 4, 2018
To: Scarborough Community Council
From: General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation
Wards: Ward 42 – Scarborough-Rouge River

SUMMARY

On January 31, 2018, a request was made to rename Hupfield Park located at 85 Hupfield Trail to Viola Desmond Park. Property naming and renaming are a matter for which Community Council has delegated authority from City Council to make a final decision.

The Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division has reviewed the Council approved City of Toronto Property Naming Policy and found that this naming proposal meets the policy criteria and process.

The Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division is recommending that Hupfield Park located at 85 Hupfield Trail, be renamed to Viola Desmond Park.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

1. Scarborough Community Council adopt the renaming of Hupfield Park, located at 85 Hupfield Trail, to Viola Desmond Park.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

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

DECISION HISTORY

At its meeting of January 31, 2018, City Council, through item MM36.12, directed the General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation to investigate the feasibility of renaming "Hupfield Park" located at 85 Hupfield Trail to "Viola Desmond Park" and report back to Scarborough Community Council with a recommendation based on the criteria and process outlined in the Property Naming Policy.

http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2018.MM36.12

COMMENTS

A request was submitted to the City of Toronto to rename Hupfield Park, located at 85 Hupfield Trail, to Viola Desmond Park.

In 1946, Viola Irene Desmond, a Black Canadian businesswoman, challenged racial segregation at a film theatre in New Glasgow, Nova Scotia and inspired future generations of Black Canadians to advance the civil rights movement in Canada. She was featured in a Historica Canada "Heritage Minute", and in December 2016, it was announced that she would be the first Canadian woman depicted on the face of a Canadian banknote. Honouring Viola Desmond in Scarborough provides people of all backgrounds with an opportunity to learn about and celebrate an important historic role model.

The current park name stems from the street address and bears little significance to the community.

Public Consultation

In accordance with the City of Toronto Property Naming Policy, Parks, Forestry and Recreation staff produced and posted a temporary sign in the park advising the local community and park users of the request to rename Hupfield Park to Viola Desmond Park. The sign requested that anyone interested should send comments and feedback. This sign was posted at the park from March 8 to April 30, 2018. Parks, Forestry and Recreation did not receive any objections to this naming request.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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