

Request to name the playground in Lionel Conacher Park to honour Bill R. Davis

Date: June 11, 2018

To: Toronto and East York Community Council

From: General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation

Wards: Ward 22 - St. Paul's

SUMMARY

This staff report is about a matter that Community Council has delegated authority to make a final decision, provided that it is not amended to be inconsistent with the City of Toronto Property Naming Policy.

On March 26, 2018, a request was received to name the playground located in Lionel Conacher Park, 80 Cottingham Street, to honour Bill Davis. The Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division has reviewed the Council-approved City of Toronto Property Naming Policy and found that this naming request is consistent with the policy criteria and process.

The Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division is recommending naming the playground located in Lionel Conacher Park, 80 Cottingham Street, to honour Bill Davis.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

1. Toronto and East York Community Council name the playground located in Lionel Conacher Park, 80 Cottingham Street, the "Bill R. Davis Playground".

FINANCIAL IMPACT

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

DECISION HISTORY

At its meeting of March 26 and 27, 2018, City Council, through MM38.16, directed the General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation to investigate the feasibility of

naming the playground located in Lionel Conacher Park located at 80 Cottingham Street, to "Bill Davis Playground" 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.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2018.MM38.16>

COMMENTS

A request was submitted to the City of Toronto to name the playground in Lionel Conacher Park, 80 Cottingham Street to honour Bill Davis, a tireless and dedicated community volunteer.

William R. Davis was born in Toronto, January 2, 1934. He has lived his entire life in the Yonge and Summerhill area. His father, Bill Davis Sr. was a highly recognized lacrosse player who in 1978, was inducted into the Canadian Lacrosse Hall of Fame. Bill Davis Sr. volunteered his time to coaching lacrosse and leading youth groups. Bill Jr., followed his father's admirable example and in 1950, began volunteering in this neighbourhood with the Summerhill Boys' and Girls' Club and continued to do so for nearly 60 years.

The Summerhill Boys' Club, operated by the Kiwanis Club as a weekly gathering for young local boys to play. It was run out of the basement gymnasium of the Yonge Street United Church at the corner of Yonge and Summerhill. Eventually, a girls' night was added. In 1971, the church was destroyed by fire and the club was relocated to Cottingham Public School where it remains until today.

Bill Davis graduated from North Toronto Collegiate, where he was awarded the Sifton Trophy, an award which recognizes outstanding character, scholarship and leadership. He continued his studies to become a Chartered Account and worked as a professional accountant for his entire career. He is married and has three children and five grandchildren.

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 parks users of the request to name the playground in Lionel Conacher Park the "Bill Davis Playground". The sign requested that anyone interested should send comments and feedback via email to parksnaming@toronto.ca.

Some of the feedback indicated that one former Cottingham Public School student could not recall any of the teachers' names but remembered Bill Davis and the great fun he had at the Boys' Club. Another former club participant became emotional when remembering the wholesome fun, and the safe and inviting environment Bill created for the children.

During the consultation process it was recommended that the playground name include Mr. Davis' middle initial "R" to distinguish him from the former Premier of Ontario, William Grenville "Bill" Davis.

Parks, Forestry and Recreation did not receive any objections to this naming request.

CONTACT

Richard Ubbens, Director, Parks, Tel: 416-392-7911, Email:
Richard.Ubbens@toronto.ca

SIGNATURE

Janie Romoff
General Manager, Parks Forestry and Recreation