

The Feasibility of Renaming "Northern Linear Park" to "Chinese Railroad Workers Memorial Park"

Date: January 14, 2020

To: Toronto and East York Community Council

From: General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation

Wards: Ward 10 - Spadina- Fort York

SUMMARY

On September 17, 2019, Parks, Forestry and Recreation (PFR) received a formal application to rename "Northern Linear Park", located at 4 Blue Jays Way, to "Chinese Railroad Workers Memorial Park". The City of Toronto reviewed the application in accordance with City's Property Naming Policy.

PFR conducted a review of anticipated park development along the downtown rail corridor. In the coming years, Rail Deck Park project will impact the area between Blue Jays Way and Bathurst Street over the rail corridor and directly adjacent Northern Linear Park. Since PFR continues to plan for Rail Deck Park, it does not recommend renaming the park while this large park development is underway.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

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

FINANCIAL IMPACT

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

DECISION HISTORY

There is no decision history related to this matter.

COMMENTS

Northern Linear Park is a 0.7 hectare linear park that spans from Blue Jays Way to Bathurst Street. The park is on land owned by The City of Toronto (between Bathurst and Spadina) and Canada Lands Company (between Spadina and Blue Jays Way) and is maintained by the Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division.

Under the Rail Deck Park Plan, Northern Linear Park parcel will need to be re-configured, and likely incorporated into a larger park parcel, as the Rail Deck Park project proceeds. Northern Linear Park currently contains a multi-use trail system, horticultural displays, and the Chinese Railroad Workers Memorial monument to commemorate the Chinese workers who lost their lives during the building of the Canada Pacific Railway. Any discussions and future plans for the park will be undertaken with careful consideration for the Chinese Railroad Workers Memorial monument.

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SIGNATURE

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