

Name of Forthcoming Community Recreation Centre and Library at 100 Ethennonnhawahstihnen' Lane

Date: January 31, 2022

To: North York Community Council

From: General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation

Wards: Ward 17 - Don Valley North

SUMMARY

This report proposes the name, *Ethennonnhawahstihnen' Community Recreation Centre and Library*, for a new community centre under construction at 100 Ethennonnhawahstihnen' Lane, which is adjacent to Ethennonnhawahstihnen' Park, a matter for which Community Council has delegated authority from City Council to make a final decision.

The City and Toronto Public Library (TPL) consulted the Huron-Wendat Nation and confirm that they support the City in using this name. The City of Toronto Aboriginal Affairs Advisory Committee supported this name and the TPL Board approved the name, *Ethennonnhawahstihnen' Branch*, for the onsite library branch.

The City and TPL are collaborating with the Huron-Wendat Nation on a plan to commission Indigenous public artwork and historical and cultural interpretative content at the site. The City and TPL will also engage the Huron-Wendat Nation, Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, and local Indigenous community members to help plan and participate in the public opening of this facility in late 2022 or early 2023.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

1. North York Community Council approve the name "Ethennonnhawahstihnen' Community Recreation Centre and Library" for the forthcoming City of Toronto facility located at 100 Ethennonnhawahstihnen' Lane.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There are no financial impacts as a result of the recommendation in this report.

The Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer has reviewed this report and agrees with the information as presented in the Financial Impact section.

DECISION HISTORY

At its meeting on January 24, 2022, the Toronto Public Library Board approved the name Ethennonnhawahstihnen' Branch for the new onsite, Toronto Public Library branch, to be located at 100 Ethennonnhawahstihnen' Lane.

<https://www.torontopubliclibrary.ca/about-the-library/board/meetings/2022/2022-jan-24.jsp>

At its meeting on January 14, 2022, the Aboriginal Affairs Advisory Committee expressed support for the proposed name Ethennonnhawahstihnen' Community Recreation Centre and Library for the future facility, to be located on 100 Ethennonnhawahstihnen' Lane.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2022.AA15.7>

At its meeting on July 14, 2021, City Council approved the draft City of Toronto Principles for Commemoration in the Public Realm and authorized the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation, in consultation with the Director, Indigenous Affairs Office and the City Librarian, to investigate options for naming a new community recreation centre to be located at 100 Ethennonnhawahstihnen' Lane (Ward 17) and to recommend a name to North York Community Council by the fourth quarter of 2021. The recommended name is to be in alignment with the draft principles and with the Toronto Public Library's process for naming the new on-site branch.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2021.EX25.1>

At its meeting on October 29, 2019, City Council approved a request from North York Community Council, at its meeting on October 10, 2019, to grant an exemption to the City of Toronto Street Naming Policy to allow the renaming of "Woodsy Park Lane" (Ward 17) to "Ethennonnhawahstihnen' Lane".

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2019.NY9.18>

At its meeting on October 10, 2019, North York Community Council approved the renaming of "Woodsy Park", located at 80 McMahon Drive (Ward 17), to "Ethennonnhawahstihnen' Park".

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2019.NY9.17>

COMMENTS

A New Community Centre in Ward 17 Don Valley North

Name of New Community Centre at 100 Ethennonnhawahstihnen' Lane

A new community centre is under construction at 100 Ethennonnhawahstihnen' Lane (Ward 17), which is adjacent to Ethennonnhawahstihnen' Park and located within the 45 acre, Concord Park Place master-planned community that will be home to 10,000 residents across 20 residential towers when the development is completed.

The 3 story facility will contain a community recreation centre, a new branch of the Toronto Public Library, a childcare centre, a community hall, an aquatic centre, and a gymnasium with an indoor track. Most users are expected to come from within 3 km and broader community access will be facilitated by the nearby Bessarion TTC subway station. Opening day is planned for late 2022 or early 2023.

Recognizing the Indigenous Significance of the Site of the New Community Centre

The new community centre, park and street are located within 800 metres of the Moatfield Ossuary and village (1280 CE to 1320 CE), a significant Wendat archaeological site that was identified in 1997. The Six Nations Council of Oshweken agreed to allow the Government of Ontario to commission an archaeological study of the ossuary, after which the human remains were reburied later that year. An important and unique finding at this site was the presence of many people who lived in good health, with few injuries and past the age of 50.

Recognizing the significance of the site, in 2019, the City of Toronto Indigenous Affairs Office consulted with the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation and Huron-Wendat Nation to understand how the City could commemorate the site and foster dialogue between current residents and Indigenous communities.

Ultimately, the Wendat name, Ethennonnhawahstihnen' (meaning "where they had a good, beautiful life") was suggested by the Huron-Wendat Nation to rename nearby Woodsy Park (located at 80 McMahon Drive) and Woodsy Park Lane.

In accordance with the City of Toronto Property Naming Policy, Parks, Forestry and Recreation posted signage about the proposed park renaming and conducted a public survey in summer 2019 to obtain community feedback. Survey respondents expressed strong positive support for renaming the park and overwhelmingly indicated that this was an important step for the City to meaningfully recognize Indigenous place making and is a positive step towards advancing truth and reconciliation with Indigenous groups. Respondents also expressed interest in connecting with Indigenous heritage and to learn about the Wendat Nation. Respondents also recommended the installation of interpretative signage and audio-visual material, to facilitate the pronunciation of the name and to increase understanding. In September 2019, City Councillor Shelley Carroll released a YouTube video explaining the meaning of the name, the significance of the site, and providing guidance to pronounce the name:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=24I2_8KK2FE.

At its meeting on October 10, 2019, North York Community Council formally approved the renaming of Woodsy Park to Ethennonnhawahstihnen' Park and requested that City Council grant an exemption to the City of Toronto Street Naming Policy to allow the renaming of Woodsy Park Lane to Ethennonnhawahstihnen' Lane. City Council granted Name of New Community Centre at 100 Ethennonnhawahstihnen' Lane

this exemption at its meeting on October 29, 2019, confirming the new street name. In its report to North York Community Council on this matter, City staff committed to continue working with the Wendat Nation to ensure the accuracy and appropriateness of interpretive resources and information that shared about the name and significance of the site.

Naming the New Community Recreation Centre

On July 14, 2021, City Council authorized the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation, in consultation with the Director, Indigenous Affairs Office and the City Librarian, to investigate options for naming the new community centre to be located at 100 Ethennonnhawahstihnen' Lane in alignment with Toronto Public Library's (TPL) process for naming the new on-site branch and with the draft City of Toronto Principles for Commemoration in the Public Realm.

Between August 2021 and January 2022, the City and TPL, communicated regularly with representatives of the Huron-Wendat Nation, to explore extending the name Ethennonnhawahstihnen' to the new community centre, as a means of building upon and deepening the positive community efforts and engagement undertaken to date to commemorate the importance of this site for the Huron-Wendat Nation. The City and TPL have also communicated with the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation about these efforts and presented on this work to the City of Toronto Aboriginal Affairs Advisory Committee on January 14, 2022, where the name was endorsed.

As outlined in the attached letter (Appendix A), the Huron-Wendat Nation supports the City in naming the new facility, Ethennonnhawahstihnen' Community Recreation Centre and Library.

Naming the New Library Branch

In a separate process, the Toronto Public Library (TPL) Board approved the name "Ethennonnhawahstihnen' Branch" for the new onsite TPL branch on January 24, 2022, based on a recommendation from the TPL Naming Committee and the TPL Indigenous Advisory Council, which endorsed the name, with the understanding that Ethennonnhawahstihnen' was the preferred name of the Huron-Wendat Nation confirmed in the attached letter (Appendix A) shared with the Library Board.

Draft Principles for Commemoration in the Public Realm

The proposed name for the facility, the collaborative work undertaken since 2019 with the Huron-Wendat Nation, and the City's efforts to educate the public and reinforce the significance of the site are aligned with the draft City of Toronto Principles for Commemoration in the Public Realm:

- Indigenous Place-Keeping
- Diversity our strength
- Co-creation
- Demonstrated community support and community engagement
- Relevance to Toronto

- Celebrating untold stories
- Historical and community research
- Compliance with legislation, City By-laws and policies

The current collaboration to name the community centre is a continuation of the work started in 2019, which included public consultation and overwhelming community support which led to the renaming of the existing park and street to Ethennonnhawahstihnen' Park and Ethennonnhawahstihnen' Lane, respectively.

The City's Property Naming Policy requires public consultation on proposed names for City assets, except where the proposed property name is based on a location or a name of a street. In this instance, the proposed facility name is based on the name of the street and the adjacent park. Although public consultations are not required, the City will focus efforts on continued public education about the name Ethennonnhawahstihnen', in cooperation with the Huron-Wendat Nation.

Indigenous Placemaking at the Site

The City's work towards Indigenous placemaking and Truth and Reconciliation does not end with the conferral of a name. The City is committed to work with partners explore opportunities for Indigenous placemaking and programming at this new facility and elsewhere across City parks and community recreation facilities. This overall effort will be guided by the City's commitment to Indigenous Peoples (as outlined in the Statement of Commitment to the Aboriginal Communities of Toronto) and the City's forthcoming Reconciliation Action Plan, which will outline actions to improve the lives of First Nations, Inuit and Métis people in Toronto.

The City and TPL are currently working with the Huron-Wendat Nation on a plan to commission Indigenous public artwork and historical and cultural interpretative content at the site. This work will proceed throughout 2022 and strive to reflect the stories of past, current, and future Indigenous people and communities, including First Nations, Inuit and Métis people living in Toronto and the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation.

The City and TPL will engage the Huron-Wendat Nation, Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, and local Indigenous community members to help plan and participate in the public opening of this facility in late 2022 or early 2023.

CONTACT

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Name of New Community Centre at 100 Ethennonnhawahstihnen' Lane

SIGNATURE

Janie Romoff
General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation

ATTACHMENTS

Appendix A: January 11, 2022 correspondence from Louis Lesage, PhD Bio., Director, Bureau du Nionwentsio, Nation huronne-wendat