

Naming Recommendation for 21 Monte Kwinter Court

Date: November 15, 2024
To: North York Community Council
From: General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation
Wards: Ward 6 - York Centre

SUMMARY

On June 18, 2019, City Council requested through item [MM8.5](#) that the City Manager report on the feasibility of naming a City Facility in honour of the late former Councillor, Milton Berger.

Parks, Forestry and Recreation worked with Strategic Partnerships and consulted with the local Councillor to identify a new park at 21 Monte Kwinter Court as an appropriate location to commemorate the life and long-standing public service of Milton Berger.

On September 9, 2020, Council placed a short-term moratorium on naming and renaming as part of the Recognition Review and Dundas Street Renaming and through item [EX16.3](#). Naming services resumed once the moratorium was lifted and after Council approved a new framework for commemoration in the public realm on July 19, 2022, through item [EX34.6](#).

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

1. North York Community Council adopt the name Milton Berger Park for the new park located at 21 Monte Kwinter Court.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Funding for the costs associated with the production and installation of the new park sign have been secured as part of the development agreement requirements, and have been paid by the developer.

DECISION HISTORY

At its meeting of June 18 and 19, 2019 City Council adopted Motion MM8.5 - Request for Report on Feasibility of Naming a City Facility after Milton Berger. The motion directed "the City Manager to investigate the feasibility of naming a significant City park, facility or roadway in honour of the late former Councillor Milton Berger, including consultation with the Berger family, and bring a recommendation to City Council for approval at or by its November 26 and 27, 2019 meeting."

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2019.MM8.5>

COMMENTS

Milton Berger

Milton Berger passed away on May 19, 2019, at the age of 94, having served as a Toronto councillor for close to 25 years. Milton Berger is thought to be the first Holocaust survivor elected to public office in Canada.

Milton Berger was born in 1925 in Mukacevo, Czechoslovakia (now Ukraine), and was sent to Auschwitz by the Nazis in 1944 before being liberated by the Allies in 1945. After the war, he moved to Germany, where he met his wife Anna, immigrating to Canada in 1949. In Canada, Milton first opened a variety store at College and Shaw, later relocating to Avenue Road near his home on Dunblaine Avenue, while also working as a real estate broker.

Milton Berger started his political career in 1976 when he won a seat on North York's Municipal Council and served until 1994, including 10 years of service on Metropolitan Toronto Council. He returned to municipal politics for the first term of the newly amalgamated City Council, from 1997 - 2000. During his long career in municipal politics, Milton Berger most notably advocated for the creation of the Holocaust monument at Earl Bales Park, the development of seniors' housing in the community, and the establishment of the Bathurst/Prince Charles Apartments, which provides affordable housing to low and moderate-income families, individuals and those with disabilities in Toronto.

After consulting with the local councillor and the area's residents, it is recommended that the new park at 21 Monte Kwinter Court in North York be named after Milton Berger in recognition of his long-standing contributions to the North York community.

Recommended Park

21 Monte Kwinter Court

The forthcoming park will be constructed in two phases, creating a 2582m² new park, and is located near the intersection of Hwy 401 and Allen Road (south of Wilson). Phase one of the park will be completed in early 2025 and will include a children's

playground, splash pad, concrete seat walls, benches and picnic tables. Phase two will be completed at a later date, and will include a water bottle filler, fitness area, open lawn, circulation between the park, privately-owned publicly-accessible space and streetscape, and a wide central pedestrian spine leading to Wilson subway station.

Consultations

In accordance with the City of Toronto Property Naming Policy, City staff consulted with the local Councillor to name 21 Monte Kwinter Court in honour of Milton Berger. Parks, Forestry and Recreation communicated the proposed name via an online survey. The area residents were given an opportunity to comment on the proposed name, and the Councillor endorsed the name.

City of Toronto Property Naming Policy

During the consideration of Item EX34.6, A New Commemorative Framework for the City of Toronto's Public Spaces, City Council authorized staff to process naming and renaming applications received prior to October 1, 2020, using the criteria in the City of Toronto Street Naming Policy and the City of Toronto Property Naming Policy adopted by City Council in July 2015 in Item EX7.8 Updated Policies for Naming City Streets and Properties.

Parks, Forestry and Recreation consulted with Strategic Partnerships to ensure the naming process met all criteria listed in the 2015 City of Toronto Property Naming Policy. Considering the criteria for the City of Toronto Property Naming Policy has been met, staff recommend that Council name the park at 21 Monte Kwinter Court "Milton Berger Park."

CONTACT

Vanessa Ferrone
Director (A), Governance & Corporate Strategy
Tel: 416-392-2915, Email: Vanessa.Ferrone@toronto.ca

Paul Farish
Director, Parks Planning and Strategic Planning, Parks, Forestry and Recreation
Tel: 416-392-8705, Email: Paul.Farish@toronto.ca

SIGNATURE

Howie Dayton
General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division