

## **Establishing a Permanent Memorial in Scarborough Honouring Grant Faulkner**

**Date:** October 16, 2024

**To:** Scarborough Community Council

**From:** General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation

**Wards:** Scarborough-Guildwood - 24

### **SUMMARY**

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On June 30, 2022 the Scarborough Community Council requested through item [2022.SC33.61](#) that the General Manager, Economic Development and Culture, in consultation with the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation report on the feasibility of establishing a permanent memorial in Scarborough honouring Grant Faulkner's memory, such as a parkette in his name.

Economic Development and Culture and Parks, Forestry and Recreation worked with Strategic Partnerships, and the local Councillor to consult with the Faulkner Family to identify the proposed park at 320 Markham Road as an appropriate location to commemorate the life and lasting impact of Grant Faulkner.

In accordance with the City of Toronto Property Naming Policy, Parks, Forestry and Recreation staff produced and posted a temporary sign at 320 Markham Road advising the local community and park users of the request to name the proposed park.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

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

1. Scarborough Community Council adopt the naming of the proposed park at 320 Markham Road to Grant Faulkner Park.

## **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

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Funding for the costs associated with the production and installation of the new park sign will be accommodated within the Operating Budget for Parks, Forestry and Recreation.

The Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial implications as identified in the Financial Impact section.

## **DECISION HISTORY**

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At its meeting on June 30, 2022 the Scarborough Community Council requested the General Manager, Economic Development and Culture, in consultation with the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation to report on establishing a permanent memorial in Scarborough honouring Grant Faulkner's memory.

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2022.SC33.61>

At its meeting on October 2, 2019, City Council considered a report from the General Manager, Shelter, Support and Housing Administration (SSHA) on the actions taken by City divisions to respond to the recommendations from the Coroner's Inquests into the deaths of Grant Faulkner [and Bradley Chapman].

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2019.EC7.10>

At its meeting on June 26, 2018, City Council adopted a member motion recommending City Council to adopt and implement the Coroner's Jury recommendations established on June 11, 2018, on the Inquest into the Death of Grant Faulkner.

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2018.MM43.30>

## **COMMENTS**

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Mr. Faulkner, aged 49, died on January 13, 2015 when a fire consumed the plywood shelter where he was sleeping near McCowan and Sheppard Ave East in Scarborough.

Mr. Faulkner had experienced episodic periods of homelessness leading up to the date of his death. Mr. Faulkner had previously used various homeless services available in the community such as the Out of the Cold program at Knox United Church and regularly accessed services at the Agincourt Community Services drop-in centre.

On June 11-20, 2018, the Office of the Chief Coroner held a discretionary inquest into the death of Mr. Grant Faulkner.

One of the recommendations requests the City of Toronto to consider honouring Grant Faulkner's memory by establishing a permanent memorial in Scarborough, such as a parkette in his name.

## **Recommended Park**

### *320 Markham Road*

Parks, Forestry and Recreation identified this park as an option for commemorating Grant Faulkner. Grant Faulkner's family also confirmed this location as the preferred location for this commemoration.

The new park is 2.4 Ha in size and will serve areas of parkland need identified in the Council-approved Parkland Strategy. It is also a rare opportunity for a larger park which can accommodate active recreation facilities identified in the Council-approved Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan. The final design for the park will be determined through community engagement. Proposed amenities may include but are not limited to a cricket practice pitch, soccer pitch(es), open space field, playground, adult fitness, circulation and pathways, accessible seating, and a parking lot for park users.

The parcel of land is currently being transferred to Parks, Forestry and Recreation for park purposes. This process includes Transportation Services advancing a stop-up and close by-law to close a portion of the site that is an untravelled public right-of-way. The transfer for park use is anticipated to be completed by the end of 2024, after which the public will have access to the site in "base park" (sodded condition) until construction and park development begin. Community engagement on the future park design is expected in 2025, with park construction expected to begin in Fall 2025 and an anticipated park opening in 2026.

## **Consultations**

Parks, Forestry and Recreation staff produced and posted a temporary sign at 320 Markham Road advising the local community and park users of the request to name the proposed park. This temporary signage also includes a QR code to the Property Naming Policy and the process to name a City property. The City's [New Park at 320 Markham Road](#) project webpage has been updated with background information on the proposed park name and has provided a City contact to direct any feedback to. City staff worked with the ward Councillor to find an appropriate park and the ward Councillor has endorsed the recommended name of Grant Faulkner Park.

At the time of writing this report, no responses from the public have been received.

## **City of Toronto Property Naming Policy**

Parks, Forestry and Recreation consulted with Strategic Partnerships and Economic Development and Culture to ensure the naming met the criteria of the City of Toronto Property Naming Policy and was in alignment with the Guiding Principles for Commemoration. Considering that City staff advised that the naming meets all the criteria for the City of Toronto Property Naming Policy, staff recommend that the Council name the park at 320 Markham Road "Grant Faulkner Park."

## **CONTACT**

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## **SIGNATURE**

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