



CITY OF HAMILTON
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
Environmental Services Division

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| TO: | Chair and Members Facility Naming Sub-Committee |
| COMMITTEE DATE: | November 8, 2021 |
| SUBJECT/REPORT NO: | Naming of Jennie Florence Parker Sports Complex, 105 North Service Road, Hamilton (PW21059) (Ward 5) |
| WARD(S) AFFECTED: | Ward 5 |
| PREPARED BY: | Victoria Cox (905) 546-2424, Extension2292 |
| SUBMITTED BY: | Cynthia Graham Acting Director, Environmental Services Public Works Department |
| SIGNATURE: | |

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (a) That the sports park (internally referred to as Confederation Beach Park Sports Park) located at 105 North Service Road, be named Jennie Florence Parker Sports Complex;
- (b) That the approval of Jennie Florence Parker's living relatives be accepted as a variation to the requirement in the City of Hamilton's Municipal Property and Building Naming Policy which currently requires the approval of a deceased individual's legal representative before naming a City of Hamilton property, building or feature in recognition of a deceased individual, and;
- (c) That the City of Hamilton's Municipal Property and Building Naming Policy be revised to also permit one of a deceased's living relatives to approve the naming of a City of Hamilton property, building or feature after a deceased individual in cases where the deceased's legal representative does not exist or is not immediately available.

OUR Vision: To be the best place to raise a child and age successfully.

OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

OUR Culture: Collective Ownership, Steadfast Integrity, Courageous Change, Sensational Service, Engaged Empowered Employees.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Confederation Beach Park Sports Park is located in the eastern section of the larger Confederation Beach Park. Confederation Beach Park is a 93-hectare (228-acre) city-wide park, located along the Lake Ontario waterfront between the Hamilton Beach Strip and Grays Road in Stoney Creek. The park offers a variety of all-ages recreation and relaxation opportunities, numerous dining and entertainment options, and several significant woodlots and naturalized areas. The location of the site is shown in Appendix “A” attached to Report PW21059.

In 1958 Jennie Florence Parker (1902 – 1965) proposed to civic leaders that a waterfront park be constructed in the City of Hamilton’s (City) east end which resulted in the creation of Confederation Beach Park. Her initial contribution to the Park was recognized with a plaque affixed to a rock that is currently located within Confederation Beach Park at the entrance to Wild Waterworks. It was unveiled in 1967; however, she is referred to as Mrs. Stanley Parker, her husband’s given name.

The new sports park has not been formally named Confederation Beach Park Sports Park but has been referred to as this by staff for identification and tracking purposes during capital budgeting and staff reporting. The name Jennie Florence Parker Sports Complex was proposed for consideration through a motion at the Facilities Naming Subcommittee on May 27th, 2021.

The City’s Municipal Property and Building Naming Policy currently requires the approval of a deceased individual’s ‘legal representative’ before naming a City property in recognition of a deceased individual.

Jennie Florence Parker’s grandson, Gary Parker, has advised City staff that Jennie Parker passed away on January 22, 1965 and that her husband, Stanley Parker, passed away on January 8, 1977 leaving no estate. As a result, there is no identifiable legal representative for Jennie Florence Parker or her estate. However, Jennie Florence Parker’s living relatives, Gary Parker and Grant Parker, have approved the naming of the Confederation Beach Park Sports Park located at 105 North Service Road as the Jennie Florence Parker Sports Complex.

The plaque and rock currently located at the entrance to Wild Waterworks will be kept but relocated and placed within the Jennie Florence Parker Sports Complex. Heritage Resource Staff recommended this approach as it speaks to social history and naming conventions in the past. The name Jennie Florence Parker Sports Complex honours and recognizes Jennie Florence Parker for her contribution to the establishment of Confederation Beach Park and is compliant with the Municipal Property and Building Naming Policy.

Alternatives for Consideration – See Page 5

FINANCIAL – STAFFING – LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial: Included in the Confederation Beach Park Sports Park Project (PID# 4401356801) is funding for signage at the entrances. The existing plaque/rock will be moved approximately 800 metres to the entrance of the Jennie Florence Parker Sports Complex. It is estimated the cost of \$1,500 to move the rock will be covered by the Confederation Beach Park Sports Project (PID#4401356801).

Staffing: not applicable

Legal: The Parker family has provided written consent and are in support of the name as per the criteria in the Municipal Property and Building Naming Policy.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

In the 1950s the area now known as Confederation Beach Park was predominantly covered by agricultural and residential lands. The area was regularly buffeted with winter storms and the shoreline was beginning to erode. In 1957 local authorities deemed several homes in the area unfit for habitation due to these conditions. Furthermore, local industry was beginning to encroach on the lands and pollution was impacting the area.

Jennie Florence Parker, President of the Hamilton Women's Civic Club, proposed the idea that this area along the shoreline should be turned into a public park for residents from all over the City to enjoy. In 1958, Jennie Parker presented this idea to civic leaders including City of Hamilton (City) Council and Alderman John Munro as summarized in the articles in Appendix "B" and Appendix "C" attached to Report PW21059. The leaders liked the idea and began to work with Mayor Lloyd Jackson on the plan. In 1959, 87 acres of land along the shoreline was expropriated for the park, and with support from the provincial and federal government, Confederation Park opened in 1964. The park, now called Confederation Beach Park, is an important recreation and tourism destination in Hamilton and surrounding area.

Jennie Florence Parker passed away on January 22nd, 1965. Her initial contribution to the Park was recognized with a plaque affixed to a rock that was unveiled in 1967 and is located at the entrance to Wild Waterworks, a waterpark located within Confederation Beach Park. On the plaque she was referred to as Mrs. Stanley Parker, her husband's given name.

In 2011, the Hamilton Conservation Authority (HCA) submitted the Confederation Park Master Plan Review and Update (dated August 2010) to the City, proposing a capital program to fund necessary upgrades, life-cycle replacements, and new park features. To address these requests, the City is now working to prioritize and implement short and long-term goals as part of the Confederation Beach Park Implementation strategy, presented to Public Works Committee on August 11, 2016 through Report PW11005(d). One of the short-term goals from Report PW11005(d) was to construct a sports park in the former campground near Grays Road.

Construction for Confederation Beach Park Sports Park was broken into three phases, with phase one completed in 2020. Phase one included a regulation cricket field, multi-use soccer field, 12 pickle ball courts with lighting, the east parking lot and improvements to the North Service Road access. Phases two and three include a new fieldhouse with entry plaza, a naturalized playground, two cricket batting cages, a park maintenance building, a large parking area and internal pathways. Construction for phases two and three started in spring 2021 and it is anticipated that it will be completed and ready for the 2023 playing season.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND LEGISLATED REQUIREMENTS

The Municipal Property and Building Naming Policy is the policy related to the naming of parkland.

Recommendations (b) and (c) of Report PW21059 are a result of the legal review of the policy and determination by staff that an update to the policy would accommodate future situations where deceased individuals' legal representative may also be deceased, and therefore exclude them from consideration for naming of municipal property.

RELEVANT CONSULTATION

The Ward 5 Councillor has been consulted and is supportive of the recommendation.

The following groups also have been consulted and are supportive of the recommendation:

Public Works Department, Environmental Services Division Parks and Cemeteries Section
Family Members Gary Parker and Grant Parker

ANALYSIS AND RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

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As Confederation Beach Park Sports Park is partially constructed, with phase one complete and phases two and three underway, this is an appropriate time to establish an official name for the park.

The Municipal Property and Building Naming Policy outlines the criteria for consideration of the names of municipal properties and buildings, including parkland. The policy outlines general guidelines, including that the names should give a sense of place, maintain long-standing local area identification with residents, and be consistent with other policies and standards such as not duplicating park names. In order of priority, names should be associated with geographic affiliation, historic affiliation, and/or prominent individuals or organizations.

The name Jennie Florence Parker Sports Complex would meet the criteria for an appropriate name as outlined in the policy as it recognizes Jennie Florence Parker, a prominent individual that made a significant contribution to the City with her idea to establish a waterfront park, now known as Confederation Beach Park. She also served in a voluntary capacity in a community organization as the President of the Hamilton Civic Women's Club. Her contribution is well documented, she has a documented relationship with the park, family members are supportive of the proposed name and she has an honourable reputation.

It has been confirmed that no other park in the City is named Jennie Florence Parker Sports Complex.

The City's Municipal Property and Building Naming Policy currently requires the approval of a deceased individual's legal representative before naming a City property in recognition of a deceased individual.

Jennie Florence Parker's grandson, Gary Parker, has advised City staff that Jennie Parker passed away on January 22, 1965 and that her husband, Stanley Parker, passed away on January 8, 1977 leaving no estate. As a result, there is no identifiable legal representative for Jennie Florence Parker or her estate. However, Jennie Florence Parker's living relatives, Gary Parker and Grant Parker, have approved the naming of the Confederation Beach Park Sports Park located at 105 North Service Road as the Jennie Florence Parker Sports Complex.

ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION

If the Recommendation (a) for Report PW21059 is not approved, an alternative is to formally designate the new park the Confederation Beach Park Sports Complex.

Financial: not applicable

Staffing: not applicable

Legal: not applicable

ALIGNMENT TO THE 2016 – 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN

Community Engagement and Participation

Hamilton has an open, transparent and accessible approach to City government that engages with and empowers all citizens to be involved in their community

Clean and Green

Hamilton is environmentally sustainable with a healthy balance of natural and urban spaces.

Culture and Diversity

Hamilton is a thriving, vibrant place for arts, culture, and heritage where diversity and inclusivity are embraced and celebrated.

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

Appendix “A” to Report PW21059- Map of Confederation Beach Park and Sports Park

Appendix “B” to Report PW21059 - Hamilton Spectator Article July 18, 1992

Appendix “C” to Report PW21059 - Hamilton Spectator Article June 26, 1964