

Community Services Report to  
Priorities and Finance Committee  
2021 May 18

MAY 31 2021  
ITEM: 7.14 PFC2021-063  
*released*  
CITY CLERK'S DEPARTMENT

ISC: CONFIDENTIAL  
PFC2021-0631  
Page 1 of 5

## Naming of Six City Parks

### RECOMMENDATIONS:

Review By: 2021 May 31.

That the Priorities and Finance Committee recommends that Council:

1. Approve the name "Dr. Leslie Allan Park" for the park site located at Shawnee BV and Shawnee ST SW;
2. Approve the name "Mary and Catherine Barclay Park" for the park site located at Crescent RD and 3 ST NW;
3. Approve the name "Craig Reid Park", for the park site located at 47 AV and 17 ST SW;
4. Approve the name "Verna Reid Park", for the park site located at 1625 Acton AV SW;
5. Approve the name "Szabo Commons" for the park site located at 16 AV and 9 ST SW;
6. Approve the name "Paul 'Smokey' Wilkinson Park", for the park site located at Memorial DR and 14 ST NW; and
7. Direct that the report and attachments be heard in-camera pursuant to subsection 23(1)(b) of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, and remain confidential pursuant to Section 24(1)(a)&(b) of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* until Council rises and reports.

### RECOMMENDATION OF THE PRIORITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEE, 2021 MAY 18:

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### HIGHLIGHTS

- This report presents to Council six existing parks in Calgary to be named to commemorate six Calgarians as part of the Calgary 125 Municipal Naming Initiative. The proposed park names include: "Dr. Leslie Allan Park", "Mary and Catherine Barclay Park", "Craig Reid Park", "Verna Reid Park", "Szabo Commons", and "Paul 'Smokey' Wilkinson Park". Maps of the parks are included as Attachment 2.

## **Naming of Six City Parks**

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- **What does this mean to Calgarians?** This is an opportunity for The City to recognize six “unsung heroes” who contributed to their communities and Calgary in unique and meaningful ways.
- **Why does this matter?** This type of recognition contributes to community pride as citizens will identify their communities with friendly, helpful people. Naming contributes to placemaking as it identifies that greenspace as special and helps citizens and visitors navigate through neighbourhoods.
- The six parks will be recognized using new signage at each park and updates on Calgary.ca. Design of the Szabo Commons signage is included as Attachment 9; the design concept for remaining signs is included as Attachment 10.
- Strategic Alignment to Council’s Citizen Priorities: A city of safe and inspiring neighbourhoods
- Background and Previous Council Direction is included as Attachment 1.

## **DISCUSSION**

2019 marked Calgary’s 125th anniversary of civic incorporation. To celebrate, The City undertook the Calgary 125 Municipal Naming Initiative and invited the public to nominate notable Calgarians for the commemorative naming of existing unnamed City parks and green spaces. This campaign provided an opportunity to honour Calgarians for their achievements and contributions to the community. The City received six nominations in total.

### **Dr. Leslie Allan**

Dr. Leslie Allan was The City of Calgary’s Assistant (1950-60) and Chief Medical Officer of Health (1960-73) before his retirement in 1976. Most notable among Dr. Allan’s accomplishments was his leadership of the polio vaccination program that drove the public health agenda in Calgary during the 1950s and 60s. Dr. Allan was instrumental in earning Calgary a position in the 1952 Salk Vaccine Trial getting Calgary children early access to the vaccine. Statistically, by 1955 the vaccine was 90 per cent effective in preventing polio and he turned his attention to a mass inoculation program for school children. Dr. Allan’s work spanned both the Salk and Sabin vaccination campaigns and through his program Calgary was declared polio free for the first time in a decade in 1963. More information can be found about Dr. Leslie Allan in Attachment 3.

### **Mary and Catherine Barclay**

Mary and Catherine Barclay, two remarkable Calgarians, were instrumental in founding the Canadian Hostelling Association. The movement started in 1933 with a single tent as the first hostel in North America. Their energy and commitment was recognized by the Int’l Hostelling Association in 1937 when their organization was officially recognised as the Canadian Hostel Association. There are now over 50 hostels in the Canadian network in every region of the country annually hosting 200,000+ travellers (Canadian and international).

Inspired by the learning opportunities in travel and connection with nature, they were both teachers in Calgary for over 30 years. Both are regarded as innovators in teaching methods in their respective subjects. The sisters received many recognitions over the years including a Member of the Order of Canada for Mary. More information can be found about Mary and Catherine Barclay in Attachment 4.

### **Craig Reid**

## **Naming of Six City Parks**

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Craig Reid has created a long-lasting positive impact on people, local communities and businesses. Craig served on Calgary City Council (Ward 11) for 15 years, from 1977 – 1992. His accomplishments are many and varied:

- President of the International Prisoners Aid Society
- Executive Director of the John Howard Society of Alberta
- President of Musical Theatre of Calgary
- President of the Calgary Currie PC Association
- President of the South Calgary Community Association
- President of the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association
- Vice-Chair of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities
- Director of the Calgary Exhibition and Stampede
- Chair of the Kananaskis Improvement District for 15 years, facilitated the G8 Summit in the Kananaskis

Craig received many awards recognizing his work including a Confederation Medal Government of Canada. More information can be found about Craig Reid in Attachment 5.

### **Verna Reid**

Dr. Verna Reid is a notable Calgarian who has created a long-lasting positive impact on people, education, arts and culture. Verna has been a trailblazer for artists and women in the field of arts and arts education in Calgary. She was the ultimate teacher of the intersection of literature and the visual arts where the medium becomes the vehicle of personal expression and individual voice for women of all ages. She has influenced generations of students and empowered them to discover their personal power and artistic expression. She served in many capacities including faculty at the Alberta College of Art from 1967 – 1994 and on boards of organizations including the Calgary Allied Arts Foundation, Muttart Gallery, Alberta Foundation of the Literary Arts and Calgary Public Art. More information can be found about Verna Reid in Attachment 6.

### **Lois Szabo**

Lois Szabo is the last surviving founder of Calgary's first gay club, Club Carousel. The Club was founded in 1970 in the face of a homophobic society with much opposition. Lois took on both the responsibility of publicly signing the incorporation papers in a time when few dared to take the risk, and also volunteered her time with the Club to organize social events that acted as a beacon for connection and social change for LGBTQ2IA+ people in Calgary. Thanks to the efforts of Lois and her comrades, Club Carousel was the political and social backbone for the early gay rights movement not only in Calgary but also in the Prairie provinces, with the club paving the way for similar organizations in Edmonton, Saskatoon, Regina, and Winnipeg.

Lois's efforts with Club Carousel and as a leader for the LGBTQ2IA+ community have had significant impacts for individual people and for the political and social climate for LGBTQ2IA+ people in Calgary. Club Carousel provided a community hub for social activities and political activism, bringing about a platform for organized human rights efforts and also a safe space where people could participate in what was a radical act at the time: being themselves. More information can be found about Lois Szabo in Attachment 7.

### **Paul 'Smokey' Wilkinson**

## **Naming of Six City Parks**

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Paul Wilkinson is not your typical nominee being honoured. While 'homeless' in the traditional sense, he considered the streets, alleys, nooks and greenspaces of Kensington/Hillhurst to be his home. Paul was considered a great community participant in outreach to others and he was a compassionate and kind soul. His funeral was attended by over 200 people celebrating his life and passion. He symbolised the ancient truth that church was for everyone. Although he had little, he was one of the first in making a donation to the Red Cross for the fire fighters in Fort McMurray. He was a person of respect for seniors, for veterans, and for kids. He often brought small 'borrowed bouquets' of flowers to church service on Sundays. He hung the Christmas lights at the church and helped fold chairs after lunch on Sundays.

After news of Paul's death spread on the street, at church and via social media, there was a huge outpouring of tributes to Paul ranging from a few words posted on Facebook to longer stories and images describing how he impacted peoples' lives. More information can be found about Paul 'Smokey' Wilkinson in Attachment 8.

### **STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION (EXTERNAL)**

- Public Engagement was undertaken
- Public Communication or Engagement was not required
- Public/Stakeholders were informed
- Stakeholder or customer dialogue/relations were undertaken

In 2019 The City of Calgary undertook the Calgary 125 Municipal Naming Initiative and set up a website that allowed citizens to nominate notable Calgarians, submit an application, and to select a greenspace for the name. This was publicized through The Mayor's office, Councillors' offices, and The City's social media accounts.

### **IMPLICATIONS**

#### **Social**

Naming of these parks contributes to healthy neighbourhoods as it allows communities to celebrate individuals who impacted their lives for the better. The names give us a greater connection with our surroundings and a sense of belonging to our community.

#### **Environmental**

These are existing parks spaces, the naming of them will not have an environmental impact other than perhaps bringing greater attention to these important green spaces.

#### **Economic**

N/A

#### **Service and Financial Implications**

##### *Existing operating funding - Base*

There is a one-time cost of installation of signage estimated to be approximately \$7,500. Maintenance is \$600 annually, \$1,500 per year every five years. All figures are a total sum for all six parks.

There will be minor impacts for the installation and ongoing maintenance of the signs.

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### **RISK**

There are no risks associated with the recommendations as presented by Administration. There is the risk of a lost opportunity to name these spaces as it would be a loss to the communities near these parks, to those who participated in the Calgary 125 Municipal Naming Initiative, along with Calgarians and visitors who come to Calgary and visit these spaces.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

1. Previous Council Direction, Background (Confidential)
2. Park Site Maps (Confidential)
3. Application and letters of support for: "Dr. Leslie Allan Park" (Confidential)
4. Application and letters of support for: "Mary and Catherine Barclay Park" (Confidential)
5. Application and letters of support for: "Craig Reid Park" (Confidential)
6. Application and letters of support for: "Verna Reid Park" (Confidential)
7. Application and letters of support for: "Szabo Commons" (Confidential)
8. Application and letters of support for: "Paul 'Smokey' Wilkinson Park" (Confidential)
9. Szabo Commons signage (Confidential)
10. Park signage design concept (Confidential)

### Department Circulation

General Manager/Director	Department	Approve/Consult/Inform
Not applicable		