



PFC2021-0631
 Attachment 7

**Attachment 7 - Application and letters of support for "Szabo Commons"
 (Confidential)**

Proposed Name:	Lois Szabo
Nominator:	Jasmine Ing, Once Voice Chorus
Achievements:	<p>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 and opposition of the Calgary Police. 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. Please see the attached nomination letters for more details of Lois's contributions to Club Carousel and the Scarth Street Society.</p>
Impact:	<p>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. Please note: We had been hoping to find a prominent park in the community of Beltline or nearby (where Club Carousel was located) but unfortunately no such park was available for naming. With this mind, we approached a number of community associations, including Crescent Heights, Cliff Bungalow-Mission, and Mount Pleasant, and eventually settled on CRE875 as many of the other sites already had local nominees or informal naming in place. Lois's achievements are such that they were not focused on any particular geographic community, but instead impacted people across Calgary. We believe that Lois's achievements would be of interest to all Calgarians. As such, if a more prominent park site or other City asset might be available for naming, we would be very grateful if the selection committee might explore additional options.</p>
Preferred Greenspace:	BLN013
letter of support from CA:	attached - Beltline
letter of permission from family:	attached
other letters of support:	2 attached: Calgary Gay History Project, One Voice Chorus,

TEXT

Reid, Michelle

To: Reid, Michelle
Subject: FW: [EXT] Re: Naming for new park space in the Beltline

From: Tamara Marajh <parks@beltlineyyc.ca>
Sent: Monday, March 30, 2020 3:49 PM
To: Thomson, Jeff <Jeff.Thomson@calgary.ca>
Cc: Robitaille, Sara <Sara.Robitaille@calgary.ca>
Subject: Re: [EXT] Re: Naming for new park space in the Beltline

Hey Jeff,
Sorry I meant to officially email you about this last week.

We met on Tuesday and discussed the naming of the park.
We all agree that naming the park after Lois Szabo is a great idea - although not directly linked to the Beltline, the idea and reasoning for the name is in line with what we would like this park to represent: inclusivity, community well being, social activities, etc.

We would like the park to have a name that pop more and it a bit more modern. As well, we still like the idea of calling the site a "commons" - being a shared resource for the community, and more than just a park. A place for people...which from the description of Lois Szabo sounds like its in line!
So, here is what we would like to propose... Szabo Commons. We think its a bit more catchy and more in line with how we see this space for the community. It would be great if there is any signage it could explain who Lois Szabo is and what she did for the community because I don't know that a lot of people would know.

Let me know what you think of that idea!

Thanks,
Tamara



CONSENT for Individual

I, Lois Szabo, consent to my name being used and disclosed to identify a City of Calgary park or green space asset: "the City Asset". I authorize The City of Calgary to use my name for this purpose on signage or other materials used to identify the City Asset.

I understand that personal information included in this form, attached to the application, or subsequently collected by The City of Calgary as part their research into eligibility, may be made publicly available as part of this process. I declare that I am over the age of eighteen (18) years.

Lois Szabo
Name (Print)

Lois Szabo
Signature

Dec 7/2019
Date

CONSENT for Estate

I, _____ am the Personal Representative* of the estate of _____ "the Deceased". In this capacity, I consent and authorize The City of Calgary to use and disclose the name of the Deceased to identify a City of Calgary park or green space asset: "the City Asset". I authorize The City of Calgary to use the name of the Deceased for this purpose on signage or other materials used to identify the City Asset.

I understand that personal information included in this form, attached to the application, or subsequently collected by The City of Calgary as part their research into eligibility, may be made publicly available as part of this process. I declare that I am over the age of eighteen (18) years.

*Personal Representative has the meaning described to it in the Estate Administration Act SA 2014 c E-12.5 (Alberta).

Name of Personal Representative (Print)

Signature

Date

Your personal information is being collected, used, and/or disclosed for the purpose of administering the City's naming application process. This information is collected pursuant to section 33(c) of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act of Alberta. If you have questions about the collection, use or disclosure of the personal information on this form, please contact Municipal Naming Strategist at PO Box 2100, Stn. M, #8026, Calgary, AB T2P 2M5, (403) 268-1507, or email at Municipal.Naming@calgary.ca.

Calgary Gay History Project Our Past Matters

December 27, 2019

Calgary Gay History Project
903 1323 15 Ave. SW
Calgary, AB T3C 0X8
<http://calgarygayhistory.ca/>

City of Calgary
Municipal Naming Program
Our Parks, Our People. Calgary 125.

Re: Letter of Support for Lois Szabo's Park Naming Nomination

To Whom It May Concern:

I enthusiastically support Lois Szabo's nomination for a commemorative park to be named after her as a notable Calgarian. For more than 50 years, Lois has been a leader and organizer of Calgary's LGBTQ2 community. Lois is the last surviving founder of Club Carousel – Calgary's first gay club, incorporated in March 1970 – despite Calgary Police opposition. She was one of five individuals who dared to sign the club's incorporation papers when homophobia and discrimination were the norms in Calgary, and few would sign on the dotted line.

She also rolled up her sleeves and became the Club's most dedicated volunteer. Lois was instrumental in organizing expanded Club programming including, camping trips, motorcycle rides, holiday capers, and more. Furthermore, the Club saved people's lives by creating the City's first truly safe space. Lois lent a sympathetic ear to LGBTQ2 Calgarians in distress – likely averting many suicides – pushing back against the tide of our community's despair. The Club became the locus of early gay rights activism in Calgary. Moreover, it seeded sister clubs in Edmonton, Saskatoon, Regina, and Winnipeg, creating a regional human rights network.

Since 1970, Lois has maintained connections to and volunteered for dozens of LGBTQ2 organizations. Even in her 80s, she shows up to most community events today and is well known to many; she is proud to share our community's history. Lois was given the 2015 Chinook Fund Hero Award and was the 2017 Calgary Pride Parade Grand Marshall – recognitions well deserved.

I completely support this nomination (perhaps an entire neighbourhood should be named after her!), and can be reached at 403-890-7278 for further comment.

Yours sincerely,



Kevin Allen
Research Lead, Calgary Gay History Project & Author of *Our Past Matters*



RPO EDMONTON TRAIL NORTHEAST
PO BOX 52277
CALGARY, AB, T2E 8K9

December 31, 2019

City of Calgary
Municipal Naming Program

To whom it may concern:

RE: Letter of Reference for Lois Szabo, nominee for Our Parks, Our People. Calgary 125.

We are pleased and proud to nominate Lois Szabo to have a Calgary green space named in her honour. Lois Szabo, 83, has been a leader in Calgary's LGBTQIA+ community for decades. She is the only surviving founder of Club Carousel, Calgary's first private member's club for gay Calgarians. The establishment of this club represents an historic milestone in queer history on the Prairies. To navigate the legal roadblocks to having a gay space, the founders of Club Carousel also created the Scarth Street Society, a charitable organization that ultimately resulted in other chapters across the Prairies. With over 600 members in 1972, Club Carousel became a community hub, publishing a newsletter and putting on musicals. The Scarth Street Society also hosted community outings and activities for the gay community such as snowshoeing, hiking, and motorcycle rallies. Club Carousel sparked a network of similar societies in Saskatchewan and Manitoba which created a network of reciprocal membership across the prairies.

Lois continues to be a leader in the community and was honoured in 2017 as the Grand Marshall for the Calgary Pride Parade in which she marched in honour of the members of Club Carousel and all its founders, flanked by the Calgary Lesbian Seniors of the Kerby Centre. Lois is an active volunteer and supports organizations such as One Voice Chorus and The Calgary Rainbow Elders. Lois's impact on the community continues to be felt today by her presence at queer events. One Voice Chorus collaborated with Lois Szabo on a concert celebrating the history of Club Carousel in 2015. This concert was a proud and celebratory event for our community and we welcomed Lois into our choir family.

A welcoming city is one that signals its welcome to LGBTQIA+ by visibly acknowledging and honouring its history. Calgary has made some wonderful strides to signal its embrace of queer Calgarians and visitors in recent years by adding permanent a rainbow crosswalk. We hope that this recognition of Lois Szabo, Club Carousel, and the Scarth Street Society may represent Calgary's next step in actively standing with LGBTQIA+ people.

Sincerely,

One Voice Chorus