

## BRIDGELAND-RIVERSIDE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

June 27, 2018

Michelle Reid  
Cultural Landscape Lead, Calgary Parks  
City of Calgary  
Via email to [michelle.x.reid@calgary.ca](mailto:michelle.x.reid@calgary.ca)

Dear Ms. Reid,

In the early 1990's an amazing collaborative effort resulted in the planning and development of a senior's / accessible park in an underdeveloped area north of Memorial Drive. Consultation with the community resulted in the name Riverside Park. After the 1998 implosion of the Calgary General Hospital and during the development of the "Bridges" project, the park was significantly reduced in size and the remaining portion was renamed McDougall Park. This renaming occurred without any consultation with the community. A paper providing a more complete description of this situation is attached to this email, but suffice to say that the loss of the park name and identity has had unfortunate consequences over the years. It is time to correct this.

The Board of Bridgeland- Riverside Community Association is supportive of the plan to pursue the renaming of the park to its original name – Riverside Park, and to enable it to fulfill its potential.

Sincerely,

*Dh Lee on behalf of*

Bridgeland Riverside Community Association Board of Directors



October 16, 2018

Mr. Brian Beck, President  
Bridgeland Riverside Community Association  
C/o Deb Lee

Dear Brian:

As CEO of Silvera for Seniors, which has four seniors' communities in the Bridgeland Riverside neighbourhood, I am writing in support of a recommendation by the community association to change the name of MacDougall Park to Riverside Park. I gather that this idea will go to City Council in the new year.

Our organization was involved in the initial planning and development of Riverside Park under our former name Metropolitan Calgary Foundation. After much consultation and planning the park, named Riverside Park opened in 1994.

For more than 20 years since then, more seniors and individuals with disabilities live in this Riverside area of the neighbourhood; the park has become increasingly relevant to those citizens and the rest of community members.

I understand that the 'Bridges' project—an initiative to build higher density housing in this area—resulted in the park being renamed McDougall Park. However, I'm told, no city reports, or correspondence can be found to substantiate that any formal process or community consultation ever took place for renaming the area from Riverside to McDougall Park.

The community association considers that now is the time to re-affirm the original name and honour the districts history. Renaming to Riverside Park affirms the vitality of being a community beside the river and opens possibilities that will enable appropriate evolution of this area.

Silvera for Seniors supports the community associations request to revert to the park's original neighbourhood-based name.

Yours very truly,



Arlene Adamson, CEO

February 25, 2019

Mr. Brian Beck, President  
Bridgeland -Riverside Community Association  
917 Centre Ave. NE  
Calgary, Alberta T2E 0C6

Dear Mr. Beck,

Re: Riverside Park

At the outset I would like to acknowledge the incredible work and commitment of Deb Lee in preparing the history and development of the Bridgeland - Riverside Community, serving not only to remind us all of the value of origin, but also as background to the planning and development of the Riverside Park.

As Vice-President of Planning for Carewest, working in the original office on McDougall Road and holding responsibility for the planning and development of 'spaces' for seniors, individuals living with disabilities, families and general public, it was important to address community integration, accessibility and entertainment.

Across from the offices of Carewest was a park of sorts used primarily in the summer by softball leagues. Of note was interest in the events shown by seniors living in what was then the Metropolitan Lodges; however there was limited to no access or seating options, nor safety from balls hit in their direction. Our organization was looking at developing outdoor spaces at the George Boyack Nursing Home and seeking greater community integration. In our exploration with the Community Association it was evident they too were looking at how their service to the recreational and outdoor spaces could benefit the surrounding community, including residents in the lower income high rise tower, the seniors in the apartments and cottages and the community service groups of the area.

"An Accessible Park For All To Use" became an idea which blossomed into a four year project that was planned to honour the original area of Riverside and was considered "A Community-Spirited Project" with a Planning Team including the Steering Committee (representing the surrounding community); Design and Landscape Consulting Teams; and the City of Calgary. Work on planning, design, funding and development began in 1990, with the Official Opening on June 4, 1994. As coordinator of the project, together with a City of Calgary Parks and Recreation colleague, it was a heartwarming and amazing experience to witness so many very talented and dedicated professionals work together to develop and achieve the vision, goal and an outcome that reflected most of the objectives we were striving to achieve. We knew that the park would serve all for whom it was intended and hoped that the few missing pieces



would come to pass once funds were available. We also knew it would take the community to assist in maintaining its purpose and presence.

For Reference, I have included the initial 'Planning Process' outline which highlights how the group started. You will note that we initially called the project "Bridgeland Seniors' Park" as a point to commence discussion with the surrounding 'potential users' and the City. The official name of 'Riverside Park' evolved as community planning and input strengthened.

The Official Opening Documents which accompany this letter clearly demonstrate the dedication to a successful park development project – one we had hoped the community and city would maintain and further complete. Besides the fees paid to the design team and contractors, they donated/volunteered many extra hours to see this project completed with extra detail to landscape beauty; sensory and lighting design characteristics; and specific accessibility and safety features, all in consideration of the user groups of the community. In addition the Working Committee gave some 3000 hours of volunteer time to ensure the park, its name, its user groups, its publics and its representation were as all had wished and agreed to, and, that the necessary funds were in place to ensure our bills were paid. In essence---did it reflect the "Community Spirited Project" all had signed on to achieve.

We were very proud to raise the "Riverside Park Entry Arch" as our final tribute to community, past and present, and to all that would enjoy this special place for years to come.

It was a very special privilege to be part of this unique community experience. I hope the community respects the work of so many to achieve this park in and for your area, and commits to preserving some of your history by retaining the name it was given and approved by the City prior to its official opening.

If I can provide additional detail you believe would be helpful in your deliberations, please feel free to contact me. I would be pleased to assist in any way I can. This park is a special place.

Warm Regards,



Lou Winthers  
(403-220-0888 --- work#)



Rehabilitation Society of Calgary  
#7 11 St NE  
Calgary AB  
T2E 4Z2

Brian Beck, President  
Bridgeland Riverside Community Association  
917 Centre Ave NE,  
Calgary, AB T2E 0C6

Dear Mr. Beck,

We are very pleased to write this letter in support of the renaming of McDougall Park to its original name of Riverside Park.

The Rehabilitation Society of Calgary has been operational since 1958 and has been located in the community of Bridgeland-Riverside since the mid-60's. Our organization was represented in the original planning process for Riverside Park in the early 1990's by Mike Brown, who served then as our Board Chair. We were enthusiastic supporters of the park that was officially opened in 1994. We were proud to have been part of the vision and plan for the new park, which was to address the accommodations necessary for people with disabilities, and for Seniors, to actively use and enjoy this community nature resource.

Since Riverside Park opened in the 1990's, the population of seniors and persons with disabilities in the surrounding community has grown significantly. We very much hope that with the re-naming of the park, new consideration will be given to the original intent of the park. We hope that new and up-to date ideas can be explored towards fully utilizing and enhancing the park setting for persons with disabilities and seniors. We remain interested and willing to be involved in such endeavors.

On behalf of our members and participants, thank you for the efforts of your organization and others to return the original name of Riverside Park.

Sincerely,  
Landon Sweet,  
President, Rehabilitation Society



December 31, 2018

Brian Beck  
President  
Bridgeland-Riverside Community Association  
917 Centre Avenue NE  
Calgary, AB T2E 06C

Dear Mr. Beck:

I am writing to express Carewest's support of renaming the current McDougall Park, located at 11 Street NE and McDougall Road in Calgary.

Carewest was one of the original collaborators in the Park Project in the early 1990's. The park was specifically designed to meet the needs of senior and disable people, along with broader usage and enjoyment by the community.

Carewest has had a presence in the neighbourhood since 1961 and we anticipate that continuing with both our George Boyack centre and a new continuing care centre currently in the planning stages. We believe that the needs for an accessible park for seniors and people with disabilities will not only continue but increase in the years ahead.

Carewest believes that the original name of Riverside Park should be restored for this important space. Carewest is also prepared to participate in undertakings aimed at restoring not only the name but also the intended purpose of this park in the Bridgeland-Riverside community.

I may be reached at (403) 943-8150.

Sincerely,



Dwight Nelson

Chief Operating Officer



Office of the Councillors

COUNCILLOR GIAN-CARLO CARRA

**July 13, 2018**

**RE: Application for Renaming**

As City Councillor for Calgary's Ward 9, I am delighted to write a letter of support for the application to rename McDougall Park back to Riverside Park. The park, originally named Riverside Park, and intended to be an accessible park for seniors and others with mobility challenges had its name changed in 1998 after the demolition of the General Hospital and following development of the Bridges Project.

After much research by a passionate community members, I believe the parks name was changed in error and without any consultation with the community. Along with the Bridgeland-Riverside Community Association, I am happy to support the change back to the original name, Riverside Park.

Should you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 403-268-5330 or by email at ward09@calgary.ca at your convenience.

Yours truly,

GIAN-CARLO CARRA  
COUNCILLOR, WARD 9