

NAMING OF PARK – BOWNESS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Bowness Historical Society is requesting that the identified City park within the community of Bowness be named "George and Annie Wood Park."

ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the Priorities and Finance Committee recommend Council:

1. Approve the naming of an existing park located at 9015 48 Avenue N.W., in the community of Bowness, the "George and Annie Wood Park;" and
2. Direct that the report and attachments remain confidential pursuant to Section 24(1) (b) of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act until Council rises and reports.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE PRIORITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEE, DATED 2015 DECEMBER 15:

That Council:

1. Adopt the naming of an existing park located at 9015 48 Avenue N.W., in the community of Bowness, the "George and Annie Wood Park; and
2. Keep the In Camera discussions confidential pursuant to Section 24(1) (b) of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION / POLICY

None.

BACKGROUND

Bowness is a N.W. Calgary community located along the banks of the Bow River and directly below the bluff of Silver Springs. Prior to World War I, the area was owned by John Hextall, an enterprising English solicitor who planned to develop the area into an exclusive bedroom community. In 1911 this land was developed and a bridge constructed over the Bow River to give these properties better access to Calgary.

Wood's Homes was founded as an orphanage in 1914 by Reverend George Wood. It has been on the Bowness campus since 1926; shortly after George and Annie Wood purchased the 40 acre site from John Hextall which included the former Hextall mansion.

On 2015 January 16, the Bowness Historical Society contacted the Municipal Names Committee with a request to name an existing City park located at 9015 48 Avenue N.W., in the community of Bowness, the "George and Annie Wood Park" (Attachment 1).

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INVESTIGATION: ALTERNATIVES AND ANALYSIS

The proposed park name reflects historical land development and community significance to this area. The park is adjacent to the location of the Wood's Home established in 1926 in the former John Hextall mansion. A notice to the residents of the Bowness community was published in the November/December 2014 community newsletter, the "Bowest'ner," inviting comments on the proposed name.

Stakeholder Engagement, Research and Communication

Administration has received letters from the Bowness Historical Society, Bowness Community Association, Ward 1 Councillor Ward Sutherland, Wood's Homes and a long term neighbourhood resident indicating support and approval of the name (Attachment 2).

Strategic Alignment

The request to name this unnamed City park within the community of Bowness aligns with Council approved Municipal Naming Policy #CS003.

Social, Environmental, Economic (External)

The City of Calgary – Parks business unit and the Bowness Community Association are committed to ensuring social and environmental safeguards are in place to create a caring, safe and healthy community.

Financial Capacity

Current and Future Operating Budget:

No impact to current or future City operating budget.

The Bowness Historical Society Board of Directors has agreed to pay for costs associated with the production and installation of a Parks approved sign which is estimated at \$2,000. Parks will arrange for the production and installation of the sign.

Current and Future Capital Budget:

No impact to current or future City capital budget.

Risk Assessment

There are no risks associated with the recommendation.

REASON(S) FOR RECOMMENDATION(S):

Approval of the Bowness Historical Society request to name the existing park fits within the criteria outlined in the Municipal Naming Policy. Parks will work with the community to produce and install the approved sign.

ATTACHMENT(S)

1. Bowness Historical Society Request Letter and Community Map
2. Letters of Support