

November 27, 2023

CA Response for Park Name in Saddlepeace

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the Saddle Ridge Community Association, we have seen that a proposal for a park name in Saddlepeace was submitted and is currently in the phase of engagement. After careful review, we believe that the proposed name of the park within Saddlepeace "Guru Teg Bahadur Park" is not a proper reflection of Saddle Ridge and our population, and therefore, we <u>reject</u> the park name. This in due to the name's religious context. We understand that this name plays a huge importance in the Sikh community within Calgary, however, we don't believe this will not be inviting to all populations within our community. Please consider that religious names are not appropriate for a park name due to its sensitivity; for example, if a Catholic community wanted to name the park "Jesus Christ Park".

We must remember our community's cultural and religious diversity isn't singular or one being stronger than others, but it's various and multiple across Saddle Ridge. Our community has a diverse and multicultural population that inhabits a mixture of numerous cultures within the area. From those who are Punjabi, Pakistani, Filipino, Vietnamese, Jamaican, Chinese, and those Sikh, Hindu, Catholic, Christian, Buddhist, and so forth, it's important to understand that Saddle Ridge's culture is not limited to one group regardless of their ethnicity, culture, and religion, it's a community open to all and for all.

It is in our belief that a new name should be proposed for that park area. As a Community Association, we propose the name "Steiner Park" as the replacement.

Steiner Park is dedicated and named after Greg and Carol Steiner was our previous presidents and member of the Saddle Ridge Community Association. Both have dedicated themselves to be a change and strong influence as great building blocks for our community and the northeast hub of Calgary. Their relentless efforts to make our community involved and inviting will forever be set in stone with Saddle Ridge's history.

Greg and Carol Steiner have remarkably been a huge influence in our community as they witnessed the land develop into the cultural suburb it is today in thanks to their guidance and leadership for our community. We strongly recommend to check out his CBC interview for further information and their story that is linked here: https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/calgary/saddle-ridge-northeast-calgary-south-asian-rural-alberta-1.6691339.

Should there be any further questions, please don't hesitate to contact me. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Raphael Ramos

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