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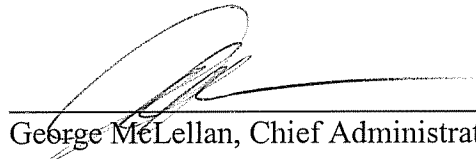



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Halifax Regional Council
August 2, 2005

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY:


George McLellan, Chief Administrative Officer


Peter Stickings, Acting Director, Real Property & Asset Management

DATE: July 28, 2005

SUBJECT: Naming of Nick Meagher Community Park

ORIGIN

Peninsula Community Council requested a report regarding naming the HRM park area on the corner of Chebucto Road and Dublin Street "Nick Meagher Community Park."

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Halifax Regional Council:

approve the renaming of the Dublin Street Parkette to "Nick Meagher Community Park" in recognition of his long years of service to the community and the city as an Alderman and a citizen.

BACKGROUND

Through practise, the Halifax Regional Municipality supports commemorating individuals who have contributed to the community or to society in general. These individuals have normally contributed from a military, heritage, or community development perspective. Since amalgamation, HRM has recognized a number of these individuals by naming new streets, renaming existing streets, and naming municipal parks, or other facilities after individuals. Sometimes HRM recognizes the contributions of groups, such as veterans.

Friends and former colleagues of Mr. Nick Meagher, the longest serving alderman of Halifax, are requesting that a park be named in his honour. The HRM Dublin Street Parkette is a highly visible park within Mr. Meagher's former district that serves the community well from both a passive recreation and a streetscape perspective.

DISCUSSION

Although the Civic Addressing Policy discourages double-barrelled names for streets, Civic Addressing Staff suggested that a park could carry the full name of an individual. The following discussion piece includes excerpts from Mr. Meagher's obituary, various media articles, and nomination letter to the Order of Nova Scotia Advisory Council.

Mr. Nicholas "Nick" Patrick Joseph Meagher passed away June 28, 2003, at the age of 79. For most of his adult life, Nick was a popular and respected pharmacist at Dunsworth's Pharmacy on Quinpool Road. He was also considered the most successful municipal politician in the history of Halifax representing the former Ward Four Halifax's west end for 33 consecutive years. In 1995 he retired from Halifax City Council undefeated.

It was considered that his success was due to his acute sense of civil issues combined with his steadfast devotion to the interests of his constituents with whom he met and listened to regularly at Dunsworth's. He also served as Deputy Mayor of Halifax from 1967 to 1969, worked part time at Abbott Laboratories in Dartmouth and was a charter member of the Spartan Restaurant's "social club" meeting and greeting friends with cheerfulness.

Friends and colleagues felt that he was a representative who had the pulse of city life and showed it in tackling things that mattered. He worked to preserve heritage sites and promote the engines of tourism and port development; he worked to provide good housing for seniors, to ensure social assistance provided enough for decent meals, to protect inner-city neighbourhoods that give Halifax so much of its character. As a result Nick was instrumental in the preservation and restoration of Historic Properties as well as Halifax's first container pier and he raised awareness in the inadequacies of social assistance by attempting to live on the food budget for a single person on social assistance for a week in October of 1970.

He was described as the "ideal public servant" able to make responsible decisions that were good

for the city as a whole as well as taking interest in the smallest details of people's lives. Flattered when asked to run in the former provincial riding of Halifax Citadel he declined gracefully preferring the "front lines of municipal politics".

It is felt that the proposed naming will recognize the devotion of a sound councillor who provided very good judgement throughout his career in public service.

There will be minimal impact on local heritage to name the park on Dublin Street after Nick Meagher as the existing name for the park is not "official." The street name is from the Irish city of Dublin and is one of a number of streets in Halifax named after European capital cities. Since the street name will remain the same, the existing historic meaning will be preserved.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

There are some budget implications with renaming parks, namely the cost of signage, which is minimal. A suitable recognition will be determined, budgeted for, and budget funding source found.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES / BUSINESS PLAN

This report complies with the Municipality's Multi-Year Financial Strategy, the approved Operating, Capital and Reserve budgets, policies and procedures regarding withdrawals from the utilization of Capital and Operating reserves, as well as any relevant legislation.

ALTERNATIVES

Peninsula Community Council could choose to retain the name "Dublin Street Parkette".

ATTACHMENTS

A. Context Map

Additional copies of this report, and information on its status, can be obtained by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

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Report Reviewed/Approved by: Peter Bigelow, Manager, Real Property Planning (490-6047)