

Item No. 11.2.1
Halifax Regional Council
February 19, 2013

TO: Mayor Savage and Members of Halifax Regional Council

Original Signed

SUBMITTED BY:



Councillor Mosher, Chair, Halifax & West Community Council

DATE: February 6, 2013

SUBJECT: Amendments to HRM Asset Naming Policy

RECOMMENDATION REPORT

ORIGIN

- Motion passed by West Community Council on December 10, 2012 directing staff to prepare a report to name the bridge near the Captain William Spry Community Centre in honour of the late Edith Irene (Reenie) Slauenwhite
- Motion passed by Halifax & West Community Council on January 21, 2013:
 - Approving the bridge name, *Irene (Reenie) Slauenwhite Bridge*, for the unnamed bridge that spans MacIntosh Run and connects the Herring Cove Road to the Captain William Spry Centre; and
 - Requesting that Halifax Regional Council amend Administrative Order No. 46 to include park bridges within the HRM Asset Naming Policy

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Administrative Order No. 46, respecting HRM Asset Naming Policy, allows for the naming of streets, parks and buildings.

RECOMMENDATION

The Halifax & West Community Council recommends that Halifax Regional Council direct staff to commence the process to amend Administrative Order No. 46 such that it include park bridges within the HRM Asset Naming Policy.

BACKGROUND

HRM's Asset Naming Policy, outlined in Administrative Order No. 46, establishes a framework for the consideration of naming various assets, including streets, parks and buildings. It allows any person or group to apply for commemorative naming. Naming assets that are not included in the policy, such as park bridges, fall to the appropriate Community Council, in this case, Halifax & West Community Council.

DISCUSSION

In 1937, Ms. Slauenwhite, aged nine, rescued her friend from drowning in the MacIntosh Run, in close proximity to the current unnamed bridge. To honour her act of heroism and her commitment to community life, members of her family requested, in 2012, that the bridge take on her name. Halifax & West Community Council unanimously supported this request in a motion moved by Councillor Adams on January 21, 2013.

Naming this bridge does not fall under Administrative Order No. 46 as it is currently. Owing to the substantial size and investment of park pedestrian bridges being built, it is recommended that park bridges be added to the list of assets outlined in the policy.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

As outlined in the staff report dated December 16, 2012, administrative costs to update the Asset Naming Policy are minimal.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

As outlined in the staff report dated December 16, 2012, the Slauenwhite family's application was accompanied by eight (8) letters of recommendation, including from the Mainland South Heritage Society and the MLA for Halifax Atlantic, Ms. Michele Raymond. Moreover, meetings of the Halifax & West Community, where this application was discussed, are open to the public.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

No environmental implications were identified in the staff report dated December 16, 2012.

ALTERNATIVES

Halifax Regional Council could choose not to add park bridges to Administrative Order No. 46.

ATTACHMENTS

Staff Report dated December 16, 2012.

A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/cagenda.html> then choose the appropriate meeting date, or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

Report Prepared by: Ted Aubut, Legislative Assistant, 490-6519

Original Signed


Financial Approval by: Greg Keefe, Director of Finance and Information Technology/CFO, 490-6308



P.O. Box 1749
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West Community Council
January 21, 2013

TO: Chair and Members of West Community Council
Original Signed

SUBMITTED BY: 
Jane Fraser, Director, Planning and Infrastructure

DATE: December 16, 2012

SUBJECT: Commemorative Naming – Park Bridge at Captain William Spry

ORIGIN

December 10, 2012, West Community Council:

Motion passed directing staff to prepare a report to name the Bridge at Captain William Spry Community Centre Park after Edith Irene (Reenie) Slauenwhite.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Administrative Order No. 46, respecting HRM Asset Naming Policy, allows for the naming of streets, parks and buildings. Amending the policy to allow for park bridges as recommended, would formalize the existing practice.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended:

1. That the West Community Council approve the bridge name, Irene (Reenie) Slauenwhite Bridge, for the unnamed bridge that spans MacIntosh Run and connects the Herring Cove Road to the Captain William Spry Community Centre; and
2. That the West Community Council request Regional Council to amend Administrative Order No. 46 to include park bridges within the HRM Asset Naming Policy.

BACKGROUND

The Asset Naming Policy (Administrative Order No. 46) allows any person or group to apply for a commemorative name for HRM assets, particularly streets, parks or buildings. The policy sets out a framework for the consideration for naming of streets, parks, buildings and their features. Park Bridges were not included within Administrative Order 46; however, the guidelines established under the Order are generally what staff use as best practice for those elements outside the policy. While naming for assets within Administrative Order 46 are submitted to Regional Council twice a year for approval, the practice has been to have those park assets falling outside of the policy, approved through the appropriate Community Council.

Owing to the substantial size and investment of park pedestrian bridges being built, staff does feel that bringing these bridges under Administrative Order 46 in the future, for consistency, would be appropriate.

DISCUSSION

A request and background material has been received from the family of Irene Slauenwhite to have the pedestrian bridge spanning the Macintosh Run between Herring Cove Road and the Captain William Spry Centre, given the Commemorative Name of Irene (Reenie) Slauenwhite Bridge (see biography in Attachment A). The request is in recognition of the heroic act by Irene Slauenwhite at the age of ten to save the life of her friend Miriam McNeil, aged nine, from drowning in the Run at the present location of the bridge. The Run was in flood stage at the time and fast moving. Two months later, in August 1937, Irene Slauenwhite was recognized for her heroism and awarded a Governor General's Award from the Royal Canadian Humane Association. The submission by the family includes evidence that Irene Slauenwhite continued to live a constructive and community minded life until her death in 2000.

Commemorative Names:

Commemorative names recognize individual persons, groups of people and geographic features. The bridge was constructed as a component of the park adjacent to Captain William Spry Community Centre in 2007 and provides a popular connection between the Centre and Herring Cove Road. In keeping with the best practices found in Administrative Order 46, Section 16. f, the individual has been deceased for a minimum of one year, and Section 17. C, the nominated individual(s) shall have risked his/her life to save or protect others.

From the evidence provided by the family and other supporters, Irene Slauenwhite's actions would be deemed to represent an example to others and therefore, are worthy of commemorative naming. She lived most of her life in the community of Spryfield where the bridge is located and was well known. The proximity to the Captain William Spry Pool where children learn the value of swimming is noted.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are minimal costs associated with the administration of the Asset Naming Policy including amendments from time to time. Costs associated with assigning the name to the bridge will be covered under approved funds in operating account W700-6399, not to exceed more than \$1000 dollars.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Any member of the community is welcome to submit applications for commemorative names for any community in HRM. Ongoing promotion of the Asset Naming Policy has included the creation of printed marketing material and engaging local interest groups, schools, universities and Royal Canadian Legions.

In the case of the proposed naming of the bridge over MacIntosh Run, eight letters of recommendation, two newspaper articles copies, and a copy of the Honorary Testimonial were received.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no environmental implications which have been identified.

ALTERNATIVES

1. Western Community Council could choose to not name the bridge.
2. Western Community Council could request Regional Council to consider an amendment to the Asset Naming Policy to include park bridges and then to consider the naming of the bridge. This is not the recommended course as that process could take a year.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: Irene Slauenwhite Biography and Submission by Supporters for commemorative naming of the bridge.

Note: Submissions Available Upon Request

A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/commcoun/cc.html> then choose the appropriate Community Council and meeting date, or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

Report Prepared by: Robert Jahncke, Real Estate and Land Management - 490-4002

Original signed

Report Approved by: Peter Stickings, Manager Real Estate and Land Management

Original signed

Financial Approval by:

Greg Keefe, Director of Finance and Information Technology/CFO, 490-6308

Attachment A – Irene (Reenie) Slauenwhite's Biography

Request

- Park Bridge

Geography

- MacIntosh Run Captain William Spry Community Centre

Criteria

- Individual(s) who have demonstrated excellence, courage or exceptional service to the citizens of Halifax Regional Municipality, the Province of Nova Scotia and/or Canada.
- Individual(s) who have risked his/her life to save or protect others.

Biography

Irene (Reenie) Slauenwhite was born in 1927 in Jollimore, Nova Scotia and at a young age moved with her family to Spryfield where she became known for her excellent swimming skills. On June 12, 1937, Reenie and her friends were playing near the MacIntosh Run, in the vicinity of where the trail bridge is today, when Reenie's friend Miriam McNeil fell in the water and was caught in the current of the 10 metre wide river. Without hesitation Reenie plunged into the water and saved her friend from drowning. With quickly arriving adult assistance, Miriam was brought back to consciousness. Irene and Miriam remained friends throughout their school years. In the 1940's and early 1950's, Irene owned and operated Reenie's Tearoom on the corner of what is now Dentith Road and Herring Cove Road. Irene then moved to Toronto married and had three children, Starr, Joanne and Joey. As Irene Bogue, she later returned to live in Spryfield, always a safe haven for her. One of her favourite times of the year was August when she would pick blueberries on the barrens. Irene died January 2000, in her 73rd year.

Awards:

- Governor General's Honorary Testimonial from the Royal Canadian Humane Association for heroic action and presence of mind in the rescue of Miriam MacNeil, from drowning in the MacIntosh Runs, Spryfield, Nova Scotia, June 12, 1937. Presented August 5, 1937.

