

Approved by: City Council

History

Adopted: February 28, 2022

Amended:

A. Purpose

The naming or renaming of parks and recreational facilities is complex and sometimes emotional since assigning a name is a powerful and permanent identity for a public place and/or facility. The naming and renaming of parks and/or recreational facilities often requires significant resources in terms of changing names on signs, maps, and literature. In addition, excessive and constant name changing can be the source of confusion to the public. The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance to those that have an interest in the naming and or renaming of the City of West St Paul's parks and/or recreational facilities. The responsibility for naming and or renaming of City parks and recreational facilities lies with the City Council. The City Council will rely on the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee for input and recommendation for the naming and or renaming of City parks and recreational facilities.

B. Objectives

- Naming of City parks and recreational facilities enhances a sense of community within the City.
- Ensure that parks and recreational facilities are easily identified and located.
- Ensure that names given are consistent with the values and characteristics of the City of West St Paul.
- Assure the quality of the title/name, so that it will serve the purpose of the City in a permanent manner.
- Encourage public participation and input in order to fully represent the best interest of the City.
- Encourage and recognize the dedication of lands, or donations by individuals or groups.

C. Qualifying Names and/or Criteria

- Geographical location of the park or facility including descriptive names, such as a street
- An outstanding feature of the area. (example: hill, pond, vegetation)
- Commonly recognized subjects of historical significance such as; event, person (non-living), group, culture, or place.
- A person (living or non-living) or group who significantly contributed to the acquisition or development of the park/facility.

- An individual (living or non-living) who provided an exceptional service in the interest of the park system as a whole or for the community as a whole.
- A person (living) whose contribution or significant gift is of a most extraordinary nature.
- Naming may be considered based on the provision of significant funding that underwrites the cost of renovation or construction of City property. Financial underwriting shall be broadly defined as substantial monetary contributions that completely or significantly enable City projects such as parks, buildings or property acquisition to occur. This may include monetary gifts and/or grants that leverage federal, state and local funding for such projects or complete donation of land.
- Parks and facilities that are donated to the City can be named by deed restriction by the donor. The naming and acceptance of land is subject to approval by the City Council.
- Naming may not conflict with public grant funding policies established by state and/or federal grant funding programs.

D. Exclusions

- Naming associations with tobacco, alcohol, contraceptives, religious organizations, political candidates or adjudicated felons are prohibited.
- The dedication of small park amenities with an identifiable lifespan and not intended to be permanent such as fixed park benches and tables shall be addressed under a separate parks policy.

E. Renaming

The intent of naming is for permanent recognition. The renaming of parks and facilities is strongly discouraged. It is recommended that efforts to change a name be subject to the most crucial examination so as not to diminish the original justification for the name or discount the value of the prior contributors. Parks named for subjects, other than individuals, may be changed in name only if the current name is ineffectual or inappropriate.