



Municipality of Port Hope

56 Queen Street
Port Hope, ON
L1A 3Z9

REPORT TO: Parks, Recreation and Culture Committee

FROM: Julia Snoek, Director, Parks, Recreation and Culture

SUBJECT: Port Hope Rotary Centennial Project

DATE: November 16, 2021

RECOMMENDATION:

That a Resolution be presented to Council approving the Rotary Centennial Project and the Rotary Club of Port Hope's request to name the parkland located at 1 McKibbin Street "*Rotary Centennial Riverview Park*".

BACKGROUND:

The Rotary Club of Port Hope (the Club) approached Parks, Recreation and Culture (PRC) with a proposal to complete a significant enhancement project to the parkland at 1 McKibbin Street (Corbett's Dam area) in celebration of their centennial anniversary. The goal of the project is to create a unique focal point for both visitors and residents to enjoy, while recognizing the significant contributions of the Club in the community.

The draft conceptual drawing for the Rotary Centennial Project was presented to Committee on September 7 and subsequently posted for public comment from September 8 – September 24, 2021.

During this period, a total of 4 community responses were received. The responses can be summarized as: opinion that there should be amenities such as washroom facilities, trail lighting, and waste receptacles at this site; questions posed about winter parking lot, trail maintenance, tree species and trail surface; and overall opinion that the design and concept are pleasing. Various comments were also received through committee review by the PRC Advisory Committee and the Waterfront and Riverwalk Working Group.

As a result of comments received, staff have met with the Rotary Club and one member from each committee to discuss final plans. The most pressing point for consideration is the desire to ensure and support a legacy project that aligns with celebrating the Rotary Club and Rotarian's contributions to the community. Committee discussions support the project and the concept plan, with the desire to enhance the development of a meaningful shelter space that aligns with the desire of the Club, while creating a unique space attributing to the project.

Based on this, staff recommend proceeding with the project, with the creation of one shelter space (to be determined through the Rotary Club) to replace the three gazebos as originally put forward in the concept design. Staff are working with the Rotary Club to source a shelter that supports place making, is unique in design for the community and can be established as a welcoming gateway to the site. Consideration is being given to ensuring the shade structure for the design is useful to the site, may potentially have an art component, and keeps with the natural setting of the park.

Staff, PRC Advisory and the Waterfront and Riverwalk Working Group are also committed to continued collaboration with partners such as the Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority (GRCA) on progressing the final outcome which meets ecological, usage trends and requirements of the area. This aspect will be completed through layout and planting considerations as the project commences.

To address other comments, the following are notes provided by staff for awareness:

- Washrooms and trail lighting are currently not in the scope of this project but may have future considerations, noting that the vicinity to the river and site requirements may provide limitations (flood plain, etc);
- Maintenance will be considered to align with the regular winter operations for parks and trails.

A request to name the parkland “Rotary Centennial Park” had been put forward by the Club. Criteria outlined in the Naming of Facilities and Public Parks Policy (2.2) indicates the intent to “recognize significant contributions that organizations or individuals have made to public life and the well-being of the people of the Municipality”. Names will be considered when a significant contribution has been made to the Municipality by:

- Enhancing the quality of life and well-being of the Municipality;
- Achieving excellence in their endeavours and representing Port Hope in a meritorious manner;
- Recognizing the significance of the contribution made relative to the development, construction and operating costs of the Park/Facility being named.

The PRC Advisory Committee passed the following resolution at the October 20, 2021 meeting:

PRC 24/2021

Moved by C. Wickett

Seconded by J. Appleman

That the Parks, Recreation and Culture Advisory Committee supports proceeding with the final design of the Rotary Centennial Project as well as the naming of the park and provide comment to the Club through Staff regarding the proposed name request.

CARRIED

Following this meeting, Staff met with the Club to discuss factors with the requested name of the park, and to share committee feedback. A final review of the proposed name took place, and the Club confirms the request to name the park “*Rotary Centennial Riverview Park*”.

Staff have reviewed the policy and its criteria and recommend proceeding with the naming of the park as finalized. This recommendation complies with the requirements within the Naming of Facilities and Public Parks Policy, which identifies that Council has the authority for the naming of all Municipal Facilities and Public Parks.

Work continues to progress with defining property lines and the workplan for this project.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

The Rotary Club of Port Hope will be hosting a fund-raising campaign in partnership with the Municipality to cover the costs associated with this project. Some continued in-kind contributions from the Municipality for staff and maintenance in the project area are planned and are included as part of regular operating practices.

CONCLUSION:

The Rotary Centennial Project aims to improve and beautify the existing green space to encourage use by community members and visitors and to create a lasting legacy in celebration of Port Hope Rotary’s 100 years of service to the community.

Respectfully submitted,

Julia Snoek
Director, Parks, Recreation and Culture