

**Report to
Rapport au:**

**Community and Protective Services Committee
Comité des services communautaires et de protection
17 May 2018 / 17 mai 2018**

**and Council
et au Conseil
23 May 2018 / 23 mai 2018**

**Submitted on May 3, 2018
Soumis le 3 mai 2018**

**Submitted by
Soumis par:**

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Ward: RIDEAU ROCKLIFFE (13) /
RIDEAU ROCKLIFFE (13)

File Number: ACS2018-CCS-GEN-0018

SUBJECT: Commemorative Naming Proposal – W.O. Wilhelmina Walker Park

OBJET: Proposition de nom commémoratif – parc de l'O-Ere-Wilhelmina-Walker

REPORT RECOMMENDATION

That the Community and Protective Services Committee recommend Council approve the proposal to name the future park, located at 305 Lysander Place, “W.O. Wilhelmina Walker Park”.

RECOMMANDATION DU RAPPORT

Que le Comité des services communautaires et de protection recommande au Conseil d’approuver la proposition visant à nommer le futur parc devant être aménagé au 305, place Lysander « parc de l’O-Ere-Wilhelmina-Walker ».

BACKGROUND

The Commemorative Naming Policy, approved by City Council on July 24, 2002, as amended, outlines the criteria and process for commemoratively naming municipal streets, parks and facilities (or parts thereof).

With respect to criteria, a commemorative name honours individuals who are (or have been) citizens of the City of Ottawa or who have made a specific contribution to the City of Ottawa and:

- Demonstrated excellence, courage or exceptional service to the citizens of the City of Ottawa, the Province of Ontario and / or Canada;
- Provided extensive community service, or who have an extraordinary community service record;
- Worked to foster equality and reduce discrimination;
- Where the nominated individual is a current City employee, the individual shall have made an outstanding contribution to the City of Ottawa outside of his/her capacity and duties as a City employee or they may be recognized for their exceptional service once they are no longer a City employee;
- The nominated individual has made a significant financial contribution to a park or facility and the contribution significantly benefits the community that the park or facility serves (i.e. the park or facility may not have otherwise been possible without the financial assistance);
- The nominated name has historical significance to the community, City of Ottawa, Province of Ontario, or Canada.

Any member of the public or City Council may submit a name to the City for consideration through a formal Commemorative Naming application and supporting material.

Staff review the name against other criteria (e.g. potential issues for 9-1-1, whether there is an existing commemoration for the same nomination, etc.) and if there are no issues of this nature, forwards the nomination to the Commemorative Naming Committee (“CNC”), consisting of the City Clerk and Solicitor, the General Manager, Planning, Infrastructure and Economic Development, the General Manager, Recreation, Cultural and Facility Services, the General Manager, Public Works and Environmental Services, the Mayor and the Ward Councillor or their respective designates; the CNC reviews the formal application.

As part of the process, the CNC provides an initial approval based on the policy’s criteria and the information provided by the nominator. Staff is then directed to ensure there is community support for the choice by initiating a 30-day public consultation phase. Where the proposal is to rename a park or facility, the Policy requires a 60-day public consultation phase.

Following the consultation process, the CNC reviews the public feedback and makes a final recommendation on the nomination, which is subsequently considered by the appropriate Standing Committee and City Council. In cases where no public objections are received, proposals are brought directly to the appropriate Standing Committee and Council without the need for a second CNC meeting.

DISCUSSION

Mary Jarvis of the Canada Lands Company Limited submitted an application to commemorate Wing Officer Wilhelmina Walker, as described in Document 1. Under the proposal, the future park, located at 305 Lysander Place, would be named “W.O. Wilhelmina Walker Park”.

The CNC met on March 28, 2018 to review the application and endorsed the proposed name under the following criterion:

- The nominated name has historical significance to the community, City of Ottawa, Province of Ontario or Canada.

In accordance with the Council-approved Commemorative Naming Policy, in cases where there is no objection received during the public consultation period, a report can be submitted directly to the appropriate Standing Committee and Council, without the

reconvening of the CNC for a second meeting. As there was no objection to the proposal raised during the consultation period, the proposal is being brought directly to the Community and Protective Services Committee.

RURAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no rural implications associated with this report.

CONSULTATION

An integral part of the Commemorative Naming Process is public consultation on the proposed name. On April 3, 2018, the City announced a 30-day public consultation on the proposed name. The relevant information was communicated through a public service announcement, the City of Ottawa Twitter accounts and posted to Ottawa.ca.

The 30-day public consultation period ended on May 2, 2018. During the public consultation period, the Office of the City Clerk and Solicitor received no responses.

COMMENTS BY THE WARD COUNCILLOR(S)

The Ward Councillor is supportive of this recommendation.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no legal impediments to the implementation of the recommendation in this report.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

There are no risk implications associated with this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Office of the City Clerk and Solicitor

Financial costs associated with purchasing a plaque and/or hosting a naming ceremony are provided through the City Clerk and Solicitor's operating budget.

ACCESSIBILITY IMPACTS

There are no accessibility impacts related to the recommendation in this report.

TERM OF COUNCIL PRIORITIES

Not applicable.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Document 1 – Summary of Proposal: W.O. Wilhelmina Walker Park (Ward 13 – Rideau Rockliffe)

DISPOSITION

Following Council approval of the proposal, staff will work with the Ward Councillor to coordinate a ceremonial event to unveil a plaque.

Document 1

W.O. Wilhelmina Walker Park (Ward 13 – Rideau Rockcliffe)

In recognition of the historical significance of Wing Officer Wilhelmina (Willa) Walker to Canada, the City of Ottawa has been asked to name the future park located at 305 Lysander Place, “W.O. Wilhelmina Walker Park”.

Wilhelmina Walker was the Commanding Officer of the Women’s Division of the Royal Canadian Air Force during the Second World War. Willa joined the Canadian Air Force (Women’s Division) in 1941.

When Willa’s husband Captain David H. Walker was interned in a German prisoner of war camp, Willa developed a code for communicating important news in letters to her husband, which passed both Canadian and German censors. Willa also smuggled escape maps to her husband in the soles of shoes contained in a Red Cross package.