



The Corporation of the Town of Milton

Report To: Council

From: Doug Sampano, Commissioner, Community Services

Date: November 4, 2024

Report No: COMS-012-24

Subject: Re-naming of Community Park Baseball Diamonds

Recommendation: THAT COMS-012-24 Re-naming of Community Park Baseball Diamonds, be received for information.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- A Notice of Motion was approved by Council at the March 4, 2024 meeting that directed staff to proceed with the process of re-naming a municipal facility as outlined in Policy 69: Naming and Renaming Municipal Facilities.
- The proposed re-naming involves the two Baseball Diamonds at the Milton Community Park whereby Diamond #1 would be re-named the “Pete McMullen Diamond” and Diamond #2 re-named the “Glenn Turner Diamond”.
- Both individuals have been inducted into the Milton Sports Hall of Fame for their contributions as “Builders” of baseball in the community.
- A public and stakeholder feedback process was completed as required in Policy 69. The majority of respondents to the survey indicated their support to re-name both diamonds as proposed by the Notice of Motion.
- Identifying the financial impact of the proposed change is also a requirement of Policy 69. Staff estimate a cost of \$4,000 to replace the applicable wayfinding signage at the diamonds and throughout the Community Park which can be accommodated within the 2024 operating budget.

REPORT

Background

On March 4, 2024, Milton Council approved a Notice of Motion to consider changing the names of the two Baseball Diamonds at the Milton Community Park and to proceed in accordance with the process outlined in Policy 69: Naming and Re-Naming Municipal Facilities (included as Schedule A to this report).

The Milton Community Park Baseball Diamonds, currently named Diamond #1 and Diamond #2, were opened in 2012 and are well utilized by a number of community groups.

Background

The park also offers a number of other outdoor sports amenities that are named similar to the current diamonds (Beach Volleyball Court #1, Soccer Field #1 etc.).

The Notice of Motion recommended that Diamond #1 be considered for a name change to “Pete McMullen Diamond” and Diamond #2 be considered for a name change to “Glenn Turner Diamond”.

Late Miltonian, Hugh “Pete” McMullen, helped to pioneer the development of minor baseball in Milton, served as the President of the Ontario Baseball Association and also served as President of the Halton County Baseball Association. McMullen will be inducted as a Builder into the Milton Sports Hall of Fame this November as part of the 2024 Class.

Glenn Turner, a life-long Miltonian, has dedicated his life to the sport of baseball. He coached Milton’s juvenile and junior-level teams for 15 years, leading them to a couple of provincial championships. As the general manager of the Milton Red Sox, he led them to four Ontario Baseball Association championships. Turner also served as an advisor to the Town during the creation of baseball diamonds at Milton Community Park. He was inducted into the Milton Sports Hall of Fame in 2022 as a Builder.

Baseball Diamonds are considered a Minor Facility within Policy 69 and require that the following steps be enacted by staff as part of the re-naming process once a Notice of Motion has been approved by Council:

- Prepare a financial impact of the name change;
- Seek input from applicable Milton based historical groups (i.e. Milton Historical Society);
- Coordinate a public consultation process whereby user groups, residents, ratepayers and the general public are provided an opportunity to submit feedback on the proposed re-naming;
- Prepare a report to Council that includes the proposed name, rationale, financial impact and summary of public comments.

Discussion

In accordance with Policy 69: Naming and Re-Naming Municipal Facilities, a public consultation exercise was made available to the public from June 19, 2024 until July 12, 2024. The feedback opportunity was hosted and promoted on the Town’s Let’s Talk Milton platform. Additionally, the following historical and stakeholder groups were sent letters notifying them of the proposed name change and where they could provide their comments if they felt inclined to participate:

- Milton Historical Society
- Milton Sports Hall of Fame
- Milton Minor Baseball Association



Discussion

The detailed results of the public consultation are included in Schedule B to this report and letters received by the Town from various groups or individuals related to the matter can be found in Schedule C to this report. Some overall highlights to share from the results include:

- 388 responses were submitted to the survey question on re-naming Diamond #1 after Pete McMullen
 - 63% were in support
 - 20% were unsure
 - 17% were not in support
- 419 responses were submitted to the survey question on re-naming Diamond #2 after Glenn Turner
 - 96% were in support
 - 2% were unsure
 - 2% were not in support

Historically, the Town of Milton has not used the practice of naming park or indoor facility amenities (baseball diamonds, gymnasiums etc.) after individuals other than through paid sponsorship agreements (i.e. Robert Bateman Studio). Since naming park amenities after individuals is outside of the regular practice for Town staff, the following motion has been included in this report for Council's consideration, should Council wish to approve this re-naming:

THAT Council approves the following:

THAT Milton Community Park Diamond #1 be named "Pete McMullen Diamond" and THAT Milton Community Park Diamond #2 be named "Glenn Turner Diamond," and THAT staff be directed to replace all applicable signage in the Community Park and notify all applicable groups who utilize the diamonds.

Financial Impact

If a decision is made to change the names of the two diamonds, the costs of the wayfinding signage replacement in the park is estimated to be \$4,000. This amount can be managed within the overall operating budget for 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Palmer
Director, Recreation and Culture

For questions, please contact: Steve Palmer

Phone: Ext. 2581



Attachments

Schedule A - Policy 69: Naming and Re-naming Municipal Facilities

Schedule B - Survey Response Report

Schedule C - Letters of Support

Approved by CAO
Andrew M. Siltala
Chief Administrative Officer

Recognition of Traditional Lands

The Town of Milton resides on the Treaty Lands and Territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. We also recognize the traditional territory of the Huron-Wendat and Haudenosaunee people. The Town of Milton shares this land and the responsibility for the water, food and resources. We stand as allies with the First Nations as stewards of these lands.