COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE, DECEMBER 3RD, 20001

RE-NAMING OF GOLDEN GATE PARK

Recommendation

The Commissioner of Community Services in consultation with the Executive Director of Building, Facilities and Parks requests direction on this matter.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to obtain Council direction with respect to a petition from Carrying Place Ratepayers Association seeking a formal name change of Golden Gate Park to Le Parc Saint Jean de Brebeuf.

Background - Analysis and Options

On October 26, 2001, The City of Vaughan has received a petition from the Carrying Place Ratepayers Association (the residential subdivision bounded by Major Mackenzie to the north, Canada Company Avenue to the south, the Boyd North Conservation Lands to the east and Islington Avenue to the west) to rename Golden Gate park to Le Parc Saint Jean de Brebeuf.

The Ratepayers Association have submitted a list of reasons to support the name change and they are as follows:

- The subdivision has a historical connection to the Humber River to the east, given that
 the subdivision is situated directly over the original western route of the historic Toronto
 Carrying Place, which followed the part of the Humber River. The Toronto Carrying
 Place originated as a portage route that was used by the first nation travelers,
 missionaries and explorers. The Humber River has been designated as a Heritage River
 by Heritage Canada;
- Two famous explorers in Canadian history are Etienne Brule and Saint Jean de Brebeuf.
 Both individuals are prominent in history curricula in schools across Canada.
- A park has been named in honour of Brule where Bloor Street crosses the Humber River at the "Old Mill" in Toronto.

Staff have reviewed this request in conjunction with the Policy for Naming City Parks, Open Spaces, Community Facilities and other Municipal Buildings and Properties. The policy states a name may be changed based upon functional use, geographic location or historical significance. The request by the Ratepayers Association to change the name of this park to Le Parc Saint Jean de Brebeuf has strong historical significance and thus staff asks for Council's direction concerning this matter.

Conclusion

Council direction is required as to whether to proceed with the name change of Golden Gate Park to Le Parc Saint Jean de Brebeuf.

Attachments

Park Location Map

Report prepared by:

Lynne A. Bonneville Administrative Co-ordinator, Ext. 8296 Community Services

Respectfully submitted,

G. Doris Haas Commissioner of Community Services

