

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - FEBRUARY 21, 2005

PRESTONWOOD PARK – PROPOSED RENAMING

Recommendation

The Commissioner of Community Services, in consultation with the Senior Manager of Parks Development, recommends:

That Prestonwood Park be renamed “Mario Plastina Park”, in memory of Mr. Mario Plastina.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to obtain Council approval to rename Prestonwood Park in memory of Mr. Mario Plastina.

Background - Analysis and Options

The City of Vaughan received correspondence from Mr. Anthony G. Tucci, dated November 3, 2004, requesting that a park with the Maple community be renamed in memory of Mr. Mario Plastina (refer to Attachment ‘A’).

The City of Vaughan’s Policy (No. 04.3.08) for Renaming City Parks, Open Spaces, Community facilities and Other Municipal Buildings and Properties allows for name designation in honour of individuals or groups providing that any of the following criteria is demonstrated:

3.3 Criteria/Guidelines for Names Honouring Individuals or Groups

“Names for consideration shall be those of distinguished persons, organizations, corporations, foundations or the families:

- .1 where there has been a significant contribution to the quality of life, well-being of the City of Vaughan and is consistent with Vaughan Vision; or,
- .2 to memorialize or otherwise recognize substantial gifts and significant donors, individuals designed by donors, or individuals who have made exemplary or meritorious contributions to the City of Vaughan; or,
- .3 where there is a strong historical or cultural connection to the City and has made a major contribution to the historical or cultural preservation of the City; or,
- .4 where there is a strong contribution toward the environmental preservation, conservation or enhancement of the City; or,
- .5 where there is a major contribution made to the acquisition, development or conveyance of land or building, in question and/or its subsequent development; or,
- .6 where there is a direct relationship or association that exists between the place or former place of residence of the person or group and the facility/park/street to be named.

The Parks Development Division supports the renaming of Prestonwood Park in memory of Mr. Mario Plastina. Mr. Plastina, resided in close proximity to Prestonwood Park and as noted in the correspondence of Mr. Anthony G. Tucci, “His dedication to the Maple community was ongoing and without ulterior motive. He took Maple hockey out of the little leagues and helped make it what it is today. He spearheaded the organization of the classic cars club”. It is evident that Mr. Plastina made significant contributions to the quality of life in the City of Vaughan and the Maple community.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2007

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council and the necessary resources have been allocated and approved.

Conclusion

It is recommended that Council considers and approves the renaming of Prestonwood Park in memory of Mr. Mario Plastina. If Council approves this report, Prestonwood Park will be renamed "Mario Plastina Park".

Attachments

Attachment 1 – Mr. Anthony G. Tucci Correspondence

Report prepared by:

Paul Gardner, Senior Manager of Parks Development, Ext. 3209

Respectfully submitted,

Marlon Kallideen
Commissioner of Community Services

ATTACHMENT 'A'

Mr. Peter Meffe
Councillor
City of Vaughan
2141 Major Mackenzie Drive

Date: November 3, 2004

Dear: Mr. Meffe

It my understanding consideration is being given to naming a park for the late Mario Plastina. It is also my understanding the park may be outside of the Maple area. This saddens me and I believe, many other residents of Maple.

I have known Mario some 41 years since Grade 7. Mario was then as he was when he passed away. Positive in life, regardless of the circumstances. Mario was always with a smile, an encouraging word and a helping hand. Giving of himself was as natural as breathing. His dedication to the Maple community was ongoing and without ulterior motive. He took Maple hockey out of the little leagues and helped to make it what it is today. He spearheaded the organization of the classic cars club. This are just two of his many passions and interests.

Forty one years ago, Mario, befriended a young Italian immigrant and taught him how to glide on a frozen rink in Bellwoods Park. That person was me. Mario has helped others in this and many other ways all his life. Maple was not only where his home was, it was where his heart was also. This where he put his heart and energy. I am certain he would want it no other way than to have Mario Plastina park in Maple. It would be a sad mistake otherwise.

Your consideration in this regard is greatly appreciated.


Anthony G. Tucci
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