

Committee of the Whole (2) Report

DATE: Tuesday, June 21, 2022

WARD(S): 4

TITLE: PARK NAMING IN MEMORY OF MARTIN TAVARES

FROM:

Vince Musacchio, Deputy City Manager, Infrastructure Development

ACTION: DECISION

Purpose

To receive direction from Council with respect to the naming of a park in memory of Martin Tavares.

Report Highlights

- In May 2022 Council provided direction for staff to report back with a proposed park location to name in memory of Martin Tavares to recognize over 20 years of service and his personal and professional contributions to park planning and development at the City of Vaughan.
- A number of new park developments were reviewed as possible candidate locations, including new parks being prepared for development in Blocks 18, 31, 40, 47 and 61.
- Based on staff's review and in consideration of Martin's involvement and passion for acquiring lands and developing plans for the Block 18 District Park, staff recommend this location for park naming in memory of Martin for Council's consideration.

Recommendations

1. That the Block 18 District Park (UV2-D1) be named "Martin Tavares Park".

Background

In recognition of the impact Martin Tavares had on the planning and development of parks within the City of Vaughan throughout his 20 years of service, Council supported a resolution that a park be named in memory of Martin, after his untimely passing on April 15, 2022 after a long battle with cancer.

As the Manager of Parks and Open Space Planning in the Parks Infrastructure Planning and Development Department, colleague, friend, brother, son, father, and husband, he touched the lives of many with his humour, dedication, and tireless commitment to do what was right, despite the challenges. Martin was a passionate and dedicated advocate for advancing the parks and open space initiatives at the City of Vaughan and he worked tirelessly to secure and build a network of public parks and trails for all citizens to enjoy.

Previous Reports/Authority

[Committee of the Whole, May 3, 2022, Item 9, Member's Resolution](#)

Analysis and Options

The naming of a park in memory of Martin Tavares is consistent with Policy No. TPF - 006 Naming City Parks, Open Spaces, Community Facilities and Other Municipal Buildings and Properties (Attachment 1) Section 3.0 Name Designation in Honour of Individuals or Groups, specifically the following relevant sections:

- 3.4 - Naming in honour of City administrative officials, staff or elected or appointed public official shall normally occur only after the City employment or public service has concluded.
- 3.6 - Where the name of an individual is so used, approval shall be obtained from the individual or the next of kin for such naming. A formal request may include a reference letter or letter of recommendation from a distinguished person.
- 3.7 - Notwithstanding the above, Council, by resolution, may approve a name or name change, in honour of individuals or groups when circumstances justify such action. Council may also remove the original name designation when circumstances justify such action.

Staff compiled a list of new park developments that would potentially be suitable for park naming in memory of Martin. The list of new parks includes the following with a map of park locations appended as Attachment 2:

New Park Location (ID #)	Ward	Proposed Features/Park Development Timing
Block 61W Neighbourhood Park (61W-N4)	1	Playground, multi-use/basketball court, shade structure, seating areas, walkways, landscape planting, adjacent to future elementary school Design/Construction planned 2023-2024
Block 61W Neighbourhood Park (61W-N5)	1	Playground, tennis courts, shade structure, seating areas, walkways, landscape planting Design/Construction planned 2023-2024
Block 40 Neighbourhood Park (UV1-N25)	3	Playground, multi-use/basketball court, shade structure, seating areas, walkways, landscape planting Design/Construction 2024-2025
Block 47 Neighbourhood Park (UVI-N29)	3	Playground, tennis courts, skatezone, shade structure, seating areas, walkways, landscape planting Design/Construction 2024-2026
Block 18 Public Square (CC18-S5)	4	Playground, shade structure, seating areas, landscape planting Design/Construction 2022-2023
Block 18 District Park (UV2-D1)	4	District playground, water play, lit tennis courts, local off-leash dog area, amphitheatre, park building (washroom, changeroom), basketball court, multi-use/ball hockey court, fitness equipment, shade structures, picnic areas, seating areas, trails and walkways, landscape planting, parking Design/Construction 2022-2024
Block 31 Neighbourhood Park (VMCSP-N2)	4	Playground, water play, multi-use/basketball court, seating areas, walkways, landscape planting, ice rink (future phase) Design/Construction 2023-2025

Through discussions with staff, it is suggested that the Block 18 District Park (UV2-D1) would be a suitable choice for a park naming in memory of Martin as he was integral to all aspects of this park from the dedication and acquisition of lands, through to the park planning, community engagement process and design. Throughout the park planning process Martin had expressed a special passion for developing a vision for the Block 18 District Park through meaningful engagement with the local community, schools, and students.

The Block 18 District Park is a 7.7 hectares in area and will be developed in two phases. Phasing of the new district park is necessary due to servicing required for the water play and washroom building will be provided from the adjacent future development. These future services will not prevent the City from proceeding with the construction of Phase 1 of the park with key facilities and amenities for the local community to start enjoying in the next few years.

Phase 1 of the park will include a district playground facility, asphalt pathways, trail connections to the Cooks Woodlot, an open air amphitheater and gathering space, picnic shelters, and local off-leash dog area. Phase 1 will be tendered in 2022 and under construction in 2023.

Phase 2 of the park will include the washroom building, water play area, multiuse court, basketball court, multi-use/ball hockey court, three lit tennis courts, shade structures, outdoor fitness equipment, bicycle repair station, parking, and passive contemplation areas.

Other factors that were identified when considering the appropriateness of the Block 18 District Park location include:

- Location – the park is located within walking distance of City Hall, accessible by several means of transportation (vehicular, transit, and active transportation), and is a park that is intended to serve the larger community, with a balance of park amenities to suit a variety of ages and abilities, something that Martin strongly supported.
- Opportunity – the Block 18 District Park is currently in the design stage with a plan to tender Phase 1 park construction by Q4 2022 followed by construction in 2023-2024.
- Timing – the park has not yet been named and assigning a name will be timely for incorporation into design drawings and park plans. A dedication ceremony can be coordinated with the ribbon cutting following the completion of Phase 1 construction.

Staff have discussed Council's proposed park naming with Martin's family and permission has been given to use Martin's name for this honour. The family sincerely appreciates Council's consideration to acknowledge Martin in this way.

Following Council approval of the park naming, staff will incorporate the new park name into plans for site signage and City records. A dedication ceremony will be planned at a future date with the Tavares family following the completion of Phase 1 park design and construction which is currently in progress and planned for completion in 2024.

Financial Impact

No additional costs will be incurred as park signage will be included as part of the park development cost.

Broader Regional Impacts/Considerations

Not Applicable.

Conclusion

On May 3, 2022, staff received direction through a Member's Resolution to report back to Council with a location for a park to be named in memory of Martin Tavares. Following a review of potential sites and based on Martin's involvement and passion for the planning and design of the Block 18 District Park, staff recommends Council approve the naming of this park in his memory.

For more information, please contact: Jamie Bronsema, Director, Parks Infrastructure Planning & Development, extension 8858.

Attachments

1. [Policy No. TPF – 006 Naming City Parks, Open Spaces, Community Facilities and Other Municipal Buildings and Properties, June 8, 2010](#)
2. Park Location Map
3. Email from the Tavares Family in support of the naming of the park.

Prepared by

Michael Habib, Acting Manager, Parks and Open Space Planning, Extension 8092
Jamie Bronsema, Director, Parks Infrastructure Planning and Development, Extension 8858

Approved by

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'V. Musacchio'.

Vince Musacchio,
Deputy City Manager
Infrastructure Development

Reviewed by

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nick Spensieri'.

Nick Spensieri, City Manager