


TO: GENERAL COMMITTEE


SUBJECT: RESULTS OF PUBLIC CONSULTATION RENAMING OF BAYVIEW PARK IN RECOGNITION OF SAM CANCELLA

WARD: ALL

PREPARED BY AND KEY CONTACT: D. MCALPINE, CITY CLERK/DIRECTOR OF LEGISLATIVE AND COURT SERVICES, EXT. 4421 

SUBMITTED BY: D. MCALPINE, CITY CLERK/DIRECTOR OF LEGISLATIVE AND COURT SERVICES

GENERAL MANAGER APPROVAL: P. ELLIOTT-SPENCER, MBA, CPA, CMA, GENERAL MANAGER OF COMMUNITY AND CORPORATE SERVICES 

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER APPROVAL: C. LADD, CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE 

RECOMMENDED MOTION

1. That Bayview Park be renamed Sam Cancilla Park in recognition of former Alderman Cancilla's community contributions.

PURPOSE & BACKGROUND

Report Overview

2. The purpose of this staff report is to provide the results of the public consultation with respect to the recommendation to rename Bayview Park to Sam Cancilla Park to recognize the contributions of former Alderman Sam Cancilla to the community.

Background

3. Former Alderman Sam Cancilla passed away suddenly on January 9, 2015. He was the Alderman for Ward 2 from 1985 to 1991. As an owner of Cancilla's Fruit and Vegetable Market, he was a respected and admired business leader within the community. Before, during and after his time on City Council, Sam Cancilla contributed to numerous projects benefiting the community including the Allandale Recreation Centre and Barrie Sports Hall of Fame, Victoria Village, the acquisition of lands for the Barrie Public Library, the Grey and Simcoe Foresters Museum, the transit terminal, and maintaining the lands at Bayview Park for park purposes. Sam Cancilla was strong supporter of initiatives involving youth, sports and the Barrie community.
4. On January 19, 2015, City Council adopted resolution 15-A-006 regarding Recognition of Former Alderman Sam Cancilla as follows:

"That staff prepare a report providing potential naming opportunities in memory and recognition of the community contributions of former Alderman Sam Cancilla."
5. On May 25, 2015, City Council adopted motion 15-G-107 regarding Recognition of Sam Cancilla as follows:

“That public consultation be undertaken regarding the proposed renaming of Bayview Park to Sam Cancilla Park in recognition of former Alderman Cancilla’s community contributions.”

6. Currently, the pool area at the Allandale Recreation Centre is named in recognition of Sam Cancilla’s efforts associated with the construction of the Recreation Centre. The naming of the pool is not widely recognized.
7. “Beautiful Barrie. The City and its People” by Su Murdoch, Brad Rudachyk and Kurt Schick, notes that on September 5, 1935 the Bayview Park Pavilion and lavatory were officially opened. Bayview Park was named by By-law 93-155, when it was determined that a number of older parks within the community had never been officially named by City Council. Dr. Rudachyk has advised that the park was not named commemoratively for any individual/former individual in the community.

ANALYSIS

8. In response to motion 15-G-107, staff in the Legislative and Court Services Department and Access Barrie undertook a campaign to encourage feedback with respect to the potential renaming of Bayview Park to Sam Cancilla Park. The public were consulted over a 60 day period to determine the level of support and/or any concerns with respect to the proposed renaming of the park. The public consultation involved advertisements in This Week in Barrie, on the City’s website and through social media as well as letters sent to property owners within a minimum 120 metre radius of the park.
9. The deadline for comments was July 27, 2015. Comments could be provided by completing an on-line survey, emailing, mailing, faxing or dropping off surveys or correspondence or contacting the Legislative and Court Services Department. A total of 557 of comments were received either through phone messages, mail, email, drop off or faxed information and on-line surveys. In some cases, it appears that the same individuals responded to the on-line survey as well as by providing correspondence and/or contacting the Legislative and Court Services Department.
10. A summary of the results indicating support of the proposal to rename Bayview park, is as follows:

	# of responses	Yes	No
On-line Survey	504 ⁽¹⁾	86.51%	13.49%
Emails, faxes, mail/drop off responses and phone calls	53	81.13%	18.87%

Notes:

(1) On-line survey: On 21 occasions, the same individual appears to have selected “Yes” twice, on 2 occasions, the same individual appears to have selected “No” twice, and on 3 occasions, the same individual appears to have selected both “Yes” and “No”. The % of “Yes” and “No” respondents have not been adjusted to reflect these duplicate responses.

11. The public consultation resulted in a clear majority of respondents supporting the renaming of Bayview Park to Sam Cancilla Park. A summary of the general themes associated with the comments provided is attached as Appendix “A” to Staff Report CLK011-15.

12. Should the recommendation to rename Bayview Park be supported by City Council, staff would work with Sam Cancilla's family to establish an appropriate date for a ceremony associated with an unveiling of the new park name.
13. It would be possible to create a small flower bed surrounding a sign with the new Park name in 2015. It is anticipated that the playground equipment in the park will be replaced in 2017 as part of the regular playground renewal program. A more detailed plaque/signage describing Sam Cancilla's contributions to the community and his efforts to maintain the park would be prepared to coincide with the playground equipment replacement. The playground area is anticipated to be identified as "Sam's Place" to acknowledge Mr. Cancilla's approachable nature and his commitment to recreation and youth within the community.

ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

14. There are no environmental matters related to the recommendation.

ALTERNATIVES

15. The following alternatives are available for consideration by General Committee:

Alternative #1 General Committee could recommend that Bayview Park not be renamed.

Based on the public consultation process, the respondents overwhelmingly (86%) supported the renaming of the Park.

Alternative #2 General Committee could choose to undertake further public consultation regarding the renaming of the Park or one of the other suggestions for recognition of Sam Cancilla.

Although this alternative is available, 557 responses were received regarding the renaming of Bayview Park. Sam Cancilla played a significant role in maintaining Bayview Park as a park and was a business owner in the downtown core.

Some of the suggestions for recognition involved naming new buildings, streets or parks after Sam Cancilla. In these cases, there would be little or no relationship to Mr. Cancilla's efforts as a community builder.

Alternative #3 General Committee could decide that the renaming be delayed until the playground equipment is scheduled for replacement.

While this alternative is available, a more timely renaming is recommended.

FINANCIAL

16. Staff in the Roads, Parks and Fleet Department have advised that the installation of a new sign identifying Sam Cancilla Park and surrounding flower bed could be accommodated within the department's existing 2015 budget.

17. The replacement of the playground equipment would be included in the 2017 Program for consideration during the Business Planning process. It is anticipated that the more detailed plaque/signage would be addressed as part of the playground equipment replacement program or through other funding sources. The potential to relocate the new playground on top of the former underground water reservoir where it would be more accessible to downtown and area residents would be presented at a local neighbourhood meeting to obtain input from adjacent residents.

LINKAGE TO 2014-2018 STRATEGIC PLAN

18. The recommendation(s) included in this Staff Report are not specifically related to the goals identified in the 2014-2018 Strategic Plan. Should a renaming of Bayview Park be supported by the public, any new signage, flower beds, etc. would have the potential to contribute to an Inclusive Community through enhancing public spaces downtown.

Appendix "A"

Summary of the General Themes of Comments received in response to Public Consultation regarding the potential Renaming of Bayview Park

Approximately 165 comments from the 86% of respondents indicating "yes" or their support regarding the renaming, with the following general themes:

- A large percentage of the responses provided positive comments about Sam Cancilla and the Cancilla family, as well as his contributions to the community, the downtown, etc. The vast majority identifying his efforts as a citizen (prior/post his role as a member of Council) – a few in recognition of his role while a member of Council
- Numerous positive comments about the concept of renaming the park in his honour (great idea, well deserved, very worthy, etc.)
- Support given Sam Cancilla's role maintaining the lands at Bayview Park for park purposes (as opposed to the sale of a portion of the lands for development)
- Comments on the importance of recognizing community history and heritage as well as individuals/families contributing to the development of Barrie as a community through their tenure, businesses, etc.
- Suggestions for variations on the name – Cancilla Park, Sam's Place, Sam Cancilla Bayview Park, Sam Cancilla's Bayview Park, Bayview Cancilla Park
- Comments from family members, friends, colleagues, neighbours and employees of Sam Cancilla/ the Cancilla family about Sam's wonderful nature, their positive memories of Mr. Cancilla and his efforts as a community builder, etc.
- Suggestions for ceremonies, plaques, memento cards to be handed out at renaming ceremony, etc to provide information about Sam Cancilla's contributions and the rationale for naming in his honour, if approved
- Indicated support for recognition of Sam Cancilla and the renaming but also provided different suggestions (renaming Mady Centre, plaques, benches, updated playground equipment with plants and flowers)
- Support for the renaming of Bayview Park as the respondents' stated that Bayview Park name doesn't make sense, doesn't have a historical connection, etc.
- Support for naming more parks after people who do great things for the City, including recognizing them when they are alive
- A positive comment about this renaming proposal in relation to other park naming in honour of individuals (Kuzmich Park)
- A concern that Sam Cancilla wanted the park to remain unchanged and that a renaming might not be what Mr. Cancilla would have wanted

Appendix "A" (continued)

Summary of the General Themes of Comments received in response to Public Consultation regarding the potential Renaming of Bayview Park

Approximately 50 comments from the 14% of respondents indicating "no" or their opposition to the renaming, with the following general themes:

- A number of concerns regarding the use of taxpayer money/costs associated with a renaming
- A number of comments indicated support for recognition of Sam Cancilla but not the renaming of this park, where the respondent provided different suggestions (renaming the Allandale Recreation Centre, a street name, a new park, a wall with the names of all community contributors, something new, a meeting room at City Hall, the Farmers Market or Market Square, an unnamed street or building, or dedicating new playground equipment, a bench with plaque/signage in recognition of Sam Cancilla's contributions)
- Comments to leave the park as is, don't change tradition, renaming is confusing
- Comments that the Bayview Park name makes sense, has a geographical/historical significance
- Concerns that this would establish a precedent, regarding singling one individual out, that every former member of Council would be required to be recognized by naming a park/building, that name changes will happen too frequently and comments opposed to naming municipal assets after politicians
- Comments from individuals who feel their family members/friends should be recognized as well or before/instead of Sam Cancilla (Names provided: Anne Black, Cyril Vieira and Jean Gable)
- Suggestions for variations on the name – Cancilla Park, Sam Cancilla Bayview Park
- Comments that a pool is already named for Sam Cancilla
- Comments that the respondent(s) did not know Sam Cancilla or his contributions
- A suggestion for a policy based approach to naming parks, streets and other municipal landmarks after former Mayors and Councillors versus an ad hoc approach
- A comment that the naming rights on the Mady Centre need to be resolved before naming of parks
- A concern that Sam Cancilla would not have wanted the park named after him
- A comment that a respondent didn't agree with Mr. Cancilla's politics