



Regional Board Report

Request for Decision

Approved for Board Consideration

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Corie Griffiths".

Corie Griffiths, Deputy CAO

To: Regional Board
From: Murray Kopp, Director - Parks Services
Date: July 25, 2022
Subject: Park Naming, Renaming, and Dedications Policy

Voting Entitlement: *All Directors – Unweighted Corporate Vote – Simple Majority (LGA s.208)*

Purpose: To consider approving of a new Parks Naming, Renaming, and Dedications Policy.

Executive Summary:

RDCO Parks staff have conducted a review of the existing RDCO Board Policy 4.04 "Naming of Parks" (1979) and propose significant changes to enable consideration of Indigenous place names, renaming and dual naming in regional and community parks. The attached updated "Parks Naming, Renaming, and Dedications Policy" clarifies the process for the RDCO Board's consideration for implementing new regional and community park names as well as any proposals to rename regional or community parks. This staff report seeks RDCO Board approval of an updated "Parks Naming, Renaming, and Dedications Policy."

Recommendation(s):

THAT the RDCO Board approve the Parks Naming, Renaming, and Dedications Policy as presented in the staff report titled "Parks Naming, Renaming, and Dedications Policy" dated July 25, 2022.

Respectfully Submitted:

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Murray Kopp, Director – Parks Services

Attachment(s): RDCO Board Policy 4.04 "Naming of Parks" (1979)
Draft RDCO Board Policy BP1-2022 "Parks Naming, Renaming, And Dedications"

Strategic Plan Alignment:

Priorities: Environment, Sustainable Communities

Values: Good Governance, Regional Perspective, Relationships, Collaboration, Transparency

Background:

In the decade since the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN-DRIP), and in the spirit of reconciliation, many governments around the world are revisiting colonial names given to places over the past few centuries. These names often replaced historic and traditional Indigenous names that had existed for centuries (and in many places still exist).

In British Columbia, local governments have reviewed or are in the process of reviewing their place, street, and park naming policies, to be inclusive of pre-colonial Indigenous names, and in some cases, to provide direction for returning names of parks and park sites to their original, Indigenous names.

Over the past 12 years, the RDCO's Parks Service has been actively engaged with local Indigenous syilx communities in the dual naming of select regional park trails. In 2014 the RDCO and Westbank First Nation entered into a Memorandum of Understanding for the management of Black Mountain - Sntsk'il'ntən Regional Park. In 2018 the RDCO Board also entered a Memorandum of Understanding for the Protection - Conservation of Cultural Sites in Regional Parks with the Westbank First Nation.

The RDCO's Naming of Parks Policy was approved by the RDCO Board in 1979 (Attachment 1). Since the adoption of this policy, it has generally been the RDCO's practice of basing names after the locality in which the parks exist which has predominantly resulted in RDCO regional and community parks being named with colonial names associated with local geography, local history, or colonial tradition.

A best practice review was conducted by RDCO Parks staff in an effort to update the existing RDCO "Naming of Parks" Policy to primarily consider renaming and dual naming of regional and community parks where Indigenous names exist, or places of significance for local Indigenous communities. The review also includes opportunities for First Nation communities as well as regional or local community-based organizations to nominate the renaming of regional and community parks. The proposed updated Parks Naming, Renaming, and Dedications Policy (Attachment 2) provides a clearer process for how these organizations can nominate a new park name and how the RDCO Board will consider the information submitted.

Considerations:

Organizational/External:

RDCO parks staff have reviewed the existing RDCO Board Policy 4.04 “Naming of Parks” (1979) and propose a significant update to the park naming policy. The revised Policy clarifies definitions and provides the opportunity to consider renaming of parks and features and dual naming where Indigenous names exist or places of significance for local Indigenous communities.

Financial:

If the RDCO Parks staff recommendation is approved, there are no 2022 financial implications associated with the approval of the policy. The financial implications of any opportunities for naming, renaming, dual-naming or dedication will be brought forward for consideration of the RDCO Board concurrent with the naming request.

Alternate Recommendation:

That the RDCO Board receive for information the report dated July 25, 2022, titled “Parks Naming, Renaming, and Dedications Policy” and provide alternate direction to staff.

Considerations not applicable:

- Legal/Statutory Authority:
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