

Subject: Commemorative Naming Proposal – Crain Park

File Number: ACS2023-RCF-GEN-0009

Report to Community Services Committee on 24 October 2023

and Council 8 November 2023

**Submitted on September 29, 2023 by Emily Baxter, Manager, Business and
Technical Support Services, Recreation, Cultural and Facility Services
Department**

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Ward: Kitchissippi (15)

Objet : Proposition de nom commémoratif – Parc Crain

Numéro de dossier : ACS2023-RCF-GEN-0009

Rapport présenté au Comité des services communautaires

Rapport soumis le 24 octobre 2023

et au Conseil le 8 novembre 2023

**Soumis le 2023-09-29 par Emily Baxter, Gestionnaire, Services de soutien
technique et aux activités, Direction générale des loisirs, de la culture et des
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Quartier : Kitchissippi (15)

REPORT RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the Community Services Committee recommend Council approve the proposal to name a new park, located at 375 Byron Avenue, “Crain Park”.

RECOMMANDATION(S) DU RAPPORT

Que le Comité des services communautaires recommande au Conseil d'approuver la proposition visant à ce que le nouveau parc, situé au 375, avenue Byron, soit nommé « Parc Crain ».

BACKGROUND

The [Commemorative Naming Policy](#), approved by City Council on July 24, 2002, as amended, outlines the criteria and process for commemoratively naming municipal streets, parks and facilities (or parts thereof).

The proposed name has been reviewed against the policy criteria, for potential issues regarding 9-1-1 response, and whether there is an existing commemoration of the same nomination. As there were no issues of concern, the Commemorative Naming Committee (“CNC”) met to review the formal application and proposal and provided an initial approval based on policy criteria and information provided by the nominator. To ensure there was community support for the commemorative naming proposal, staff initiated a 30-day public consultation phase.

Following the consultation process, the CNC reviewed public feedback and made a final recommendation on the nomination, followed by consideration by the appropriate Standing Committee and City Council.

It is noted that on February 8, 2023, Ottawa City Council approved a motion to pause the Commemorative Naming Program to allow for a full program and policy review. The review is intended to strengthen the City’s approach to commemoration and outline a more equitable, diverse, and inclusive process that reflects the values of the City of Ottawa.

Commemorative naming applications that were received and vetted prior to the moratorium, including this nomination, are able to proceed for consideration and are not subject to the moratorium.

DISCUSSION

Suzanne Halpenny, granddaughter of nominee Rolla Law Crain, submitted an application to commemorate her grandfather, as described in Document 1. Under the proposal, the new park located at 375 Byron Avenue, will be named “Crain Park”.

The CNC met on May 25, 2023, to review the application and endorsed the proposed name under the following criterion:

- The nominated individual has historical significance to the community, City of Ottawa, Province of Ontario or Canada.

Following the CNCs endorsement of the application, and in accordance with the Council-approved Commemorative Naming Policy, the proposed commemorative name entered a 30-day public consultation.

In cases where opposition is received, which occurred during the public consultation period for “Crain Park”, the Council-approved Commemorative Naming Policy states that the CNC must reconvene to determine the opposition’s validity before proceeding with a report to the appropriate Standing Committee and Council.

The CNC was reconvened on September 29, 2023, and recommended that the report proceed to Committee and Council.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial costs associated with purchasing and installing a plaque are provided through the operating budget of the Recreation, Cultural and Facility Services Department.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no legal impediments to the implementation of the recommendation in this report.

COMMENTS BY THE WARD COUNCILLOR(S)

The Ward Councillor is supportive of this recommendation.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE(S) COMMENTS

The Commemorative Naming Committee is supportive of this recommendation.

CONSULTATION

An integral part of the Commemorative Naming Process is public consultation. On May 25, 2023, the City announced a 30-day public consultation on the proposed name. A public service announcement and the Ottawa.ca website provided relevant information on the proposal. CityNews Ottawa also shared the announcement on its [website](#).

The 30-day public consultation period ended on June 24, 2023. The Recreation, Cultural and Facility Services Department received four comments in support of the application and three in opposition.

As a result of the opposition, the CNC reconvened to review the summary of public comments and determined that the opposition failed to define a clear expression that the candidate in question did not meet the criteria for commemoration as outlined in this policy. Therefore, the CNC has approved the proposal to proceed to the Community Services Committee and Council.

ACCESSIBILITY IMPACTS

This is an administrative report to approve commemorative naming, and as such, there are no accessibility impacts.

Commemorative plaques are designed in accordance with the City of Ottawa's corporate design standards and meet accessibility requirements.

ASSET MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

There are no asset implications associated with this report.

CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

There are no climate implications associated with this report.

DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY IMPLICATIONS

There are no Delegation of Authority implications associated with this report.

ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS

There are no economic implications associated with this report.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no environmental implications associated with this report.

INDIGENOUS, GENDER AND EQUITY IMPLICATIONS

There are no Indigenous, gender and equity implications associated with this report.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

There are no risk implications associated with this report.

RURAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no rural implications associated with this report.

TECHNOLOGY IMPLICATIONS

There are no technology implications associated with this report.

TERM OF COUNCIL PRIORITIES

Not applicable.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Document 1 immediately follows the report.

DISPOSITION

Following Council approval of the proposal, staff will work with the Ward Councillor on a commemorative plaque.

Document 1

Crain Park

NOMINEE: Rolla Law Crain NOMINATOR: Suzanne Halpenny, granddaughter	The nominated individual has historical significance to the community, City of Ottawa, Province of Ontario or Canada.
To name a new park, located at 375 Byron Avenue, "Crain Park".	
Crain Park	Parc Crain
Concurrence received February 10, 2023, from Councillor Leiper to proceed.	

Crain Park (Ward 15 – Kitchissippi)

In recognition of the historical significance to Ottawa, the City has been asked to name a new park, located at 375 Byron Avenue, "Crain Park". Mr. Rolla Law Crain was a prominent businessman in the area that is now Westboro. Mr. Crain was only 18 years old when he started his own printing company in the basement of his family home, which eventually turned into a business large enough to employ hundreds of local men and women. He was renowned for caring greatly for his staff, including a company program called "People Care" that ensured his employees had opportunities to improve their careers and take part in recreational activities. He was also engaged in many charitable work projects and organizations, including high school scholarship programs, the YMCA, the Central Canada Exhibition Association, and the Union Mission.

Parc Crain (Quartier 15 – Kitchissippi)

La Ville a reçu une proposition en vue de nommer un nouveau parc situé au 375, avenue Byron, « Parc Crain » en reconnaissance de son importance historique pour Ottawa. M. Rolla Law Crain était un homme d'affaires important dans la région qui est aujourd'hui Westboro. M. Crain n'avait que 18 ans lorsqu'il a créé sa propre imprimerie dans le sous-sol de sa maison familiale, qui s'est ensuite transformée en une entreprise suffisamment importante pour employer des centaines d'hommes et de femmes de la région. Il était réputé pour l'attention qu'il portait à son personnel, notamment au moyen d'un programme d'entreprise appelé « People Care », qui garantissait à ses employés la possibilité d'améliorer leur carrière et de participer à des activités récréatives. Il s'est également engagé dans de nombreux projets et organisations caritatives, notamment des programmes de bourses d'études dans des écoles secondaires, le YMCA, l'Association de l'Exposition du Canada central et l'Union Mission.