

# HALIFAX

P.O. Box 1749  
Halifax, Nova Scotia  
B3J 3A5 Canada

**Item No. 11.1.4**  
**Halifax Regional Council**  
**January 26, 2021**

**TO:** Mayor Savage and Members of Halifax Regional Council

**SUBMITTED BY:**

Original Signed by 

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jacques Dubé, Chief Administrative Officer

**DATE:** January 13, 2021

**SUBJECT:** **AN108: HRM Asset Names, November 1, 2019 to December 31, 2020**

---

## **ORIGIN**

HRM has received asset naming requests from the period November 1, 2019 to December 31, 2020.

## **LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY**

Administrative Order Number 46, Respecting HRM Asset Naming Policies

## **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that Halifax Regional Council:

- 1) Approve the addition of the name Janet Kitz to the existing Commemorative Names List as shown on Attachment A;
- 2) Approve the administrative park names as shown on Attachment B; and,
- 3)
  - a) Approve the name Shirley's Splash Pad as the approved municipal park feature asset name for the proposed Dartmouth Common Splash Pad in memory of Shirley Clarke pursuant to the gifting section of Administrative Order 46;
  - b) Accept the proposed \$110,000 community gift from the Clarke family to be applied to the capital costs of the development of the proposed Dartmouth Common Splash Pad.

## **BACKGROUND**

HRM's Asset Naming Policy Administrative Order (AO 46) allows any person or group to apply for a commemorative name for HRM assets, particularly streets, parks or buildings. The AO requires the Civic Addressing Coordinator to consult with at least one representative from each asset category, the municipal archivist, and a representative from HRM Cultural Affairs on each application. This group forms the HRM Asset Naming Committee (the Committee). The Committee also consults with the local Councillor(s) for each application and advises the Civic Addressing Coordinator on civic addressing and asset naming matters.

### **Requests**

Staff recommends Regional Council approve five requests for the period of November 1, 2019 to December 31, 2020 as outlined below:

- a) 1 name to be added to the commemorative names list;
- b) 3 administrative park names; and
- c) 1 gifting submission

## **DISCUSSION**

Staff recommends that Regional Council approve all five requests as outlined below:

### **Commemorative Names List**

Commemorative names recognize individual persons, groups of people and geographic features. The Asset Naming criteria states that individuals who have demonstrated excellence, courage or exceptional service to the citizens of HRM, the Province of Nova Scotia and/or Canada may be recognized. The criteria also allow for names that recognize geographical or topographical features of the area. The Asset Naming Committee is recommending approval of one commemorative name application for Janet Kitz.

This name meets the criteria of the HRM Asset Naming Policies. Therefore, the Asset Naming Committee recommends that this application, as outlined in Attachment A be approved and added to the commemorative names list.

### **Administrative Park and Park Feature Names**

Administrative names reflect either the neighborhood, subdivision, street or community name in which a park or park feature is located. Since the previous asset naming report, three administrative names have been submitted. Staff have reviewed the names and recommend that the administrative names, as outlined in Attachment B, be approved by Regional Council.

### **Gifting**

HRM Administrative Order 46 allows Regional Council to recognize an individual for providing a financial contribution to a building, park or park feature, where that contribution significantly benefits the community served by that asset. Furthermore, the individual providing the contribution can apply to name the asset with the only naming criteria being that the proposed name shall not be a duplicate of any other asset name.

An application for asset naming has been received under the gifting category for the proposed Dartmouth Common Splash Pad. The applicant has requested that the splash pad be named Shirley's Splash Pad in memory of Dartmouth resident Shirley Clarke. A community gift of \$110,000 has been proposed toward the capital costs of construction of the splash pad in support of the naming application (Attachment C).

### **Administrative Order 56**

In addition to the Asset Naming AO, HRM also has Administrative Order 56, Respecting the HRM Sale of Naming Rights Policy. AO56 outlines the process by which HRM has issued calls for proposals to sell the

naming rights for some facilities (Scotiabank Centre, RBC Centre, etc.). The sale of naming rights involves a valuation of the asset followed by a call for proposal and typically results in the sale of the naming rights to a corporation with a subsequent renaming of the facility.

While AO56 does not preclude the sale of naming of a portion of a municipal asset, it is not typically undertaken for an individual park feature. The gifting program under the Asset Naming AO is more appropriate for individual assets in a park. Therefore, the proposed funding donation has been considered under that program.

#### Asset Name

Staff advise that the proposed name is not a duplicate of any other existing asset name and therefore it is compliant with the Administrative Order 46 with respect to the naming convention. Accordingly, staff recommend the proposed asset name be accepted.

#### Proposed Community Gift

HRM's internal Asset Naming Committee's provides advice to the Civic Addressing Coordinator who, in turn, provides recommendations to Council with respect to the value of any proposed community gifting associated with asset naming. The Committee developed working criteria within their Terms of Reference in order to guide the review process and ensure consistency between applications when assessing the value of proposed community gifting related to asset naming. These Terms of Reference were established in 2010 and are not formally approved by Council as municipal policy. This application is the first of this nature to be considered under these criteria since their establishment 11 years ago.

The working criteria within these Terms of Reference define a significant financial contribution as being a minimum of 50% of the total cost of any project or \$1,000,000. The total cost of the project in question is approximately \$500,000 and the proposed community gift is \$110,000. Based solely on the application of the committee's working criteria, the financial commitment proposed by the applicant is less than 50% of the total project and less than \$1,000,000. However, it must be noted that Council is the approval body for asset naming in the gifting category and has full authority to approve the proposed name and accept the community gift, notwithstanding the proposed value is less than the amount set out in the Asset Naming Committee's working criteria.

Staff acknowledge the proposed contribution represents a material value that is both a substantial general contribution to the local community interest as well as a notable amount relative to the value of this specific project which is a widely supported community recreation initiative. While staff acknowledge the benefits of having sound working criteria to support the development of recommendations in these matters, it should also be noted that strict adherence to these criteria to the exclusion of all other variables may not result in a desirable outcome in every case. This is particularly so in this instance where the criteria in question was developed 11 years ago. Given this is the first application of this nature since the establishment of the criteria, the efficacy of this process has not been tested and refined through practical application over time. Staff will review this component of the Committee terms of reference to ensure it represents a reasonable guideline given the time that has passed since its implementation.

Under the circumstances, staff advise the proposed gifting amount is generous and appropriate. It is recommended that Council accept the proposed \$110,000 contribution.

#### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are minimal costs associated with the administration of the HRM's Asset Naming Policy. These costs can be accommodated within the existing 2020-2021 operating budget for C420-Planning & Development. If approved by Council, the gifting donation would be used towards the construction of the Dartmouth Splash Pad which Council approved in the advanced tender list on January 12, 2021 and will be further considered as part of the overall 2021/22 capital budget.

### **RISK CONSIDERATION**

There are no significant risks associated with the recommendations in this report.

### **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

The community engagement process is consistent with the intent of the HRM Community Engagement Strategy. The level of community engagement is ongoing and is achieved through promotion online and the creation of printed marketing material and engaging local interest groups. Any member of the community is welcome to submit applications for commemorative names within HRM.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no environmental implications associated with this report.

### **ALTERNATIVES**

1. Regional Council could choose to not approve some, or all, of the requested names. This alternative is not recommended as the names meet the Council-approved criteria as outlined in HRM Asset Naming Policies.
2. Regional Council could choose to refuse the gifting application to name the proposed Dartmouth Common Splash Pad Shirley's Splash Pad and decline the proposed funding.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment A: Commemorative Name Application for Commemorative Names List  
Attachment B: Administrative Park Names  
Attachment C: Proposed Dartmouth Splash Pad Gifting Donation

---

A copy of this report can be obtained online at [halifax.ca](http://halifax.ca) or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 902.490.4210.

Report Prepared by: Gayle MacLean, Civic Addressing Coordinator 902.490.4105 and Steven Higgins,  
Manager of Current Planning 902.490.4382

## **Attachment A – Commemorative Name Application for Commemorative Names List**

### 1. Janet Kitz's Application

#### Request

-Street, Park or Commercial Vessel or Ferry

#### Geographic Location

- Halifax (preferably south end)

#### Request to be considered under the following criteria

- Individual who has demonstrated excellence, courage or exceptional service to the citizens of HRM, NS and/or Canada
- Individual who has an extraordinary community service record.

#### Biography (as provided by the applicant)

I am nominating Janet Kitz for Commemorative Naming for her long and distinguished service to Halifax. Since immigrating to Canada in 1971 she dedicated her life to preserving and educating people about Halifax's history and to the preservation of public spaces, the environment, and architectural gems in Halifax.

Her ground-breaking work on the Halifax Explosion, when it was fading into obscurity, illustrated the importance of the Explosion to all Haligonians and Nova Scotians. She was the first historian to document eye witness accounts of the Halifax Explosion from living survivors. She was the leading Halifax Explosion historian and was recognized as such by the academic community. During the lead-up to the centenary of the Halifax Explosion in 2017, Janet was the "go-to" academic for information on all matters relating to the largest disaster in Canadian History.

She also wrote about matters related to the experience of the Mi'kmaq people in Turtle Grove and African Nova Scotians in Africville at the time of the Explosion. In her more recent book, she took this point further and wrote in more depth to reveal the all-encompassing nature of the Explosion and the fact that its after-effects were experienced differently by different people depending on race, gender, social status, and economic standing. Janet contributed to and worked with Pier 21, HRM, Public Archives and others to preserve our diverse history and heritage and she was a mentor to many local historians paving the way for others to further research various aspects of the Halifax Explosion.

Janet was instrumental in the mounting of the permanent Halifax Explosion exhibit at the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic. Her accessibility to young scholars, those were just "interested" and also the media, did a great service to popularizing and reminding people of our interesting, diverse and unique history.

Janet was a leader in the heritage community of Halifax, and she contributed both to popular and academic history working to make it accessible and inclusive in Halifax for more than 40 years. She researched and wrote the biography of renowned architect Andrew Cobb who designed several magnificent structures in Halifax including the University of King's College. Her commitment to the environment and public spaces with access for all citizens was evident through her decades of service as Chair and member of the Point Pleasant Park Commission. Her dedication to preserving Point Pleasant Park for the public led to her book about this historically significant and socially important Halifax landmark. She served as a Board Member on the SPCA in Halifax and the Women's Auxiliary of the IWK Children's Hospital.

Janet was an inspiring example of an immigrant who not only embraced Halifax as her home but who dedicated her life to preserving and promoting the history and heritage of Halifax. Janet was

appointed to the Order of Nova Scotia in 2018. Janet was also awarded the Meritorious Service Medal from the Governor General of Canada of 2018.

Letters of Support: Lisa Roberts – MLA Halifax Needham

**Attachment B –Administrative Park Names**

1. Amalfi Way Park  
-Amalfi Way, Timberlea (District 12)
2. Angler Drive Community Park  
-125 Angler Dr, Herring Cove (District 11)
3. Kings Wharf Place Park  
-Kings Wharf Place, Dartmouth (District 5)

November 30, 2020

Halifax Regional Municipality  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
40 Alderney Drive  
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia  
B2Y 2N5

Re: Dartmouth Splash Pad at Dartmouth Commons

Dear. Mr. Rick Mayuk,

I am the Foundations Manager for the Dorothy and Dan Gibson Foundation. I look forward to working with you on the Splash Pad project with Halifax Regional Council.

The Dorothy and Dan Gibson Foundation is committed to financially supporting the development of the Dartmouth Splash Pad at Dartmouth Commons. The Foundation's commitment of \$110,000 will be made through the Friends of the Dartmouth Splash Pad Park.

This future commitment will be provided when Halifax Regional Council's confirms capital funding for this project has been approved in the upcoming 2021/2022 budget, the project maintains its scope as a regional size facility, and a signed Gift Agreement is executed.

The Foundation will be making this grant in honour of Shirley Clarke, long-time resident of Dartmouth, Nova Scotia. At this level of commitment, we would expect to have naming rights of the Dartmouth Splash Pad.

The Dorothy and Dan Gibson Foundation, along with Dorothy and Dan Gibson wish to remain completely anonymous at this time.

Once ready, we'd appreciate receiving a draft Gift Agreement for initial review by the Dorothy and Dan Gibson Foundation. The Agreement can be sent to Dorothy Gibson at [REDACTED].

Again, we look forward to working with the Halifax Regional Council on this exciting project for the community!

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Brent Hallwachs  
Foundations Manager and Agent  
Dorothy and Dan Gibson Foundation  
At Aqueduct Foundation

