

City Manager

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SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT
January 17, 1979

TO: His Worship the Mayor
and Members of the Finance & Executive Committee

FROM: Paul Calda, P. Eng., City Manager

DATE: January 10, 1979

SUBJECT: Proposed Park - Negro Point



At the December 20, 1978 meeting of Committee of the Whole, a report was presented recommending the name "Seaview Memorial Park" be adopted for the proposed park site in the vicinity of Negro Point. It was further recommended that official application be made to the Permanent Committee on Geographical Names to change the name of Negro Point to "Seaview Point." It was agreed that the matter be deferred pending distribution of the staff report to all those who had submitted names in the CHNS "Name the Park" campaign, in an effort to obtain their reaction to the proposed name.


Staff has received responses from one half of the fifty people who had submitted names in the "Name the Park" campaign. The summary of the comments received indicates that 83 percent of those who had submitted names were quite pleased with the proposed name of Seaview Memorial Park. The general consensus of opinion in that group was that the name was quite appropriate in view of the past history of the area.

Staff was also in contact with Mrs. Ruth Johnson, one of the additional names which Alderman Sullivan had asked the City to contact in the above regard. Mrs. Johnson is a former resident of Africville whose great-great-grandfather was J. T. Brown, the first community teacher for the area and one of the original settlers. It was Mrs. Johnson's view that whereas the community of Africville had been settled and developed by her forefathers and many others that perhaps an appropriate name for the park would be Africville Settlers Park or Africville Community Park. Her third preference in terms of a name for the site was Seaview Community Park. She also felt that Negro Point might be appropriately re-named Africville Point.

There were two other contestants interviewed who had no serious reservations against the name Seaview Memorial Park, however, they both felt that perhaps some reference could be made to the former original leader of the Baptist Church, Reverend Richard Preston. It was their feeling that it might be appropriate to re-name Negro Point to Preston Point in Reverend Preston's memory. The Names Committee in Ottawa did indicate that they prefer not to use personal names in naming geographical locations unless that particular person had made a substantial contribution to the area under consideration. It would appear that Reverend Preston would meet this criterion in this instance.

Concern was also raised by one contestant over the fact that the proposed park site did not present a view of the sea, as the proposed name suggests. It is felt that this problem can be overcome by the erection of a dedication plaque or monument at some significant location in the park which outlines the circumstances for the naming of such.

As public reaction has been quite favourable to the proposed name of Seaview Memorial Park, staff would re-affirm the recommendations as presented at the December 20, 1978 meeting in Committee of the Whole.


Paul Calda, P. Eng.
City Manager

MPW/jep

Prepared by: M. P. Woods
Approved by: A. W. Churchill *awc*
C. L. Dodge *cl*

Finance
December 20, 1978

Proposed Park - Negro Point

A staff report dated December 7, 1978, was submitted.

*Finance
Dec. 20/78*

Alderman Sullivan advised that he received a call from a person representing the interests of the former Africville residents who would like an opportunity of submitting some other suggestions on their behalf. Alderman Sullivan said he advised that a letter should be addressed to Council on the matter and felt an opportunity should be given to review the suggestions. Alderman Sullivan suggested the item be deferred to the next Committee of the Whole Council meeting.

His Worship noted the Mayor's office did meet with a broadly representative community group and suggested that a copy of the staff report could be sent to the persons who made suggestions advising them of Council's proposed action.

Alderman Clarke noted that \$40,000 has been included in the 1979 budget for design as well as \$15,000 for the next five years and expressed the hope that it will not be five years before the Park becomes operational.

His Worship suggested the matter could be discussed during the budget sessions saying Council is waiting for further indication of projected design from staff. His Worship indicated that Council should receive some overall conceptual idea of how it will be developed, and the City Manager indicated this could be done.

The Committee then agreed that a copy of the staff report be forwarded to the persons listed on the back of the report as well as to the resident referred to by Alderman Sullivan agenda of the January 17, 1979 meeting of the Committee of the Whole Council.

TO: His Worship the Mayor
and Members of the Finance & Executive Committee

FROM: Paul Calda, P. Eng., City Manager

DATE: December 7, 1978

SUBJECT: Proposed Park - Negro Point



In response to a recent request for an updated report on the proposed park at Negro Point, City Council is advised that staff is presently in the process of developing a conceptual plan for the proposed park site.

It is anticipated that the conceptual plan will be completed by mid January and presented to Committee in early February. If approved by Council in its conceptual form, the plan can then proceed to the detailed design stage and cost estimates prepared at that time. Staff, in the interim, has requested \$15,000 in the Capital Budget over the next five years to provide for infilling at the site.

Staff has written the Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographical Names to obtain some direction as to the procedures to be followed in applying for a change of name at Negro Point. A reply has been received from Mr. Allan Rayburn, Executive Secretary to the Committee. It would appear from the information received that the Committee would be prepared to give favourable consideration to a change of name for Negro Point, with preference given to descriptive names and names in particular which relate to the history of an area. In choosing an appropriate name for the park, consideration should concurrently be given to renaming Negro Point. Formal application will have to be made to the Committee on Geographical Names upon selection of a name.

Staff examined the local history of the former Africville Lands and from its findings, would like to suggest the name of "Seaview Memorial Park" as well as renaming Negro Point to "Seaview Point."

The name "Seaview" refers to the Seaview United Baptist Church, which was located relatively close to the proposed park site. This church was, to some extent, "a focal point of community activities at the time and its loss was considered a major physiological cost of relocation by many of the older residents."

*Historical background information on Seaview United Baptist Church obtained from "Africville Relocation Report" prepared by the Dalhousie Institute of Public Affairs; authors Donald H. Clairmont and Dennis W. Magill.

The church was organized by Richard Preston in the mid 1800's. The fact that Africville was set away from the City on a slope by the harbour giving it scenic beauty, "Bedford Basin became an ideal baptismal font and throughout the years, numerous believers were led into the waters at Africville." The first baptism was performed in 1849 by Reverend Richard Preston and the last took place in 1963, shortly before the relocation.

With the coming of the First World War, Halifax resumed its historical role as the strategic war port. Facilities were expanded and railway connections to the port were further developed and the original "little brown church" at Africville was a casualty of this development. Later, the Africville congregation received permission from the City to build a new church on City-owned property in the Africville area. This church stood for some fifty (50) years until it was removed during the relocation period. Soon after the construction of the new church, the name was changed from Africville African United Baptist Church to Seaview African United Baptist Church and later in 1940 its name eventually became Seaview United Baptist Church.

According to testimonials from previous Africville relocatees, "the services at the Africville Church were deeply expressive in their style and the church represented a means of community and communion among the Black people in Africville." Sunday services gave the residents, at the time, a chance to express their problems to each other. Following the services, a strong community spirit was noticeable, as the residents' homes were open to one another and people would go from house to house visiting and talking with each other.

As the Seaview Baptist Church appears to have had a strong identity with the former residents of Africville, in addition to historical significance, it is therefore felt that the name "Seaview Memorial Park" is appropriate for the park now envisioned.

If the suggested name proves favourable to City Council, then members might wish to advertise it and elicit a written response from the general public as to its acceptability.

It is the recommendation of staff that:

- (1) The name "Seaview Memorial Park" be adopted for the proposed park site identified on the attached site plan;

(2) That official application be made to the Permanent Committee on Geographical Names to change the name from Negro Point to "Seaview Point."



Paul Calda, P. Eng.
City Manager

MPW/jep
Attach.

Prepared by: M.P. Woods *MPW*
Approved by: A.W. Churchill *AWC*
R.B. Grant *RBG*

P.S. Subsequent to the writing of this report, a list of suggested names for the proposed park was received from Radio 96 CHNS in response to their "Name the Park" campaign (copy of listing attached). The only name of historical significance which is applicable to the proposed park site is the "Duc d'Anville Park."

"NAME THE PARK" CAMPAIGN - CHINS RADIO

NAME OF PARK	NAME AND ADDRESS OR TELEPHONE NO.
Peninsula Park	Marion Conrod - 454-6838
Joseph Howe Park	Marion Conrod "
Old Stone Quarry Sports Park	Dorothy Spriggs - Stanley Place
The Narrows Sports Park	Fred Spriggs - 455-8773
Sullivan Park	Mrs. O. Mason - 469-7842
The Sanctuary	Marg Smith - 6416 Roslyn Rd.
Edmund Morris North-end Park	Jamie Cox - 5688 Bilby Street
Joe Howe Park	Mrs. A. Purcell - Port. Cove
Park Canada	D. Andrews - 455-1479
Sullivan's Park	Mrs. W. Edwards - 454-9284
Kensington Gardens	Ann Hull - 455-5183
Park Acadia	Ann Hull "
The Water's Edge	Marg Smith - 6416 Roslyn Road
Edmund Morris Park	Mildred Moore - 423-3246
Park Africville	Beverly Gray - 2092 Creighton Street
Africville Park	Maxine Gough "
Africville Pt. Park	" "
Point Africville Park	" "
Duc D'anville Park	J. Roger Stoddard - 422-2679
Scotia Park	Margaret Nicholas - 479-2688
Lookout Park	Gail Hull - 826-2868
The Green Meadow Park	Kathryn Misenier - 827-2263
Queen Elizabeth Park	" "
The Legere Pleasance	" "
The Queen's Grace	" "
Memorial Park	Mrs. G. Vardy - 477-2334
Phoenix Park	Margaret Smith - 6416 Roslyn Road
The Anchorage	Margaret Smith "
City Squares Park	Marg Nicholas - 253 Herring Cove Road
Spilax	Mrs. Joseph Sheppard - 455-7391
Stanfield Park	Myrna Baird - 435-3003
Paradise Point Park	Eleanor Browne - 2175 Windsor Street
M.E.M. Park	Jean Jackson - 455-2622
Buchanan Park	Lillian Pettipas - 429-9098
Sunflower Park	Mrs. Cyril Walsh - 469-6996
William Hall Park	Mary Hopkins - 453-4896
Prince Charles Park	Ellen Daniels - 2159 Harvard Street
Edmund Morris Park	Eva Mont - RR 2 Tangier
Convoy Park	Marian Graham - 3792 Gottingen Street
Park Square	Gerard Swallon - 253 Herring Cove Rd. - 479-2688

Proposed Park - Negro Point - Supplementary Report

A supplementary staff report dated January 10, 1979, was submitted.

MOVED by Alderman Sullivan, seconded by Alderman Clarke the Finance & Executive Committee recommend that the Park to be developed at the site be, and hereafter, is known as Seaview Memorial Park and further, the City make known to the Canada Permanent Committee on Geographical Names its wish that the Committee assent to the change of name "Negro Point" to be "Seaview Point".

Motion passed.

Proposed Park - Negro Point - Supplementary Report

MOVED by Alderman Sullivan, seconded by Alderman Clarke that, as recommended by the Finance and Executive Committee, the Park to be developed at the site be, and hereafter, is known as Seaview Memorial Park and further, the City make known to the Canada Permanent Committee on Geographical Names its wish and request that the Committee assent to the change of name "Negro Point" to be "Seaview Point".

Motion passed.