

## Staff Report

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**Report To:** Community Services Committee  
**Report From:** Adam Parsons, Manager of Parks and Open Space  
**Meeting Date:** April 19, 2023  
**Report Code:** CS-23-040  
**Subject:** Renaming of Kelso Beach Park to Kelso Beach at Nawash Park

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### Recommendations:

THAT in consideration of Staff Report CS-23-040 respecting renaming Kelso Beach Park to Kelso Beach at Nawash Park, the Community Services Committee recommends that City Council:

1. Appoint three (3) members of Council, the Manager of Parks and Open Space, the City Manager (or his delegate), and the Manager of Human Resources to a working group to consider the request to rename Kelso Beach Park to Kelso Beach at Nawash Park; and
2. Direct the working group to bring forward a recommendation to the Community Services Committee meeting on May 17, 2023.

### Highlights:

- The Kelso Beach at Nawash Park Master Plan approved in January 2023 recommends changing the official name of Kelso Beach Park to Kelso Beach at Nawash Park.
- [Policy CS087 Naming and Re-naming a City Park or Facility](#) outlines the procedure for naming or re-naming a park.
- Kelso Beach at Nawash Park was historically a seasonal shoreline village for Chippewa, Odawa and Potawatomi Peoples.
- Kelso Beach at Nawash Park is the location of the Gitche Namewikwedong Reconciliation Garden.

- An application was received by the City (initiated by staff following the approval of the Master Plan).
- The application was deemed complete and Council provided direction on March 27, 2023 to initiate the process to re-name Kelso Beach to Kelso Beach at Nawash Park.
- In accordance with the policy, this report establishes a working group to consider the matter and take a report back to the Community Services Committee at its May 2023 meeting.

### **Strategic Plan Alignment:**

[Strategic Plan](#) Priority: Service Excellence - KR1 - Further develop a culture of learning, development, well-being and embrace new approaches to service provision

### **Climate and Environmental Implications:**

There are no anticipated climate or environmental impacts.

### **Previous Report/Authority:**

[Strategic Plan](#)

[CS-21-144 Draft Naming and Re-Naming Policy for City Parks and Facilities](#)

[Policy CS087 Naming and Re-naming a City Park or Facility](#)

[Kelso Beach at Nawash Park Master Plan](#)

CS-230125-006

"THAT in consideration of Staff Report CS-23-010 respecting the draft Kelso Beach at Nawash Park Master Plan, the Community Services Committee recommends that City Council, in consideration of the background and public and stakeholder input, approve the Kelso Beach at Nawash Park Master Plan."

R-230213-006

"THAT the minutes of the Community Services Committee meeting held on January 25, 2023 be received and the recommendations contained therein be approved."

## **Background:**

### **Strategic Plan**

In 2021, City Council adopted a [Strategic Plan Refresh](#) that included the objective of supporting inclusivity, diversity, and accessibility in our community and recognizing the importance of a safe and secure community under the Safe City theme.

### **Re-Naming a City Park**

In December 2021, City Council approved report [CS-21-144 Draft Naming and Re-Naming Policy for City Parks and Facilities](#);

CS-211117-004

"THAT in consideration of Staff Report CS-21-144 respecting a Draft Naming Policy for City Parks and Facilities, the Community Services Committee recommends that City Council direct staff to bring forward a by-law to approve the policy as attached to the report."

Policy CS87 Naming and Re-Naming a City Park provides guidelines for considering Re-Naming a City Park or Facility;

13. *The re-naming of City Parks and Facilities will only be considered in exceptional circumstances.*
14. *Re-naming will be considered only when it can be demonstrated that it is not in the City's best interest to continue to use the name.*
15. *It is incumbent on Council or the person or organization applying for the re- naming to provide sufficient information to consider the request.*
16. *City Council shall have the final decision with respect to naming of City Parks and Facilities.*
17. *City Council shall follow the procedure attached to this Policy with*

*respect to the process, public notice, consultation in advance of any decision with respect to Naming or Re-Naming.*

Policy CS087 establishes a process for the re-naming of City Parks.

### **Kelso Beach at Nawash Park Master Plan**

City Council approved a new Kelso Beach at Nawash Park Master Plan in February 2023 via the minutes of the January 25, 2023 Community Services Committee.

The Kelso Beach at Nawash Park Master Plan included recommendation 5.1.2 Update the official name of the Park to Kelso Beach at Nawash Park stating:

*The City adopted the practice of referring to the subject property as Kelso Beach at Nawash Park in 2018, however the park has never officially been re-named to the preferred nomenclature, and it is still legally registered as Kelso Beach Park.*

*In 2021 the City adopted [Policy CS087](#) – Naming and Re-Naming Policy for City Parks and Facilities.*

*A key objective of the City’s strategic plan is supporting inclusivity, diversity and accountability in the community and this is reflected in the policy.*

*It is recommended that the City bring forward a request to the City Clerk to officially rename and legally register the property as Kelso Beach at Nawash Park.*

*Policy CS087 and Application form for re-naming a city park or facility are attached as appendix 11.*

### **Analysis:**

The [Kelso Beach at Nawash Park Master Plan](#) recommends re-naming Kelso Beach Park to Kelso Beach at Nawash Park.

The City Council’s [Strategic Plan](#) supports this action.

Schedule B with [Policy CS087](#) provides a process flow chart for Re-Naming a City Park or Facility (Attachment 1).

Based on the Master Plan, the required form (under policy CS087) was submitted to the City Clerk and the application has been deemed complete.

At their meeting on March 27, 2023, City Council directed staff to initiate the process to rename Kelso Beach to Kelso Beach Park in accordance with the process outlined in Policy CS087 through the approval of the Consent Agenda (R-230327-008).

In accordance with the Policy, staff are to prepare a report for the Community Services Committee with respect to the proposed renaming together with information provided in the application. The Community Services Committee is to, by resolution, appoint a working group who will consider the matter and make a recommendation to the Committee.

It is recommended, in accordance with the Policy, that the Community Services Committee appoint three (3) members of Council, the City Clerk, the City Manager or his delegate, the Manager of Parks and Open Space, and the Manager of Human Resources, Melissa Clancy, to the working group. It is anticipated that given the significant work and consultation done recently as part of the Kelso Beach Master Plan update that only one meeting of the working group will be required. The working group will provide a recommendation to Committee at its meeting in May 2023.

### **Financial Implications:**

Staff time and Council time to undertake the process.

A new sign would be completed by Parks staff within the existing operating budget.

### **Communication Strategy:**

This report is available on the City's website through the agenda.

### **Consultation:**

Community Services Committee, City Council.

A working group is to be established who will make a recommendation to the Community Services Committee for approval by Council through the minutes of the meeting.

**Attachments:**

1. Policy CS087 Schedule B – Process Flow Chart – Re-Naming A City Park or Facility
2. Application for the Re-Naming of Kelso Beach Park to Kelso Beach at Nawash Park
3. Letter of Completeness

**Recommended by:**

Adam Parsons, Manager of Parks and Open Space

Pam Coulter, Director of Community Services

**Submission approved by:**

Tim Simmonds, City Manager

For more information on this report, please contact Adam Parsons, Manager of Parks and Open Space at [aparsons@owensound.ca](mailto:aparsons@owensound.ca) or 519-376-4440 ext. 1221.