

To: Safety and Facilities Services Committee

From: Adam Grant, Commissioner,
Safety and Facilities Services Department

Report Number: SF-24-45

Date of Report: October 16, 2024

Date of Meeting: October 21, 2024

Subject: Request to Name Bridge on Joseph Kolodzie Bike Path

Ward: Ward 5

File: 03-05

1.0 Purpose

The purpose of this report is to respond to Council's direction on December 11, 2023 with regards to a request to name a bridge on the Joseph Kolodzie Oshawa Creek Bike Path in recognition of two Oshawa-born musicians.

2.0 Recommendation

That the Safety and Facilities Services Committee recommend to City Council:

1. That based on Report SF-24-45, dated October 16, 2024, concerning a request to name the bridge on the Joseph Kolodzie Bike Path, the request be denied as the bridge in question is part of the Joe Kolodzie Trail, which is already named; and,
2. That staff be directed to provide the resident with information pertaining to the City's Commemorative Tree and Bench Program as alternative option for recognition.

3.0 Input From Other Sources

The following have been consulted in preparation of this Report:

- Legislative Services
- Economic and Development Services

4.0 Analysis

4.1 Background

At its meeting of December 11, 2023 Council referred Correspondence SF-23-42 from Matthew Rooney requesting to name the bridge on the Joseph Kolodzie Oshawa Creek Bike Path to staff for consideration in the upcoming report concerning the facility naming/renaming process and potential policy amendments. The request is to name the bridge which connects the main section of Joseph Kolodzie Oshawa Creek Bike Path to Valley Drive and Ritson Road South. The submission proposes that the bridge be named to honor two musicians who were born in Oshawa and are famous influential local artists who have made significant contributions to the local and potentially national music scene. The purpose of the naming is to celebrate their artistic legacy and cultural contributions, as well as to provide recognition for Oshawa's musical heritage.

In considering this request, it is necessary to evaluate it against the City's established procedures and policies for naming and renaming public assets to ensure consistency, transparency, and alignment with strategic goals.

4.2 Policy Consideration

The City's current framework for naming and renaming public assets is outlined in the City Facilities Naming/Re-naming Policy (GOV-09-01), which was revised and approved by Council on April 29, 2024. The policy provides clear criteria and processes for naming or renaming a defined set of City Facilities, including:

- City-owned parks
- Naturalized areas
- City-owned buildings
- Outdoor recreation fields and courts
- Trails

The policy's stated purpose is to guide the commemoration and recognition of individuals, communities, events, or ideas that have significance to Oshawa or Canada, as well as to ensure adherence to principles of diversity and inclusion. It also sets out specific criteria for honoring Indigenous contributions and requires consultation with Indigenous communities when proposals involve names in Indigenous languages or references to Indigenous individuals or concepts.

However, the policy does not currently address the naming or renaming of bridges as they are typically considered infrastructure which falls under broader trail or road systems, and are often already named. While bridges are important structures within the city's infrastructure and can hold significant cultural or historical value, their exclusion from the defined scope of City Facilities means that requests such as these fall outside the scope of the current policy.

In addition, naming individual bridges could create confusion and inconsistencies within the City's established naming conventions and it may detract from existing naming policies

aimed at recognizing significant areas or contributions through more formalized programs like the Commemorative Tree and Bench Program.

5.0 Financial Implications

There are no financial implications directly associated with this report.

6.0 Relationship to the Oshawa Strategic Plan

This report responds to the Oshawa Strategic Plan Priority Area “Lead: Governance and Service Excellence” with the goal to enhance effective communication and encourage all community members to actively participate and learn about City services, programs, and spaces.



Randy Garey, Director,
Facilities Management Services



Adam Grant, Commissioner,
Safety and Facilities Services Department