

6.2 General Reports

6.2.1 Renaming Officer Recreation Reserve to 'Rob Porter Recreation Reserve'

Responsible GM: Debbie Tyson
Author: Doug Evans

Recommendation(s)

That Council undertake a community consultation exercise seeking community input into the suggested renaming of the officer Recreation Reserve to 'Rob Porter Recreation Reserve' in acknowledgement and appreciation of the extraordinary services provided by Mr Porter to the community of Officer and the wider Cardinia Shire.

Attachments

Nil

Executive Summary

This report is in response to Notice of Motion #1088 passed at the February Council Meeting as follows:

That a report be presented to the May Ordinary Council Meeting outline the process for renaming the Officer Reserve and to commit to undertaking this process of the re-naming of the reserve the 'Mr Robert Porter Reserve or Porter Reserve or another name honouring Mr Porter or his family.' Council will abide within the appropriate timeframe under the Geographic Names Victoria allows. This report and results would be presented and discussed with the family. Council will abide by the families wishes.

Background

The research and relevant contacts required under Notice of Motion #1088 have been completed well in advance of the May Council Meeting and it is considered appropriate to deal with this matter at this meeting rather than wait an additional month for the May Council meeting.

The process for naming or renaming places and features are set out in the 'Naming rules for places in Victoria' the statutory requirements for naming roads, features and localities are established under the provisions of the Geographic Place Names Act 1998.

These rules require any naming proposals to first be submitted for approval in-principle by the Registrar of Geographic Names, when naming proposals involve the use of the names of individuals that are deceased the rules state that these names should only be applied no less than two years posthumously.

in this regard Geographic Names Victoria (GNV) have been approached regarding the renaming proposal detailing the extraordinary and exemplary service that Mr Porter had provided to the reserve and the Officer Community. GNV have responded to advise that the exemption request has been approved and, subject to complying with the remaining naming principles, Council is clear to proceed with the use of Mr Porter's name.

The name Rob Porter Recreation Reserve does comply with the remaining principles in the naming rules, therefore Council is able to proceed with this matter.

Mrs Carol Porter OAM has been contacted regarding the suggested renaming. Mrs Porter has consulted with her two sons and has advised that the family is pleased and honoured to consent to the renaming of the reserve and have requested that the reserve name be '**Rob Porter Recreation Reserve**'. Mrs Porter has been advised that as this suggested name is the family's preference it will be the name suggested as part of the renaming processes.

The Officer Recreation Reserve Community Asset Committee has also been contacted regarding this matter and they are fully supportive on the renaming proposal. They have asked if the name of the existing Robert G Porter Pavilion can remain. There is no objection to the name of the pavilion remaining.

The final step in this renaming proposal is to undertake a community consultation process seeking community comment on the proposal to ensure that the name has community support. In this case considering Mr Porter's extraordinary involvement and support to the Officer Community it is expected that the suggestion will receive overwhelming support.

Policy Implications

This renaming proposal is in keeping with the 'Naming rules for places in Victoria' and Council's Place Naming Policy.

Relevance to Council Plan

5.1 We practise responsible leadership

5.1.1 Build trust through meaningful community engagement and transparent decision-making.

5.1.5 Champion the collective values of the community through the Councillors' governance of the shire.

Climate Emergency Consideration

There are no climate change considerations associated with this renaming proposal.

Consultation/Communication

A process of community consultation to gauge the level of support for this naming proposal will occur with the results presented to a future Council Meeting for a final decision to be made on the proposal.

Financial and Resource Implications

The only financial implication related to this renaming proposal will be the cost of erecting new signage at the reserve that can be accommodated in the existing operating budget.

Conclusion

It is suggested that Council undertake a community consultation exercise seeking community input into the suggested renaming of the officer Recreation Reserve to 'Rob Porter Recreation Reserve' in acknowledgement and appreciation of his service which in summary has involved:

- Growing up in Officer and attending Officer Primary School
- Previous Victorian Apprentice of the Year
- Chairman Officer Recreational Reserve Committee 40+ years

- Chairman Officer and District Community Association (formerly the Officer Progress Association) 40+ years (since 1972 approximately)
- Trustee 40+ years of the Officer Union Church and committee member of the Officer Union Church Inc
- Committee member Officer Hall Committee 40+ years
- Served for 11 years as Chairman of the Officer State School Council
- Cardinia Shire Citizen of the Year in 1988
- Inaugural Stan Henwood Award winner for outstanding volunteer service to the Community
- Cardinia Shire Senior Citizen of the Year in 2020
- Life Member Officer Football Club
- Life Member Officer Cricket Club
- Winner Victorian Football League Graham Arthur award in 1987 for coaching a West Gippsland inter league junior team winning the grand final
- Long time member of the E A Owen Reserve, and with the committee maintained weed control and other maintenance at this bushland reserve
- Won League Best and Fairest of the South-West Gippsland football league
- Recruited by the Hawthorn Football Club and on the Seniors list for two years
- Coached various teams at the Officer Football Club