



COUNCIL REPORT

Report Date: February 4, 2025
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VanRIMS No.: 08-2000-20
Meeting Date: March 11, 2025
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TO: Vancouver City Council
FROM: General Manager of Planning, Urban Design and Sustainability
SUBJECT: Commemorative Plaque for Ian Neville

Recommendations

THAT Council approve the installation of a modest plaque near the electric vehicle charging station on City's Hall's upper deck to recognize the work and dedication of Ian Neville, to be funded by his co-workers.

Purpose and Executive Summary

This report is seeking permission to install a memorial plaque ahead of finalizing the City's Commemorative Framework that is still under development. The plaque is in memory of former staff member Ian Neville who led the City's electric vehicle charging efforts for many years and recently passed away.

Council Authority/Previous Decisions

- June 2022: Council received a memorandum (RTS #14868) regarding the development of a shared, city-wide commemorative policy for monuments and memorials.

City Manager's Comments

The City Manager concurs with the foregoing recommendations.

Context and Background

In recent years, staff at the City and the Park Board have received siting requests for memorials honouring various histories, events, and people. Neither the City, nor the Park Board has an

existing process based on a Council approved policy to adequately guide decisions relating to new monument, memorial proposals, donations, and siting. To address this, City and Park Board began work to develop a transparent framework to evaluate new commemoration proposals, with emerging priorities and process recommendations shared with City Council in a memo ([Update on the Commemoration Policy \(RTS # 14868\)](#)) and with Park Board in a report ([REPORT: Joint CoV/PB Commemoration Framework - Guiding Principles, Vision & Emerging Priorities: 2022 JUN 20](#)). The framework is intended to establish clear guidelines and engagement requirements to assist staff and committees, and to align with Council priorities and City commitments to reconciliation, equity, and cultural redress. The framework is expected to be brought forward to Council in 2025, to establish a clear process going forward.

Discussion

In the absence of a finalized Commemoration Framework, the City has made exceptions to approve memorials, for example where prior Council or Board direction and commitments predated the development of the framework or where there were additional considerations, such as a memorial to firefighters or key projects related to cultural redress. In the case of this report, given Ian Neville's exceptional legacy in advancing the City's priorities related to sustainability, an exception is being made and the proposal is recommended for Council decision.

Ian worked as a Senior Sustainability Specialist for the City for nearly 15 years, during which time he led the development of the City's electric vehicle (EV) charging network. Ian was instrumental in advancing several of the City's first public charging stations as well as for bringing forward requirements for new buildings to be ready for EV charging. Ian was passionate about the benefits of electric vehicles, and all forms of sustainable transportation, and was keen to see those benefits enjoyed by as many Vancouverites as possible. Ian was a subject matter expert on EV charging amongst leading cities across North America and influenced EV policies at all levels of government.

Sadly, Ian recently passed away mid-career. He was a beloved colleague for the many staff at the City with whom his work intersected and he is sorely missed. In recognition of the important work that Ian did, this report recommends a modest plaque to be installed near the EV chargers on City Hall's upper deck parking area. The plaque would be roughly 20cm by 30cm and would be funded through staff donations.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications associated with this report's recommendations.

Legal Implications

There are no legal implications associated with this report's recommendations.

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