

**ITEM 7. NAMING PROPOSAL - HAROLD PARK**

**FILE NO: X007323**

**SUMMARY**

This report recommends that the new park under construction in Forest Lodge on the former site of the Harold Park Paceway is named Harold Park.

On 12 December 2016, Council resolved to provide in-principle approval to the name “Harold Park” and to exhibit the naming proposal for a period of at least 28 days. The name pays tribute to the Harold Park Paceway, a popular harness racing track that existed at that location until 2010. The name is in keeping with the thematic naming of surrounding streets which are named after famous winners of the premier race, the Miracle Mile, held each year at Harold Park.

The naming proposal was exhibited for public comment from 28 April to 9 June 2017. In total 53 submissions were received with the majority (62%) in support. The remaining submissions suggested a range of alternate names.

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council approve the name “Harold Park” to the new park currently under construction at Forest Lodge; and
- (B) an application be made to the Geographical Names Board for the naming of the new park as approved in clause (A) in accordance with the *Geographical Names Act 1996*.

**ATTACHMENTS**

**Attachment A:** Resolution of Council 12 December 2016

**Attachment B:** Assessment of Submissions

**Attachment C:** Images of the park

## **BACKGROUND**

1. On 12 December 2016, Council resolved to provide in-principle approval to the name "Harold Park" to a new park under construction located within the Harold Park development, Forest Lodge.
2. The park which is nearing completion (expected to be open to the public early next year) provides a green connection from Wigram Road and The Crescent linking to the existing Glebe Foreshore parklands (Federal Park, Bicentennial Park and Jubilee Park). The park will provide a range of open spaces for recreation, play, and social gatherings within a landscaped village green. Key features include a children's playground, picnic areas, shared paths for walking and cycling, biodiversity habitat, storm water harvesting and treatment.
3. The name pays tribute to the Harold Park Paceway, a popular harness racing track that existed at that location until 2010. The name is in keeping with the thematic naming of surrounding streets which are named after famous winners of the premier race, the Miracle Mile, held each year at Harold Park.
4. Historically, the site came to be used as a privately owned paceway from the 19<sup>th</sup> century through to 2010. In 1890 the site was developed and used for pony racing and athletics. The name changed several times over the years from Lillie Bridge Recreation Ground (1890-99) to Forest Lodge Racing Ground (1899-1903), Epping Racecourse (1904-29), and Harold Park Paceway (1929-2010). Harold Park Paceway was named after the American stallion "Childe Harold" a foundation sire of the early days of Australian trot racing. Harold Park Paceway was Australia's premier harness racing venue until 2007.
5. The former paceway and the Rozelle Tram Depot were rezoned to facilitate urban renewal of the site for residential, commercial and community use. Council adopted the names for new streets at the site in May 2013. The streets were named after winning horses referencing the historic use of the site. The recommended name "Harold Park" will complement the naming theme for streets and buildings which reference the former land use.

## **Assessment of Submissions**

6. The naming proposal was exhibited for public comment from 28 April until 9 June 2017. The proposal was letter boxed to 2,750 surrounding premises, advertised in the local press (Inner West Courier), advertised on public notices around the site and information was available on the Sydney Your Say website.
7. In total 53 submissions were received, the majority (62%) were in support of the name "Harold Park".
8. Of the 33 submissions in support, most were general statements in support of the name or statements agreeing that the name was a logical or sensible choice (19); some noted the name was logical, simple and easy to remember (3); others noted the importance of preserving the historic associations with the Harold Park Paceway (8); some noted that the name was already being used locally in reference to the park (3).
9. Twenty submissions were not in support and proposed 23 alternative names as detailed in the assessment of submissions (refer Attachment B).

## **KEY IMPLICATIONS**

### **Strategic Alignment - Sustainable Sydney 2030 Vision**

10. *Sustainable Sydney 2030* is a vision for the sustainable development of the City to 2030 and beyond. It includes 10 strategic directions to guide the future of the City, as well as 10 targets against which to measure progress. This report is aligned with the following strategic directions and objectives:
  - (a) Direction 4 - A City for Walking and Cycling – Naming the park will facilitate recognition, wayfinding and will encourage visitation and use of the park.
  - (b) Direction 6 - Vibrant Local Communities and Economies – Naming the park Harold Park commemorates the former land use and preserves the local history and contribution of Harold Park Paceway.

### **Organisational Impact**

11. There are no significant organisational impacts from the proposed name. Park signs noting the park name and its history will be installed by the City funded through the current capital works project.

### **Risks**

12. There are no significant risks associated with the naming proposal.

### **Social / Cultural / Community**

13. The proposed name commemorates the significant social history associated with the use of the site. The Harold Park Paceway name was in use for nearly a century from 1929 until 2010.
14. Many City of Sydney parks and streets have Indigenous names and the City is progressively including formal acknowledgement of country messages on its park signs. The City's standard park signage featuring the traditional acknowledgement of country messaging "Bujari Gamarruwa" will be installed at the main park entrances.
15. An adjacent bridge linking Nelson Street to the Harold Park tram sheds was recently named "Dalgai Way", an Aboriginal Sydney language word meaning "mussel", a food source for the Gadigal and Wangal people that camped around Rozelle Bay.

## **BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

16. The naming proposal has no significant budget implications. Park signage will be funded through the current capital works budget for construction of the park.

## **RELEVANT LEGISLATION**

17. The *Geographical Names Act 1966* - the recommended name meets the Geographical Names Board guidelines for the naming of urban places.
18. The recommended name, if supported by Council, will be submitted to the Geographical Names Board NSW for their consideration and assessment in accordance with their process for the naming of urban places.

**CRITICAL DATES / TIME FRAMES**

19. There are no critical dates. The park is partly open and is expected to be completed and open to the public in early 2018.

**OPTIONS**

20. Council may opt to not approve the recommended name. This option is not preferred because the park will require a formal name to facilitate recognition and wayfinding. The recommended name is in line with naming protocols and has been subject to community consultation and has generated good community support.

**PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

21. The process for naming of public places generally proceeds as follows:
- (a) in principle approval by Council of the proposed name;
  - (b) public notification of the naming proposal with a minimum 28 day response time;
  - (c) Council approval following community consultation; and
  - (d) assessment by the Geographical Names Board and subsequent publication in the NSW Government Gazette; and
  - (e) approval by the Geographical Names Board of New South Wales and subsequent publication in the NSW Government Gazette
22. The Geographical Names Board will also notify the public through the local press as part of their routine procedure for the naming of public places. If objections are raised, the proposal is returned to Council for further comment or amendment if required.

**DAVID RIORDAN**

Director City Operations

Joel Johnson, Manager City Greening and Leisure  
Mark Driver, Parks and Recreation Planner