

Report to Council

Report Title:	Walkerton Kinsmen Request to Rename Central Tot Lot Park		
Prepared By:	Colleen Gillis, Director of Community Services		
Department:	Recreation		
Date:	February 25, 2025		
Report Number:	REC2025-05	File Number:	C11REC, R04CE
Attachments:	Letter from Kinsmen Club of Walkerton		

Recommendation:

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby receives Report Number REC2025-05 – Walkerton Kinsmen Request to Rename Central Tot Lot Park, prepared by Colleen Gillis, Director of Community Services and in doing so supports the Walkerton Kinsmen Club’s request to rename Walkerton Central Tot Lot Park to “Walkerton Kinsmen Tot Lot Park” in honour of the Kinsmen’s contributions to this park and in honour of the Kinsmen Club of Walkerton’s 90th Anniversary in 2025.

Report:

Background:

Please find attached a letter from the Walkerton Kinsmen related to their support and interest in the Walkerton Central Tot Lot Park. While historical records on the original establishment of the Walkerton Central Tot Lot Park are limited, we did find where it was noted in the September 9, 1968, Council Meeting Minutes Council congratulated the Kinsmen on their work constructing the Central Tot Lot Park with a grand opening date of October 5, 1968. In the mid nineties the club worked with the Municipality to add the pavilion and picnic area enhancement. Although direct documentation confirming the club’s role in the park’s original creation has been difficult to locate, the collective memory of community members, past club initiatives, and available records reflect their significant contribution to its ongoing development and maintenance.

The Kinsmen Club of Walkerton has been an active service group in our community for decades, celebrating their 90th anniversary this coming March. Since its establishment, the club has consistently demonstrated its commitment to improving our community. On February 17, 2025, staff received the attached letter from Walkerton Kinsmen committing to future donations for improvements to the Central Tot Lot Park and requested the municipality rededicate this park to the Kinsmen by re naming it “Walkerton Kinsmen Tot Lot Park” in honour of the outstanding contributions and donations by the club.

Analysis:

The 2023 Recreation Master and Service Plan has recommended that park upgrades should be completed within the next five years. Priority projects for Central Tot Lot include:

- New play equipment and poured rubber surface
- Repair or remove frog “splash pad”.
- Create accessible link between play equipment, bathroom/pavilion, and sidewalk
- Repaint bathroom/pavilion
- Update bathroom building

The Walkerton Kinsmen Club has generously offered to assist the municipality to reinvigorate and upgrade this park by providing a donation in an amount still to be determined (a verbal update will hopefully be provided at the meeting) and this donation demonstrates their continued commitment to improving our community.

Partnering with local service groups aligns with our strategic initiatives and significantly improves success and sustainability for these types of projects. In such a challenging budget year this type of collaboration brings valuable resources and community engagement in a fiscally responsible manner.

Renaming the Central Tot Lot Park to “Walkerton Kinsmen Tot Lot” would honour the Club’s legacy and contributions to this park, recognize the importance of volunteerism in community development and strengthen community partnerships with our local service groups.

Strategic Action Plan Checklist:

What aspect of the Brockton Strategic Action Plan does the content/recommendations in this report help advance?

- | | |
|---|-----|
| • Recommendations help move the Municipality closer to its Vision | Yes |
| • Recommendations contribute to achieving Heritage, Culture, and Community | Yes |
| • Recommendations contribute to achieving Quality of Life | Yes |
| • Recommendations contribute to achieving Land Use Planning and the Natural Environment | N/A |
| • Recommendations contribute to achieving Economic Development | N/A |
| • Recommendations contribute to achieving Municipal Governance | N/A |

Financial Impacts/Source of Funding:

- Do the recommendations represent a sound financial investment from a sustainability perspective? Yes

Minimal budget impacts for sign installation, staffing cost align with current 2025 Budget.

Reviewed By:



Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer

Respectfully Submitted by:



Colleen Gillis, Director of Community Services

Reviewed By:



Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer