
TO: CITY MANAGER **DATE:** 2010 March 18

FROM: DIRECTOR PARKS, RECREATION &
CULTURAL SERVICES

SUBJECT: INMAN GREEN PARK – RE-NAMING OF PARK IN HONOUR OF
FREEMAN GEORGE H. F. MCLEAN

PURPOSE: To provide information regarding the re-naming of Inman Green Park in honour
of Freeman George H.F. McLean.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. **THAT** this report be received for information.

REPORT

At its 'Open' meeting of 2010 March 17, the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission received the attached report from the Parks Names and Signs Committee and adopted the four recommendations contained therein.



Dave Ellenwood
DIRECTOR PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURAL SERVICES

MC:tc

Attachment

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cc: City Manager

TO: CHAIR AND MEMBERS
PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURE COMMISSION

FROM: PARKS NAMES AND SIGNS COMMITTEE

SUBJECT: INMAN GREEN PARK – RE-NAMING OF PARK IN HONOUR OF
FREEMAN GEORGE H. F. MCLEAN

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **THAT** Inman Green Park be re-named George McLean Park.
2. **THAT** the wording of the dedication plaque be approved.
3. **THAT** a copy of this report be sent to Council.
4. **THAT** a copy of this report be sent to Mr. George H. F. McLean.

REPORT**INTRODUCTION**

Through the work of the Parks Names and Signs Committee, special consideration has been given to honour, when and where appropriate, civic parks and facilities with the names of Burnaby's past and present Freeman. Parks Recreation and Cultural Services recently initiated the first phase of park development at Inman Green Park, establishing a usable open area and pathway loop for residents to enjoy while a master plan for the park is prepared in consultation with the community over the next year. This new park is located within the home neighbourhood of Freeman George H. F. McLean, and the opportunity therefore presents itself to consider the re-naming of this park in his honour.

Inman Green Park was named by Commission at its meeting of 1988 June 01 at the recommendation of the Parks Names and Signs Committee. The name reflects the geographical location of the site which is located at the corner of Inman Avenue and Bond Street in the Garden Village neighbourhood. The site was designated for a proposed park in 1982 in the Council adopted Development Plan for Metrotown Area II, and was added to the Parkland Acquisition Program at that time. To date, eight of the ten properties proposed to be acquired for the park have been assembled by the City. Recently work was undertaken to remove buildings and fences, clear brush, grade and seed the resultant open area with grass, and establish an interim pathway loop. These Phase I works provide the foundation for further park development efforts in coming years.

To: *Parks, Recreation & Culture Commission*
From: *Parks Names and Signs Committee*
Re: *INMAN GREEN PARK - RE- NAMING OF PARK IN
HONOUR OF FREEMAN GEORGE H. F. MCLEAN*

BIOGRAPHY OF GEORGE MCLEAN

George Henry Foster McLean was awarded the status of Freeman of the City on 1989 February 20, after thirty years of dedicated service to his community. Details of George McLean's contributions to the Burnaby community are included in several short biographies available on the City of Burnaby and Veterans Affairs Canada websites, and in the documentary film, *From the Heart: The Freeman Legacy*. Some of the highlights from these sources are provided below for the information of Commission.

Born in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan in 1925, George McLean was raised and educated in the City of Vancouver. George lived in the heart of downtown Vancouver during the years of the great depression. He played in a road hockey gang, and with his many friends played all sorts of other sports that didn't cost any money. Later on, George joined the Junior G Men, a sports group, and started boxing and a little wrestling.

In the late 1930's George's father moved the family to Scotland, his homeland, but they soon returned to Canada upon hearing the rumblings of a coming war in Europe. Eager to serve his country, George McLean enlisted in the Royal Canadian Navy just after his 16th Birthday and was called up to active service in May 1942. After serving in North Africa, Malta, Italy and as part of the D-Day raid at Omaha Beach during World War II, George returned home, married and settled in Burnaby where he continued his life of service, this time to the local community.

Between 1957 and 1987, George served a total of 18 years as an Alderman, 14 years as a Parks Commissioner, and 8 years on the Advisory Planning Commission, 3 of them as Chair. In addition to working on numerous other Council Committees during those years, George was also a Director of the Lower Mainland Planning Board, the Greater Vancouver Regional District Planning Committee and the Greater Vancouver Regional District Water and Sewer Board.

In his role as a Parks Commissioner, George fostered the expansion of the Burnaby Parks system as well as the establishment of a formal Parkland Acquisition Program. He oversaw and actively participated in the planning and development of many Burnaby parks, recreation facilities and programs. George has noted that he had the honour of losing the first golf ball on the Central Park Pitch and Putt course when it opened to the public in 1966.

In his private life, George McLean was a family man and a successful businessman. He coached softball for the Westburn Community Association and also put his early years of experience playing road hockey to good use by coaching minor hockey for ten years at the Burnaby Winter Club. George is also a member of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 83, the Burnaby Kingsway Rotary Club and the Burnaby Hospital Society. George possesses a real green thumb and enjoys spending time in his organic garden.

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In 2006 George McLean received a Minister of Veterans Affairs Commendation for demonstrating exceptional dedication and tireless devotion in bringing the message of remembrance to Canadian youth, especially students. George is a very active participant of the Memory Project, an initiative which brings Veterans and students together to talk about war and to preserve their stories for future generations. George, along with members of the Veteran community and Veterans Affairs Canada, were successful in having the Government of British Columbia create a special licence plate program which provided individual Veterans with greater public recognition.

PARK DEDICATION PLAQUE

To celebrate and mark the dedication, it is proposed that a rock and dedication plaque be installed at a prominent location within the park. The proposed text for the dedication plaque is provided here for the approval of Commission (Attachment #1).

CONCLUSION

Prior to commencing public consultation for the Inman Green Park master planning process, the Parks Names and Signs Committee recommends that permanent recognition be extended to Freeman George H. F. McLean by re-naming Inman Green Park as George McLean Park.

Respectfully submitted,

Sav Dhaliwal

Pietro Calendino

Angela Thiele

Matt Foley

ATS:ats:tc

Attachment

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Copied to: City Manager

Proposed Text for Park Plaque:

George McLean Park

The Burnaby Parks, Recreation, and Culture Commission names this site in recognition of George McLean's many contributions to the community.

George H. F. McLean was born in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan in 1925. After returning from active service in North Africa and Europe during World War II, he settled in the Garden Village neighbourhood of Burnaby. George McLean was a City of Burnaby Alderman for 18 years, and a Parks Commissioner for 14 years during the period 1957–1987. As a Parks Commissioner, he fostered the expansion of the Burnaby Parks system, and oversaw the planning and development of many parks, recreation facilities and programs. For his commitment and service to the community, George McLean was honoured as Freeman of the City of Burnaby in 1989.

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