

Background

Residents of the City of Greater Sudbury (City) value their neighbourhoods, often giving an area a name by which to identify it. Street sign toppers are designed to help build cohesive neighbourhoods and healthy communities by enhancing their visibility. They are placed at prominent intersections within the boundaries of the neighbourhoods and in conjunction with existing street signs.

At the January 21, 2013 Community Services Committee meeting, Council adopted the Street Sign Topper Policy and subsequently passed by-law 2013-61 to adopt the Street Sign Topper Policy. The policy outlines the standards for the specifications, installation, maintenance, and removal of street sign toppers. The policy also outlines the application process for street sign topper requests and states that applications shall be approved by Council.

The City had previously approved street sign toppers in Uptown, New Sudbury, and Capreol.

Recent Developments

Little Creighton

The Walden Community Action Network (CAN) has submitted an application to recognize the Little Creighton area with Street Sign Toppers. Historically referred to as Dogpatch, this neighbourhood near Lively is recognized for its rich and proud mining heritage and sustainable community. Fifty (50) residents previously signed a petition to revitalize their community by rebranding it to honour its mining heritage as well as to commemorate the community's roots. Many of the people who worked for Creighton Mine in its founding years became associated with and emotionally invested in the mining town of Creighton. The neighbourhood has formed an emotional bond with the history and heritage that has survived well beyond the elimination of the physical town of Creighton, and is celebrated on a regular basis with well-attended reunions. The ward Councillor has publicly supported the Little Creighton street sign topper project.

In an effort to revitalize the community while commemorating the memory of David Creighton, after whom the local mine and mining community were named, the applicant is asking for street sign toppers to be fabricated and installed. These toppers would both highlight Little Creighton, an area of historical importance, as well as announce the arrival to this specific area. The street sign toppers would also assist in removing the negative connotations associated with the Dogpatch moniker. As such, the applicant has requested the fabrication and installation of twelve (12) street sign toppers at all street intersections throughout the boundaries defined by the applicant.

Capreol

In March 2018, a street sign topper program was approved through the approval of Healthy Community Initiative (HCI) funding to the Capreol CAN. In December 2018, the Capreol Centennial committee approached the City with a request to expand the street sign program in Capreol by purchasing eleven (11) additional sign toppers utilizing federal government funding that needed to be spent by year end. Given the Capreol Street Sign Topper program was previously approved, Leisure Services consulted with the ward Councillor and Capreol CAN for feedback. There was confirmed support for the expansion of the additional toppers. The City has initiated the fabrication of additional sign toppers to ensure the Capreol Centennial committee could report back to their funding partner at year end. Sign toppers will be installed at locations selected by both the applicant and the Capreol CAN as approved by the City.

Summary

Applications for street sign toppers at Little Creighton and the request to expand the existing Capreol street sign topper program have demonstrated sufficient rationale and community support as per the Street Sign Topper Policy.

Next Steps

Upon Council's approval, fabrication of the twelve (12) street sign toppers for Little Creighton will be initiated, with installation coordinated for 2019 as identified by the applicant and as approved by the City.

Installation of the additional street sign toppers in Capreol will take place in 2019.

References

Street Sign Toppers, Community Services Committee (January 21, 2013)
<http://agendasonline.greatersudbury.ca/index.cfm?pg=feed&action=file&agenda=report&itemid=4&id=585>

Dogpatch is out, Little Creighton is in, Sudbury.com article (September 6, 2015)
<https://www.sudbury.com/local-news/dogpatch-is-out-little-creighton-is-in-257551>