



Naming Committee

Honouring People and Places in Our City

Bryan Anderson

Bryan Kent Anderson was born on July 5, 1942 in the small town of Balcarres, Saskatchewan. He was a good athlete in his youth and grew up playing both football and basketball among other sports in the Saskatoon area. Bryan graduated from the University of Saskatchewan with a bachelor's degree in Education and was hired by the Edmonton Public School Board in 1964. After coming to Edmonton, Bryan and his wife, moved into the Greenfield community where they would raise their children. He began his teaching career at Strathcona Composite High School and then moved to Harry Ainlay High School in 1969 where he would go on to make a considerable contribution to Edmonton High School sports. Serving as department head of Physical Education and the head coach for both the senior men's and women's basketball and senior men's football teams, Bryan went on to inspire student athletes for generations. As the head coach he had considerable success and led his teams to 38 city finals in 63 seasons. He was the founder of the Harry Ainlay Tri-Province Basketball Tournament in 1974, which grew from a 4 team senior mens Tournament to the largest school based basketball tournament in Western Canada. Bryan retired from full time teaching and coaching in 1998. He was inducted into the Alberta Schools' Athletics Association hall of fame for Coaching in April 2010 in honor of his high school coaching career. On June 10, 2019 Bryan will be inducted into the City of Edmonton Sports Hall of Fame as a sports builder.



Bryan Anderson

As Bryan approached his retirement in 1998, he started planning the next chapter of his life. He had always enjoyed being involved in school decisions at Harry Ainlay, and realized that he wanted to continue to make an impact in the community. Bryan ran in the 1998 municipal election to represent Ward 5 (Ward 9 as of 2010) and was elected to Edmonton City Council.

One of Councillor Anderson's top priorities upon election was to make sure the City advance sport and recreation opportunities for citizens. This was formalized under Mayor Stephen Mandel who asked Bryan to lead the Sport and Recreation initiative on City Council. Bryan's mission statement for this work was "to improve the quality and quantity of sport and recreation infrastructure, and opportunities for Edmontonians". Bryan has been instrumental in the construction of the Terwilligar, Meadows, Commonwealth and Clareview Recreation centers. He was instrumental in getting City financing for the GO Centre, numerous artificial turf facilities as well as the new Coronation Velodrome. Bryan worked extensively with the Terwilligar Riverbend Advisory Council and southwest Edmonton Community Leagues as well as senior groups and sports organizations. Bryan always advocated for accessible recreation programming for all citizens. Councillor Anderson became known as an informed, practical and pragmatic politician at City Hall. He says that he has always felt that rules and policies shouldn't get in the way of good decisions and achieving results. He believes that people do their best work when it aligns with their passion, and this is why he has always focused his energy on sport and recreation. He aimed for a 48 hour response time to the tens of thousands of inquiries from citizens. This was one of his original goals and a popular aspect of his public service. Ward 9 residents came to know Bryan as an engaged, caring advocate for the community. He understood that being a City Councillor came with an obligation to the constituents and that people needed responsive representation.

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In 2017, Bryan formally stated he was not going to run in the October election. He is the 5th longest serving Councillor in Edmontons history, a significant accomplishment. Bryan represented Wards 5 and 9 for six consecutive terms dedicating 19 years to the citizens of Edmonton.

Written by Brian Austen - May 2019

CITATIONS

Information compiled by Brian Austen - April 2019

<http://www.edmonton.ca> "Meet Bryan Anderson"

<https://parkbench.com/blog/meet-bryan-anderson-edmonton-city-councillor-ward-9>

The Riverbend Ragg-Times. "Thank you Bryan Anderson." Vol. 34 No. 5 March/April Edition 2017

Edmonton Journal. "Exit interview with Bryan Anderson" David Staples, March 21, 2017

<https://edmontonjournal.com/news/politics/david-staples-exit-interview-with-longtime-councillor-bryan-anderson-the-most-sensible-man-in-the-room>