

Summary of feedback received from Indigenous Parks Council #1 (from meeting notes)

Date: 04-15-24

At Owamni Restaurant Community Room

Members Present: Sydney Dixon Beane, Juanita Espinosa, Samantha Odegard

Member Present Online: Marlana Myles, Mishaila Bowman, Cyndy Milda, Shelly Buck, Maggie Lorenz.

Not Present: Wakinyan LaPointe, Jewell Arcoren, Dana Thompson, Kate Beane, Mattie Harper DeCarlo, Cheyanne St John, Rita K Walaszek Arndt

MPRB Present: Comm. Billy Menz, Carrie Christensen, Bianca Paz, Colleen O'Dell, Siciid Ali

Others Present: Carrie Day Aspinwall – Indigenous Liaison

Meeting Agenda:

- Welcome
- Intros: name, affiliation, and what brings you here?
- Indigenous Reconciliation Action Plan Overview
- **Park Naming**
- Next Steps
- How will we work moving forward
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PARK NAMING: Siciid and Bianca presented the renaming Sibley Field Park timeline.

We asked for feedback on the process and the nominated name, Chante Tiza Wyan. (strong hearted women)

Notes from comments and feedback received:

- I haven't heard from anyone in the Dakota community who favors the proposed Dakota name for Sibley. It sounds like it's named after an actual person, which makes it confusing.
- There may be a disagreement on how to say it.
- This name carries a lot of significance for a park that doesn't carry a lot of significance itself to us. Perhaps use that name elsewhere. This is just a community park – trying to give too much significance to a place where it doesn't exist. I'm in favor of thinking of other names.
- The process of how the name came forward didn't involve Dakota people. That's a problem. Go back to the drawing board.
- Historically, we never really named anything after people. That elevates a certain person, not how we do it. Simply call it what it is (bowl-shaped).
- Many Dakota trails went through that spot, but it wasn't an incredibly important spot. It's better to use a name that describes the place.
- Regarding a potential ceremony to commemorate removing the name Sibley and healing to a new Dakota name: Forcing a ceremony is in line with making the place something new, not through a new name. I wouldn't personally recommend the ceremony.
- A ceremony is not appropriate or necessary in this case.
- Acknowledge that young people are the ones who want the change. How would they honor the name change at that place? What do they see that we don't see? Fresher perspective. Your focus group could be young people talking. Recognize that their voice has power. Give the kids the choice back—do they want to play for a “bowl” team? It's an education and empowerment process for kids.
- We should engage and target the people using this space. It would be more critical. Are we on a Dakota naming frenzy?
- It is important for some people critiquing the strong-hearted woman name to meet with the students and share what we feel.
- Instead of a ceremony, it could be a traditional lacrosse game to celebrate. We need to keep that part of our culture to celebrate things. I don't think there's a frenzy to rename things; everything used to have a Dakota name; I'm fine with changing every park name to Dakota.