

Location: Water Works Park/Owamni Restaurant Community Room and Hybrid Option Available

Councilmembers Present In Person: Sydney Dixon Beane, Juanita Espinosa, Samantha Odegard

Councilmembers Present Online: Marlena Myles, Mishaila Bowman, Cyndy Milda, Shelley Buck, Maggie Lorenz, Cheyanne St John

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

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

Others Present: Carrie Day Aspinwall, MPRB Indigenous Parks Liaison

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

Notes:

- Welcome and Council intros
- Gifts offered with medicine from local birchbark harvester
- Park Board Staff provides [overview of action planning](#) to date
  - Guidance by international body of work – reconciliation and repair work of local government entities.
  - What does this group think the priorities of this group should be?
  - Handouts: [notes from native panel discussion during formation](#) of MPRB Comprehensive Plan.
  - [See pg 7 of MPRB Comprehensive Plan](#). Three guiding strategies set the direction of this Reconciliation Plan. Was then filtered through community engagement, board of commissioners.
  - Review of timeline leading up to today's discussion. Set up policy, funding, and hired Carrie Day.
  - Action is important. Action-oriented approach.
  - MPRB needs to talk internally across departments.
  - Strategies guiding the work. Pledge in the comprehensive plan.
  - Board of Commissioners training this summer, uphold ceremony in Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden, work together to craft an acknowledgement statement.
  - This work has been happening in community for a long time: Bde Maka Ska name reclamation, Owamni festival, interpretation and storytelling, open space planning with Little Earth. Support the work community is doing.
  - Projects currently underway at MPRB that may be of interest to this council.
    - Ex: how can we facilitate more ceremonial uses of tobacco in Mpls parks?
    - Sibley Park renaming process

- Focus Areas: acknowledgement, training, mapping (sites of significance), workforce development, action (agreements), land stewardship (land back), indigenous-led priorities.
- Possible focus areas of Action Plan Topic introduced (baskets): mapping, acknowledgement, training, projects, agreements, land stewardship, interpretation, workforce.
- Discussion:
  - Sustainability for this work needs to be a priority. How to extend the timeline, budget, length and permanence the Indigenous Acknowledgement Action Plan
  - The term “reconciliation” should be reconsidered for the title of the Action Plan. It starts with acknowledging the land. First reconcile with the land before people. Many dislocated people weren’t able to stay with the land, so we are also trying to reconcile back with our places. Acknowledgement is a better word than reconciliation. You acknowledge by listening, by knowing, by allowing us to tell our stories around the priorities. First acknowledge us and our stories and our places before reconciliation comes into play. Consider the animal and plant nations.
  - Questions about the vegetation molestation ordinance. Named that way because years ago foraging was totally illegal, name used for clarity. Foraging is an important right in Dakota community, so this change to ordinance is great. Where are these foraging zones? Love the idea of medicine garden beds but in some ways it takes away the experience of what our ancestors would do when foraging in nature. Medicine gardens can mitigate pollution too.
    - *Park Board Staff Response: Now we have open foraging zones in parks, no permit needed. What would medicine gardens in the parks look like?*
    - *Parks Liaison: Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden is full of medicine. Cedar trees. Fences prevent access, especially to the water. The difference between our people and the system is the system may not even know they are planting medicine.*
- Park Board Staff present on project to rename Sibley Field Park and asked for feedback on the process and the nominated name, Chante Tiza Wyan. (Strong Hearted Women):
  - Concerns from council about 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 isn’t necessarily a site connected to that location. Suggestion to re-examine names, and have it come from Dakota people. 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. Suggestions to consider ceremony to acknowledge the name change – mixed perspectives. 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? It’s an education and empowerment process for youth. We should engage people using this space. It would be more critical. It is Important for some people critiquing the strong-hearted woman name to meet with the students and share what we feel.
  - Another idea for opening is that instead of a ceremony, it could be a traditional lacrosse game to celebrate as a part of Dakota culture to celebrate things.
- Closing + Reflection
  - Extend invitation for future meetings to this group.

- Exploration of how to meet and what the role of the council is.
- Preference for meeting online and having a more spacious agenda. Sending out meeting agendas and materials in advance is preferred.