

# Notes from MPRB Native American Parks Council

Location: Microsoft Teams

Date: 12-02-2024

*Councilmembers Present:* Dana Thompson, Jewell Arcoren, Samantha Odegard, Juanita Espinoza, Mattie Harper DeCarlo, Rita K Walaszek Arndt, Shelley Buck, Maggie Lorenz

*Councilmembers Not Present:* Wakinyan LaPointe, Cheyanne St John, Cyndy Milda, Mishaila Bowman, Kate Beane

*Park Board Staff Present:* Carrie Christensen, Dan Elias, Jennifer Ringold, Carol Hejlstone, Emma Pachuta, Colleen O'Dell

*Others Present:* Carrie Day Aspinwall; MPRB Indigenous Parks Liaison, Nicole MartinRogers; MPRB Indigenous, Mary Altman; City of Minneapolis, Lydia Four Horns; City of Minneapolis, Ann Godfrey; City of Minneapolis,

## Meeting Notes

### Agenda

- 1) Update on MPRB Tobacco in Parks Policy, Naming Policy, Community Engagement Policy
- 2) Update on Sibley Renaming
- 3) Evaluation Intro
- 4) Boat Launch at Bde Maka Ska
- 5) Minnehaha Regional Park Projects
- 6) City Public Art Policy

### Tobacco Policy Update - Jennifer Ringold, MPRB Deputy Superintendent

Overview of tobacco policy updates that is currently out for public comment

*Discussion Highlights:* General support for changes to policy. Additional suggestions about language that could be incorporated into the policy to better support Indigenous culture and use for ceremonial purposes.

*Action:* Staff will send out revised update based on suggestions. Public review open until Jan 21. Parks Council will be able to give additional feedback even after public comment period has closed.

### Naming Policy Update - Jennifer Ringold, MPRB Deputy Superintendent

Overview of possible changes to naming policy based on previous Parks Council discussions and meetings.

No discussion, update only.

*Action:* Staff will provide more on information about policy update at a future meeting.

### Sibley Park Renaming Update – Carrie Day Aspinwall and Carrie Christensen

Update about recent community meeting regarding the renaming of Sibley Park. Tentative hold for a December 18 meeting at Sibley Park to continue renaming process. Question to Parks Council about how to proceed forward with Sibley Park process.

*Discussion highlights:* Debrief of renaming meeting in November and shared takeaways. Gratitude of facilitation of that meeting. Acknowledgement that even though the process has been slow to some, there is a need to get this right. The name change will set a precedent for other parks and cities. Staff shared overview of how naming process started – came from a planning process and Board of Commissioners directed action, so any change in process will need to be communicated to Board to make sure they support changes. Interest in holding a larger conversation around naming with other agencies, which will inform this Sibley renaming process rather than speed forward with a name right now.

*Action:* December 18<sup>th</sup> meeting date has been cancelled. Staff will internally discuss opportunities for hosting a larger conversation about naming and report back to Council on progress/guidance. Follow up next steps for Sibley renaming specifically at a future meeting.

### Indigenous Reconciliation Action Plan Evaluation - Nicole MartinRogers

Overview of evaluation of work this year. 2024 report is in progress.

Update only, no discussion

*Action:* Staff will send out draft of 2024 report soon for Parks Council to review and share feedback.

### Bde Maka Ska Update - Dan Elias

Overview of upcoming Boat Launch Relocation project from NE side to NW side of lake. Pre-design report will be brought to MPRB Board of Commissioners in 2025. Looking for ways to engage local Indigenous community to make sure the project advances in conscientious way.

Update only, no discussion

### Minnehaha projects ([Minnehaha Presentation.pdf](#)) – Carol Hejlstone

Overview of projects at Minneha moving forward. Euro-centric design has had deleterious effect on area. Working on SHPO review. Already been in touch with many on this call about these projects, will continue to seek feedback on the Minnehaha site as a whole.

Update only, no discussion

Action: Staff have shared a list of questions regarding this site which was shared through email.

### City Public Art Policy Update - City of Minneapolis staff

Overview from city staff about updated public art process and who has been advising on the work to date.

*Discussion Highlights:* Suggestion to add/review additional strategies and requirements to ensure artist has Indigenous ancestry. City staff reported challenges to incorporate some recommendations due to city process and feedback from legal.

*Action:* City staff have shared additional responses and ways to share feedback shared in email of meeting notes for Council members to optionally weigh in further.

Closing.