From: Pete Gamades
To: O"Dell, Colleen
Cc: Sally Grans-Korsh
Subject: [External]Support for the Removal of the Pioneers Monument @ BF Nelson Park
Date: Sunday, March 30, 2025 6:35:24 PM

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Hi Colleen

I support the removal of the Pioneer Statue from B.F. Nelson Park. I was the Chair of the St. Anthony West Neighborhood Organization when the statue was moved to its current place. I was wrong to have supported it then and strongly believe this wrong needs to be corrected now.

That statue and its prominence is a clear example of the ways in which white supremacy is showcased and upheld in our community. The statue, located on stolen Dakota land, depicts a narrative of “pioneer” conquer over Indigenous people who were here and thriving before "pioneers" arrived. On the reverse side of the statue, Indigenous people are depicted in a submissive way with white pioneers domineering over them. This is deeply disrespectful and not an accurate representation of the history of this land.

The reason I am advocating for removal of the statue in its entirety is that any other option will not be enough. This statue was created in a time when the lives and histories of non-white people were not valued, and if we claim we are living in a different time: our actions need to show it. Adding a simple plaque with additional context will not be seen from the road and will likely be missed by most park patrons, and does nothing to mitigate the prominent display of white supremacy this statue represents.

Thank you

Pete Gamades

St. Anthony West Neighborhood Organization Resident
612.310.6151