



## Resolution 2023-171

### **RESOLUTION PLACING INTO NOMINATION THE NAME "CHAŋTÉ T'ÍŋZA WÍŋYAŋ PARK" FOR THE MINNEAPOLIS PARK AND RECREATION BOARD PROPERTY KNOWN AS SIBLEY FIELD PARK AND INITIATING THE FORMAL PARK NAMING PROCESS AS REQUIRED UNDER POLICY**

Whereas, The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) was established by an Act of the State Legislature in 1883 and has the authority to acquire, improve, operate, and name park properties;

Whereas, After its acquisition in 1923, MPRB named Sibley Field Park after General Henry Hastings Sibley, the first Regional Governor of Minnesota;

Whereas, In 2016, the community solicited MPRB staff to change the name of Sibley Field Park because of the history of violence the park's namesake perpetuated against the Dakota people;

Whereas, In 2021, MPRB staff began requesting feedback for the renaming of the park during the community engagement process for the improvement project at this park;

Whereas, The community engagement process for the park renaming revealed interest in a park name that recognizes the Dakota people, and names connected to the history of the land and features of the park were proposed;

Whereas, MPRB policy sets forth a process for naming or renaming a park, which begins with the submission of a single name into nomination and continues with a series of public hearings and eventual action by the Board of Commissioners;

Whereas, In order to achieve a recommendation on a single name, MPRB staff consulted with the public, including members of the Dakota community, by soliciting ideas for a new name, then presented these names to the Board of Commissioners in a discussion on January 4, 2023;

Whereas, The name "Chaŋté T'Íŋza Wíŋyaŋ" meaning *Strong Hearted Women*, was proposed by a group of neighbors representing native communities to remember the Dakota women who during the time of genocide were displaced from the land where the park sits today;

Whereas, In the course of that community engagement and the discussion with the Board of Commissioners, the MPRB staff has heard that the name "Chaŋté T'Íŋza Wíŋyaŋ" is an appropriate and desired name for the Park; and

Whereas, This resolution is also supported by Parks for All, the MPRB Comprehensive Plan 2021-2036 under Goal 1: "Foster belonging and equity;"

RESOLVED, That the Board places into nomination the name "Chaŋté T'Íŋza Wíŋyaŋ Park" for the



Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board property known as the Sibley Field Park;

RESOLVED, That the Board directs staff to initiate the formal park naming process as required under policy; and

RESOLVED, That the President of the Board and Secretary to the Board are authorized to take all necessary administrative actions to implement this resolution.



TO: Planning Committee

FROM: Michael Schroeder, Assistant Superintendent, Planning

DATE: 20 September 2023

SUBJECT: RESOLUTION PLACING INTO NOMINATION THE NAME "CHANTÉ T'ÍNZA WÍNYA? PARK" FOR THE MINNEAPOLIS PARK AND RECREATION BOARD PROPERTY KNOWN AS SIBLEY FIELD AND INITIATING THE FORMAL PARK NAMING PROCESS AS REQUIRED UNDER POLICY

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## **BACKGROUND**

This action initiates a renaming process for Sibley Field Park following the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board's (MPRB) Naming Policy. MPRB staff are requesting the Board of Commissioners to consider a name change for Sibley Field Park because of the history of violence perpetuated against the Dakota people by the park's namesake, Henry Hastings Sibley. Community members indicate they are uncomfortable with Henry Sibley's name on their jerseys and displayed in the park.

During the community engagement process for a concurrent park improvements project, MPRB requested community input on the park renaming. The public was able to participate in multiple community engagement events around the renaming and the park improvements. Most notably, poll results indicated overwhelmingly that the park should be renamed.

### **Summary of Engagement and Name Options**

The "Renaming of Sibley Park" survey (the most recent of several engagement phases) was open from June 13 to August 31, 2023. During this time 754 people responded to the survey. 46.73% of respondents reported that they lived in the same zip code (55407) as Sibley Park. 32.4% reported living in zip codes directly adjacent to Sibley. 20.9% reported living further away.

- Of the five Dakota names proposed in the survey, the most popular was Oškokpa (translation: basin or bowl shape), which received 217 votes (30.56%). When asked why people chose Oškokpa, 68% of respondents mentioned liking that the name describes the location of and reflects the shape of the park. Nearly one-third of respondents additionally mentioned that the name was easy to pronounce and easy to learn. An additional 10% mentioned that Oškokpa is fun to say, and like how the word sounds.
- The second most popular choice was Chaŋté T'ínza Wínyaŋ (translation: strong hearted women), which received 181 votes (25.49%). Half of the respondents said they chose Chaŋté T'ínza Wínyaŋ for its meaning—liking that the name honors, acknowledges,



empowers, and elevates women. An additional 24% of respondents also mentioned that they felt the name honors the Dakota people and explicitly acknowledges the history of the land. Unlike the other names on the list, no one reported thinking that the name was easy to pronounce and/or learn. 10% of respondents said the drawback of this name is that it is difficult to pronounce or too long, however a common theme throughout these critiques was that even though “it might be a harder name to pronounce, it’s worth it.” A handful of respondents also mentioned that they are raising children and the name resonates with values they would share with their children and they like the idea of children playing in a space that honors strong women.

- The third most popular name was Paha Çete (translation: bottom of the hill), which received 133 votes (18.73%). Half of the respondents said they chose this name because it describes the location of the park, and where it is geographically situated. 10% also mentioned that the name describes how the park is used—children often are sledding, biking, and running down to the bottom of the hill, and many have fond memories of participating in these activities. Just over one-third mentioned that the name is easy to pronounce, which makes it more likely for people to use it. And an additional 11% mentioned that name is fun to say and has a nice sound.
- The fourth most popular name was P'eçaᅇ (translation: elm), which received 108 votes (15.21%). 69% of respondents said they chose this name because it is easy to say. 15% of respondents mentioned the meaning of P'eçaᅇ, saying that they liked that the name brought up a connection to trees/nature and/or the name reflected the trees in the area.
- Çanpaçaᅇ (translation: cherry tree) received 71 votes (10%). 37% of respondents said they chose Çanpaçaᅇ because they liked the meaning of the word. Of these responses, nearly 90% mentioned the specific connection cherry trees have to the area, and the happy memories of family and springtime elicited. Just over half of the respondents mentioned liking the auditory nature of Çanpaçaᅇ—saying the word is beautiful, fun to say, not too long and has a lovely sound.
- 41 people (5%) who took the survey did not choose any of the names listed above. 29% of these respondents said they want the park to remain Sibley Park, an additional 29% said they did not like any of the names provided and 15% said they felt like none of the names were pronounceable. A few people suggested additional Dakota words they believe should be taken into consideration for the new park name.

### **Following the Naming Policy and Next Steps**

According to MPRB’s Naming Policy, a naming process must begin with a name nomination. That is what this action seeks to do: establish a single, Commissioner-nominated name that can then work its way through the process. Should the Board of Commissioners choose NOT to adopt this action, staff would request direction on how to proceed. Commissioners may, of course, amend



this action and choose a different name.

Upon adoption of this action, staff will initiate the naming process, which includes the following steps:

- Submission of the approved nomination to various MPRB staff and several neighborhood organizations;
- Two public hearings with certain Commissioner attendance requirements; and
- A vote by the Board of Commissioners on the proposed name.

## PREVIOUS BOARD ACTIONS

January 4, 2023

Discussion Item about Park Renaming and community feedback on name options.

## RECOMMENDATION

The name "Chąjté T'įnza Wįnyąn Park" is being nominated by the staff since it consistently ranked among survey respondents' top names at all levels of involvement. Though it was not the top vote-getter in the most recent survey, the closeness of the vote (30% versus 25%) indicates, when the inherent shortcomings of an on-line survey are considered, a functional tie. Staff is recommending this name because neighbors representing various indigenous groups strongly encouraged the replacement of the existing park name with this name. It also has a powerful significance, honoring and recognizing indigenous women. The vast majority of survey respondents expressed their opinion that the name honors the Dakota people and expressly recognizes the heritage of the region.

For all these reasons, staff recommends that the Board place into nomination the name "Chąjté T'įnza Wįnyąn Park" for the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board property currently known as the Sibley Field Park. Staff further recommends that the Board direct initiation of the formal park naming process as required under the policy.

This discussion items supports the following goals and strategies in Parks for All, the MPRB Comprehensive Plan 2021-2036.

### Goal:

01. Foster belonging and equity

### Strategy:

03. Amplify Indigenous stories, histories, cultural practices and connections to land through employment, partnerships, reconciliation planning, programming, ceremony, foraging, land management, interpretation and proactive community engagement across projects and programs.



**Attachments:**

1. Last Online Survey Summary

*Jbr 9/20/2023.*