

F-Y-I

(due Dec. 6-12)

11/28/2012

FIRST NATIONS SCULPTURE WALK/GARDEN PROJECT
RESPONSE TO PARKS AND RECREATION-11/26 DESMIDT MEMO

Written by project director Professor Elizabeth Cook-Lynn,
Concept and proposal to be placed on 12/13 Agenda of Parks and Rec

Request by First Nations for an agreement called a Memo of Understanding
from Parks Department

**First Nations answers to 10 questions from 11/26 Memo from Alex
DeSesmidt:**

1) **Rationale** and reasoning for the proposal to make the park now named Haley Park a First Nations Sculpture Gardens began when the settler monument called "Pap's Cabin" was moved to the Journey Museum in the summer of 2012. It seemed to many Indian people who have called Rapid City home, to be the perfect moment for an appropriate native history to be re-established as a symbol of native contributions to the community. It is a history that is largely forgotten, omitted and often degraded. Sioux Indians have been residents of The Hills for millennia, signed treaties with the United States and, in 1924 accepted dual citizenship (U. S., and Tribal Nation). Many families (called *tiospayes*) lived here for centuries; it is a place of their origin. When they became city residents as survivors of the Indian Wars and immigrants moved in, much conflict emerged and much native-white history was erased.

A request was written by Professor Cook-Lynn in August, 2012 for a resolution from the city to replace the cabin monument with bust-sized bronze sculptures of Sioux historical notables. First, BLACK ELK, and OSCAR HOWE were named because they represent the philosophical-religious history as well as the artistic history of the Sioux Tribe. Since then, it has been suggested that there should be four sculptures which the landscape artist provided in his drawing, with space in the drawing for possible expansion to eight figures. Vine Deloria, Jr., a 20th century lawyer and scholar from Yankton has been suggested, as the third and the fourth is unnamed.

The sculpture garden would be a monument to the history that is brought into twentieth century native life. The Sioux Nation, made up of seven bands (Oglala, Sicangu, Hunkpapa, Santee, Sihasapa, Yankton, Minneconjou) are indigenous to the Black Hills, claiming it as one of their places of origin in the Northern Plains. Their great Sioux Reservation (established in 1868 Treaty of Ft. Laramie), was divided into nine enclaves which since the 1860's has been described as nine Reservations. Later, a federal Act called The Indian Reorganization Act (1934) organized tribal governments for protection and development on those reserved lands. It goes without saying that Treaty Rights were severed and Treaty responsibilities were broken. There is a long history of that period. (1980-Supreme Court Decision), and continued conflict.

THE PARK

There is considerable Indian History embedded in the grounds now called Halley Park. What follows is only some of it. Prior to 1934, hundreds of Sioux families lived in what would be called Rapid City and Pennington County. They were a people who had been at war with the US for 30 years, signing several peace treaties. They lived in the western part of the emerging city in what was called "the gap" along the Minnilusaha (rapid creek) as displaced peoples after the Indian War Period. At that time, much of the land that would become the city was held in "trust", by the Federal Government. A major example is the Sioux San (first a military school, then a TB sanitarium and now an HIS clinic) also in "trust" status. The park now called Halley Park was included in those "trust" status lands as were many other parcels. The Department of Interior built the stone building that sits on the property, and it was a gathering place. There was a Department of Interior Sign on the edge of the property and it housed a Sioux Museum for many decades. The Sioux Museum was in the 1990's moved to the Journey Museum where it still exists. The property became City property and the city has housed several institutional offices there and now houses the parks and recreation board. The park, itself, has been kept as a flower garden, and a veteran's memorial.

When Rapid City was emerging as a tourist venue in South Dakota, and the Mount Rushmore Monument began to be a reality, the Indian enclave (in the 1920's and 1930's) was seen as an Indian Ghetto because the Indians who lived there as displaced persons were poor, jobless and unskilled. They lived in substandard housing, and news reports of the time

said they were “unsightly” and ought to be moved away from the tourist traffic. That was the beginning of the establishment of a new part of the city, the North Rapid or Sioux addition which assisted the Indians and the city for development with federal funding. Since then, the Indian population has been seen as a separate entity and often exploited as an essential part of the “tourist” scene. It has been imaged mostly as a “warrior” society, (Crazy Horse), or as a “victim” society (Wounded Knee), or as a society that is in chaos. It remains poor, but has managed to survive and thrive on its own terms. It struggles to tell its own history. The need to honor the native persons who brought change and solidarity to a People in the modern world is a vital part of the history of this region and the First Nations monument at the Park seems to be an ideal way to bring a new beginning to this largely forgotten, omitted and distorted history. Native peoples have worked hard to be a part of the emerging cities and states of this region. They are artists, teachers, ranchers and rodeo riders, parents and business people, not just warriors and victims. They have established reservation land-based colleges of which He Sapa next to the Mother Butler center is incorporated.

INTENT

The particular art work proposed at Halley Park to be called the First Nations Monument Sculpture Walk or Gardens will demonstrate the full participation of Indian citizenship in this city. An all-Indian board of developers has been consulted over the past few months and it has been agreed that this is a good idea but is not to be seen as a tourist venue. This means that it does not require a large parking space, which was one of the concerns of the Parks and Rec board at an early meeting. It is felt that the Mount Rushmore Road entrance will be sufficient. This monument which would introduce in a humble way not only the history of that piece of land, but, in various ways it would tell of historical and intellectual topics embodied in the figures shown (Black Elk., Howe, et.al.). It would encourage participation in understanding the classic and personal nature of Sioux art, philosophy and intellectual life. Such a traditional and contemporary sculpture would be a matrix for understanding the modern life of the Oyate. It would bring informational objects closer to downtown, enhance the growth that has been in city planning in recent years and contribute to the history of the arts and learning projects of South Dakota in general.

LOCATION

The so-called Halley Park is the essential place for this monument. While much of the early Indian life in this city has been overwhelmed by the development of a settler-pioneer society, this small parcel of land on which this monument would be erected embodies the past for Indians in this region in their heart-felt memories and Oral Traditions. At the heart of any indigenous world is always the land, and this park which was once considered part of the "trust" lands enclave can symbolize the thousands of years of occupancy by a native people in the area. Seldom is an Indian Old World embodied in texts, books, bureaucracies or even stone but the land (in this case, former "trust" land), can draw upon what we know to say how these extraordinary tribal people viewed the universe, and continued to adapt to change. In doing so, it can assist the broader non-Siouxan community in making connections to the past. Neither the Sioux (Lakota, Dakota, Nakota) nor their religion and worldview is dead, as is often implied in history and scholarship. This monument will invite all peoples into the lives of contemporary people who are an essential component of Great Plains History and Experience.

Mr. DeSmidt's 11/21 memo says that Images supplied on Nov. 21 are sufficient.

NECESSARY REQUIREMENTS, FURTHER DESCRIPTIONS, FUNDING AND FUNDING SOURCES, INSTALLATION AND TIMELINE WILL BE FORTHCOMING AS SOON AS THERE IS AN MOU AGREEMENT, AND THE FIRST NATIONS BOARD CAN BE ACTIVATED.

Landscape architects Randy Fisher (design Works), Kyle Treloar (Dream Design International Inc.), Black Hills Bronze, 42nd Street Design Studio, and Standard Metal Works have been consulted and have indicated a willingness to work pro bono to get the project started. An October 25 memo from Kristin at *bhbronze* has provided some preliminary discussion. Sculptress Marilyn Wounded Head will provide direction and art/sculpture work. She was the first artist contacted for this project and is an enthusiastic supporter of the project. Her work is often displayed at the Sandy Swallow gallery in Hill City, SD (sswallow@q.com).

Kristin Donnan Standard of Black Hills Bronze has given some production estimates and can be contacted at www.blackhillsbronze.net; Kyle Treloar of Dream Design (kylet@dreamdesigninc.com) and Michael Stanley, ASLA of the 42nd Street Design Studio (mikes@42ndstreetdesignstudio.com) have provided the drawing that will be used and can be contacted, These designers and artists have been notified of the Dec. 13th meeting and have been invited to attend. It should be said that these experts have offered their preliminary services pro-bono.

Our funding sources will probably come from outside donors. The project will not expect any funding assistance from the city but will be dependent upon city services that are available ordinarily for such public projects. Indian board members for the First Nations project are people well known and established within their tribal enclaves and are expected to assist in contacting donors and writing grants if that is feasible.

Elyse Cook - prof
Professor Emerita Indian Studies
605-341-3228
3155 Blk N.W. Rapid City
57701-4711

Subj: **RE: First Nations Sculpture Garden Meeting**
 Date: Monday, November 26, 2012 3:13:32 PM
 From: Alex.DeSmidt@rcgov.org
 To: Sam.Kooiker@rcgov.org, Lon.VanDeusen@rcgov.org, Bonny.Petersen@rcgov.org,
 elizcoly@aol.com
 cc: petersen100@cs.com, Doug.Lowe@rcgov.org

All,

To ensure we are in sync, here is a recap of the meeting discussions and directives from last Wednesday.

The original project request was made by First Nations to the City of Rapid City to allow a First Nations Sculpture Garden to be built at Halley Park.

At the meeting we discussed that pursuing an MOU would be appropriate in this instance. The amended request to be made by First Nations will be to pursue an MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) with the City of Rapid City to Develop a First Nations Sculpture Garden at Halley Park.

Elizabeth Cook-Lynn, or a designated representative, will present the newly developed concept plan for the proposed project to the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board on December 13th at 5:30 pm at 515 West Blvd, Halley Park. *The board had previously advised First Nations to clarify the vision for the project.*

Prior to this meeting, by December 6th, Mrs. Cook-Lynn shall provide Parks & Recreation with a detailed project proposal to place on the Agenda. The proposal shall address the following:

- The rationale and reasoning for the proposal and its specified location
- What is its intent – historical education, recreation, worship, etc?
- The exact location for the request - (*Image Supplied on Nov. 21 is sufficient*)
- What the sculpture garden would look like – include an image of a model or drawing (*Image Supplied on Nov. 21 is sufficient*)
- The proposed size, scale, and materials to be used, (design aesthetic)
- Necessary requirements, lighting, electricity, walking path access, etc
- Descriptions of what any signage or the sculptures would say
- How it will be funded, and if funding is in place
- How it will be installed and maintained, and by whom.
- A timeline for development and construction

**a concise proposal will allow all pertinent information to be thoroughly considered for review.*

If the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board approves the request, the Parks Department will begin drafting an MOU agreement with First Nations, that will be reviewed through the City Attorney's Office. Final approval will be determined by Public Works/Legal & Finance committee and the City Council.

I have attached an example template of an MOU for reference. In general, an MOU gives a private entity the ability to improve/develop public parkland for public use. Typically, all improvements become the City's after development.

Rapid City Parks and Recreation Staff will be discussing this project with other departments to identify what/if any statutes or reviews will be required (i.e. Historic Preservation, etc), developing a resource management outline for the proposal to identify maintenance and operations needs. Upon approval of the project, Parks and Recreation staff will assist in project management during design and construction to ensure compliance with City, State, and Federal Standards, etc.

Please let me know if there are any questions or clarifications, or if anything has been omitted.

Sincerely,

Alex DeSmidt, Landscape Designer
Rapid City Parks and Recreation

From: Kooiker Sam
Sent: Monday, November 26, 2012 11:17 AM
To: VanDeusen Lon; Petersen Bonny
Cc: petersen100@cs.com; DeSmidt Alex; Lowe Doug
Subject: RE: Meeting with Elizabeth Cook-Lynn with Mayor, Lon, Bonny Petersen and Elizabeth Doug Lowe to fill in for Lon
Importance: High

Alex, please work up a summary of the conclusions and reply to all so we are on the same page.

Thanks again for your help on this. You did a great job at the meeting.

Sam

-----Original Appointment-----

From: Howard Michael **On Behalf Of** Kooiker Sam
Sent: Wednesday, November 07, 2012 10:42 AM
To: VanDeusen Lon; Petersen Bonny
Cc: petersen100@cs.com; DeSmidt Alex
Subject: Meeting with Elizabeth Cook-Lynn with Mayor, Lon, Bonny Petersen and Elizabeth Doug Lowe to fill in for Lon
When: Wednesday, November 21, 2012 2:00 PM-2:30 PM (UTC-07:00) Mountain Time (US & Canada).
Where: Mayor's office

<< File: 20121114 First Nations Scult Monument meeting November 21, 2012.pdf >> About first nations monument. Tim Giago, Mario Ganzolas, Jesse Abernathy, Kloristeinm Kiuanati see attachment

November 22, 2012

COPY

To: Sam Kooiker, City of Rapid City Mayor's Office, 6th St.

From: The First Nations Sculpture Gardens Project, 3755 Blake Court N.

This is a request which follows up the August 8th request to the Parks and Recreation Board of Rapid City, for a resolution from the city to allow the project to be developed at Halley Park, naming it a First Nations sculpture.

Busts of several prominent historical native figures are being developed in order to highlight a continuing presence of Lakota/Dakota/Nakota people as follows: 1813, Black Elk; 1916, Oscar Howe, and 1930, Vine Deloria, Jr. In the drawing of the site, there is the option of expansion to eight figures.

A 12 member First Nations Board of native people has been formed, contact with sculptors and architects has resulted in preliminary drawings, a financial estimate has been drawn up by a Hill City Foundary, a board member has started a budget estimate, and other arrangements have been made with the notion that city participation and assistance can now be requested.

Our next step is fund raising but the board wishes to obtain the site before that phase begins.

It is our hope that the city will 1) pass a resolution so that the project can go forward, and 2) the city will offer its facilities, skills, and expertise as quickly as possible to assist with the project.

Elizabeth Cook-Lynn, 605-341-3228 elizcly@aol.com