

For August 2018 Park Commission Meeting - China Garden Name Approval

Names approved by unanimous vote by the MN China Friendship Garden Society

Official English Name: St. Paul-Changsha China Friendship Garden

Official Chinese Name: 柳明園 [Liǔ míng yuán = Willow + brightness/MN + Garden]

These 3 Chinese characters are highly symbolic and meaningful and will be carved on the upper crossbeam of the West Entrance Arch, calligraphy by Chinese Calligrapher Weiming Lu.

This name reflects the many large willow trees in Phalen Park. The Willow tree is highly symbolic in Chinese culture. *When people left home they were often given willow twigs as a parting gift as li sounds the same as 離 lí 'to part'. Willows will sprout readily from cuttings and so a tree could be planted to give a continual reminder of home. In China, presenting a twig of willow to another person is also a way of expressing that you want them to stay. The word for willow is liu, the same as the word for stay, although they are pronounced with different tones.*

These characters also reference the line from the famous poem expressing beauty and hope by Lu You, "A Trip to Mountain West Village:"

山重水复疑无路，柳暗花明又一村。 shān zhòng shuǐ fù yí wú lù , liǔ àn huā míng yòu yī cūn.
"After endless mountains and rivers that leave doubt whether there's really a path out; Suddenly one encounters the shade of a willow and bright flowers, leading to lovely village."

In other words, after encountering many obstacles on one's journey, suddenly there is hope.

Official Hmong Name: LUB VAJ PHOOJ YWG ["The Garden of Friendship"]

Official Poetic Name: St. Paul-Changsha China Friendship Garden of Whispering Willows and Flowing Waters

Logo (Final design in process): This logo will be carved on a large entrance stone just inside the grounds near the West Entrance Arch, and will be used on letterhead, etc:

