2019 RES-235
IN SUPPORT OF CHANGING THE NAME OF SQUAW BAY

Dane County occupies part of the ancestral lands of the Ho-Chunk Nation, formerly known as the Wisconsin Winnebago Tribe. The county acknowledges this occupation, and the county values and celebrates the historical significance of these lands for the Ho-Chunk Nation.

Some names once assigned to geographic features in the past are inappropriate and offensive to the Ho-Chunk Nation. The Southeast corner of Lake Monona, Squaw Bay, is one such name.

Ho-Chunk members were known to excel as fur trappers when this land was their land. The muskrat, one animal trapped, remains highly revered and celebrated by the Ho-Chunk Nation. In 2005, the Ho-Chunk Nation Traditional Court recommended renaming Squaw Bay to Muskrat Bay, and have recently renewed this request. This name change has not yet been completed. The word muskrat in the Ho-Chunk language is Wicawak (We-chow-ek).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Dane County Board of Supervisors requests the Dane County Department of Planning and Development to make application to the Wisconsin Geographic Names Council by October 1, 2019 to change the name of Squaw Bay to Wicawak Bay.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Dane County Board of Supervisors supports the application to the Wisconsin Geographic Names Council and the U.S. Board of Geographic Names to change the name of Squaw Bay to Wicawak Bay.