

*Mark Browning, community relations VP for NIC, explains change of Fort Sherman Park name to Cheamkwet Park in honor of Coeur d'Alene Tribe:*

Maybe I can help. The reason we (NIC) are dedicating Cheamkwet (CHEE-em-kwet) Park is simply this: We agreed to do so. A number of years ago, the NIC Board of Trustees entered into what is known as the 9-Points Agreement with the Coeur d'Alene Tribe. As part of the 9-Points Agreement, we will co-name significant buildings/rooms/parks with both an english name and a Coeur d'Alene Tribal name. Ft. Sherman Park was never "officially" named by the NIC Board of Trustees. It simply was just called that but no official action was ever recorded. After consultation with all the parties involved, it was decided to officially name and dedicate it as Cheamkwet Park, which means "at the headwaters". There are number of references and tributes to the history/legacy of Ft. Sherman both here on campus and in the surrounding neighborhoods (Fort Ground Neighborhood btw). We have the Ft. Sherman Officers' Quarters, the Fort Sherman Powder Magazine, the Sherman Administration Building, Sherman Ave and more. The Coeur d'Alenes have a rich and storied tradition here in this area and in particular with the area that NIC now has calls home. I appreciate your comment but we're quite proud of the new name, our efforts to fulfill our part of the 9-Points Agreement and to continue to find ways to bring folks together in our community. And even though it's quite clear you're not a fan of the proper tribal name, I'd still love to have you as my guest tonight for some great food, some nice music and hopefully a wonderful evening of celebrating all of our community. C'mon down! MB