'Hiawatha' Would Draw Tourists: Chamber Head

The name 'Hiawatha' for an Indian statue to be erected in Riverside Park will attract more tourists and attention than any other Indian name.

So said Ross E. Hunt, president of the Greater La Crosse Chamber of Commerce, in a letter to Robert Farnam, president of the La Crosse County Historical Society.

The historical society is interested that local history not be lost in naming the Indian.

The name 'Hiawatha' was picked by the city-county-chamber publicity committee.

"Hiawatha" would draw more publicity for La Crosse.

"I am sure you understand the chamber is a good booster for your organization," Hunt wrote.

"And that many of our members are also members of the La Crosse County Historical Society and staunch backers of it."

The naming of the statue also is before the Common Council.

Alderman George Bonsack (6th Ward), who presented the question to the Council, said he felt it wasn't a decision that the board of park commissioners should make.