



**City of Hamilton**  
**GENERAL ISSUES COMMITTEE**  
**ADDENDUM**

**Meeting #:** 24-008  
**Date:** May 1, 2024  
**Time:** 9:30 a.m.  
**Location:** Council Chambers (GIC)  
Hamilton City Hall  
71 Main Street West

Angela McRae, Legislative Coordinator (905) 546-2424 ext. 5987

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**1. CEREMONIAL ACTIVITIES**

- \*1.1 National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and Two-Spirit People(MMIWG2S+)

**5. COMMUNICATIONS**

- 5.1 Correspondence from Diane Gower Dent PhD, Founder Durand Neighbourhood Association 1972, Vice Chair Heritage Hamilton Foundation, Chair Friends of Auchmar, respecting the proposed new name Magnolia Hall for the former St Mark's Church.

- \*a. Additional Correspondence from Diane Gower Dent respecting Item 10.3 - Facility Naming Sub-Committee Report 24-001

Recommendation: Be received and referred to consideration of Item 1 of Facility Naming Sub-Committee Report 24-001 (Item 10.3).

- \*5.2 Correspondence from Roberta Harman, President, Durand Neighbourhood Association respecting agenda Item 10.3 - Facility Naming.

Recommendation: Be received and referred to consideration of Item 1 of Facility Naming Sub-Committee Report 24-001 (Item 10.3).

- \*5.3 Correspondence from Janice Brown, DNA Board Member 1995-2023, Durand Honorary Member 2024, respecting the Proposal to Rename the former St Marks Church.

Recommendation: Be received and referred to consideration of Item 1 of Facility Naming Sub-Committee Report 24-001 (Item 10.3).

## 6. DELEGATION REQUESTS

- \*6.1 Shelby Alicia, respecting homelessness and the correlation to REITs in Hamilton (In Person) (For a future meeting)

**From:** Dent, Diane  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 30, 2024 11:02 AM  
**To:** [cityclerks@hamilton.ca](mailto:cityclerks@hamilton.ca)  
**Cc:** Gauthier, Matt <[Matt.Gauthier@hamilton.ca](mailto:Matt.Gauthier@hamilton.ca)>  
**Subject:** Durand Hall at St Marks

**External Email:** Use caution with links and attachments

Dear Members of Hamilton City Council,

I am writing to you to ask -- Please support Durand Hall at St Marks as the new name --NOT -  
- Magnolia.

The renaming of St Marks should be transparent. I do not do facebook , thus I was not aware of the renaming process. Durand and citizens of Hamilton should have a say.

- Is Engage Hamilton and is the renaming committee following the "Policy Statement of Intent"? What about transparency? --the aim of this new council! Has there been a Town Hall meeting?
- There is nothing geographically or historically significant for Magnolia Hall. Magnolias can be found throughout southern Ontario, brought here through imported nursery stock.

Please remember ---

The Durand Neighbourhood Association was founded in September 1972, when residents came together to bring stability to their neighbourhood.

**The Durand Neighbourhood Association, recently celebrated 50 years of uninterrupted community service.**

The Durand Neighbourhood has been involved in urban city planning, revitalization of a decaying downtown, control of development and demolition, support of innovative housing, and preservation of heritage sites such as the Carnegie Library now the Unified family Court and the Bank of Montreal Building adaptive reuse - to name a few. Members' meetings are held regularly with input from all citizens..That is citizens working together for the betterment of the community.

We saved Central Public School from demolition. It is now thriving.

We went to the OMB to have a neighbourhood park.

Former councillors Robert Morrow, William McCulloch, Vince Agro, Reg Wheeler, Dennis Carson, Geraldine Copps, Chad Collins and others encouraged public participation in municipal decision-making

As for St Mark's, if it were not for former Mayor Bob Morrow, Aldermen Agro, McCulloch, LACAC, Heritage Hamilton Foundation and the Durand Neighbourhood Association, there would not have been this new community /event space and public garden.

Mayor Bob Morrow, Councillor of Ward 2 Willim McCulloch and I met with Canon Peter Moore to ensure the preservation of St Marks.

Since the early 1990s, through decades of former and current Durand Neighbourhood Association Board Members, engaged Duranders and other municipal leaders including Andrea Horwath, Ron Corsini, Bob Bratina, Fred Eisenberger Jason Farr, Culture & Tourism Staff, Anna Bradford, Ian Kerr Wilson and Heritage Planner Nina Chapple, has been unwavering.

As the founder of the Durand Neighbourhood Association in 1972 and as a citizen of the City of Hamilton, I am disappointed, saddened, astonished, flabbergasted that a name such as Magnolia would ever have been considered by any member of Hamilton City Council or staff.

St Marks will be a community space, a green space, a park for this downtown densely populated neighbourhood.

Magnolias will provide neither shade nor respect for our culture or our past.

Other trees that are **native** to this area, when planted, would be welcomed by visitors at Durand Hall at St Marks, at St Mark's Park in Durand.

The traditional practice of naming municipal property, buildings, and features after significant geographical or historical elements is recognizing and paying tribute to our past.

In my opinion, Magnolia would obliterate our past..

Please do not ignore Hamilton's past.

Thank you for the opportunity to send this letter and possibly to speak tomorrow at your 9:30am meeting.

Respectfully,

Diane

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Dr Diane Gower Dent

**From:** DNA President <[president@durandna.com](mailto:president@durandna.com)>

**Sent:** Monday, April 29, 2024 9:10 AM

**To:** McRae, Angela <[Angela.McRae@hamilton.ca](mailto:Angela.McRae@hamilton.ca)>; [clerk@hamilton.ca](mailto:clerk@hamilton.ca); Ward 13 <[ward13@hamilton.ca](mailto:ward13@hamilton.ca)>; Ward 12 Office <[ward12@hamilton.ca](mailto:ward12@hamilton.ca)>; Jackson, Tom <[Tom.Jackson@hamilton.ca](mailto:Tom.Jackson@hamilton.ca)>; Francis, Matt <[Matt.Francis@hamilton.ca](mailto:Matt.Francis@hamilton.ca)>; Kroetsch, Cameron <[Cameron.Kroetsch@hamilton.ca](mailto:Cameron.Kroetsch@hamilton.ca)>; Office of the Mayor <[Officeofthe.Mayor@hamilton.ca](mailto:Officeofthe.Mayor@hamilton.ca)>

**Subject:** General Issues Committee Written Submission for May 1, 2024 Meeting

**External Email:** Use caution with links and attachments

**RE: General Issues Committee May 1, 2024 Meeting**

**Agenda Item 10.3 Facility Naming**

The Durand Neighbourhood Association Board are in receipt of a flurry of comments from the membership relating to the decision to rename the St. Mark's facility to Magnolia Hall. The board submitted an alternative name to the membership which for practical purposes established our position. The letter to our membership is attached.

Feedback from our membership has stated that they are not opposed to the use of the Durand name as it "pays homage to the community that has advocated for over three decades to safeguard this area for the neighbourhood" but are opposed to the word Common and are also opposed to losing the historical reference to St. Mark's.

We would like to also point out that the word Magnolia has no historical, architectural or cultural connection to this property or connection to the City.

Feedback we have received favours using "Durand Hall at St. Mark's".

Roberta Harman, President,  
Durand Neighbourhood Association



## Reminder: St. Mark's Church Renaming



Dear Duranders,

We hope this message finds you well. We wanted to share an important update from the DNA Board of Directors regarding the renaming of St. Mark's Church.

During our recent meeting on Wednesday, February 21, we discussed the renaming of this historical site, considering its significance to our community. As many of you know, the DNA has played a pivotal role in preserving this property as a valuable community space.

After thoughtful deliberation, one name that resonated strongly with us is "**Durand Common**." The term "Common," defined as "a piece of open land for public use," reflects our vision for this space as a shared resource for everyone. Additionally, "Durand" pays homage to the community that has advocated for over three decades to safeguard this area for the neighbourhood.

We understand that while some may always refer to it as St. Mark's, it's essential that the name reflects the collective identity of our community. Your voice matters in this decision-making process.

If you support the name "Durand Common," we encourage you to participate in the survey. The deadline for voting is March 1, so there's still time to make your voice heard. [Simply click here to access the survey.](#)

If you wish to suggest another name, please select the "suggest a name" tab within the survey tool.

We appreciate your participation, together let's shape the future of our community spaces.

Warm Regards,

**Roberta Harman, President**

On behalf of the Durand Neighbourhood Association

For more information on the history of St. Mark's Church and the efforts to preserve it, [please refer to the document linked here.](#)

Clerks Office  
 GIC - Wednesday, May 1, 2024  
 Proposal to Rename the former St Marks Church

Dear Members of City Council

Please do not support the proposal to Rename the former St Marks Church Magnolia Hall

Engage Hamilton, did not follow the "Policy Statement of Intent".

- Continue the traditional practice of naming municipal property, buildings, and features after significant geographical or historical elements
- Recognize on an exceptional basis, significant contributions that organizations or individuals have made to the public life and the well-being of the City of Hamilton

There is nothing significant geographically or historically for Magnolia Hall. Magnolias can be found throughout southern Ontario, brought here through US nursery stock, via China and Asia.

#### HISTORY:

The Durand Neighbourhood Association and its residents came together in the early 70's to bring stability to their neighbourhood. It has been involved in urban city planning, revitalization of a decaying downtown, control of development and demolition, support of innovative housing, preservation of heritage sites, saving a public school, creating a park and encouraging public participation in municipal decision-making. Durand recently celebrated 50 years of uninterrupted community service.

As for St Mark's, if it were not for former Aldermen Agro, McCullough, Mayor Bob Morrow, LACAC and the Durand Neighbourhood Association, there would not have been this new community /event space and public garden. Since the early 1990s, the advocacy through decades of former and current DNA Board Members, engaged Duranders and other municipal leaders including Andrea Horwath, Ron Corsini, Bob Bratina, Fred Eisenberger Jason Farr, Culture & Tourism Staff, Anna Bradford, Ian Kerr Wilson and Heritage Planner Nina Chapple has been unwavering. The Association and Duranders remained adamant that St Marks be a community space and a green space for this downtown dense neighbourhood; staving off another hi-rise development, several Request For Proposals for best and highest use, and a purchase by an organization that not only failed to find the funds but was in legal difficulties!

Finally, in 2015, the council-directed St Marks Feasibility Study was presented to the Council

Duranders and the Ward 2 community were actively involved;

- \$100,000 from Ward 2's 2014 Participatory Budget;
- \$280,000 from the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario (FedDev Ontario) – sesquicentennial project;
- \$280,000 from the Tourism and Culture Division's Capital block funding for 2016 – pending Council's approval;

- \$400,000 from Ward 2's 2015 Area Rating – sesquicentennial project.
- volunteered with Staff opening St Marks to Doors Open in 2016. We received almost 500 visitors.
- Participating in the 2022 groundbreaking ceremony

\*When the restoration was approved by Council in 2016, to recognize the efforts the Durand Neighbourhood Association and the Community, the DNA would be permitted to use the facility for meetings and events with the provision they help to look after the gardens of the designated open space. I was a the Chair of the Garden Team that met with staff during this time. I am glad to hear that Staff are still engaged with the DNA to finally have a community space to hold their meetings.

In light of the engagement of the DNA and the Durand community over the last 30 years, the public participation exercise Engage Hamilton Rename St Marks was inadequate and skewed. Names were suggested by the Staff and the Councillor. For any that wished to suggest an alternate name, instructions were given to not use St Marks. Yet, for any of us who have followed the timeline once the Feasibility Study was approved by the Council, the former St Marks was referred to as St Marks Centre both on the website and the onsite display board at St Marks during the entire restoration and new build.

There was no Town Hall or opportunity to hear from Duranders who do not participate in FB. I recall one Spectator newspaper article.

Surely the volunteer efforts and advocacy of this outstanding Association and Duranders to engage its community should be recognized. Lets call the former St Marks **Durand Hall**. Only fitting to celebrate the efforts of Duranders since 1972!

Janice Brown

DNA Board Member-1995-2023

Durand Honorary Member 2024



Submitted on Mon, 04/29/2024 - 17:22

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Committee Requested**

Committee  
General Issues Committee

Will you be delegating in-person or virtually?  
In-person

Will you be delegating via a pre-recorded video?  
No

**Requestor Information**

Requestor Information  
Shelby Alicia

Preferred Pronoun  
she/her

Reason(s) for delegation request  
Homelessness and the correlation to REITs in Hamilton

Will you be requesting funds from the City?  
No

Will you be submitting a formal presentation?  
No