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**To:** [Kolar, Loren](#); [Carson, Katie](#)  
**Subject:** Correspondence FNSC - Lechniak  
**Date:** May 25, 2021 9:07:49 AM

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**From:** Stephen Lechniak [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** May 23, 2021 7:16 PM  
**To:** [clerk@hamilton.ca](mailto:clerk@hamilton.ca)  
**Subject:** Brightside Park –Correspondence for Facility Naming Committee/GIC

**Brightside Park – Correspondence for Facility Naming Committee/GIC**

I am writing with enthusiastic support for naming our newest lower-city green space project, **Brightside Park**. The historical significance of this name goes a long way in recognizing the efforts of many to honour the memory of a vibrant nearby neighbourhood which no longer exists. The name itself will commemorate a hopeful community that endeavoured to afford their children a better future. That same hope will live on in this new parkland, a playground for young and old in a much needed and long overdue area of our beautiful city.

Brightside was a special neighbourhood. It thrived in the shadows of gritty, belching steel mills and yet managed to produce a bevy of outstanding citizens, not the least of which was Quinto Martini, Member of Parliament. From internationally renowned doctors like Dr. Victor Cecilioni to outstanding lawyers like Roger Yachetti and well known sports figures like John Michaluk, Brightside has proven time and again that an enclave of blue-collar, hard-working citizens can rise up and contribute to this city's success. The new Brightside Park can serve its nearby residents with pride in its history and hope for its future. The children of Stipley neighbourhood will have much finer amenities than the Brightside kids ever did or could have hoped for. With the foresight of the City of Hamilton, this neighbourhood can grow to appreciate the children that came before them. Brightside Park will help them to recognize the well-earned achievements that under-privileged kids from Brightside have brought to Hamilton.

With a multi-use sports field, playgrounds and picnic areas, Brightside Park will not only meet the needs of the existing local community, but will bring pride to a dedicated group of former Brightsiders and their descendants who have lobbied hard for years to earn a place of distinction for their former much-loved neighbourhood. A re-claimed vibrant parkland in the middle of what once was a heavy industrialized area will be the catalyst that binds this neighbourhood together, provides hope and shows the path to success, just like the kids from Brightside learned, many decades ago.

My name is Stephen Lechniak. I curate and maintain a Facebook Page dedicated solely to the memory of Brightside. "Brightside Memories" has 627 followers, dozens of first-hand stories and approximately 1500 photos; most of them user-contributed and many not published anywhere else.

Brightside lives on!

Stephen Lechniak

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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"**Brightside Memories**" on Facebook

[REDACTED]