

4.4 (b)

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Planning Committee - May 31, 2022

From: Loretta Jaunzarins

Sent: Thursday, June 2, 2022 12:52 PM

To: Kelsey, Lisa <Lisa.Kelsey@hamilton.ca>

Cc: Daniel Green Darryl Firsten

Subject: Re: Planning Committee - May 31, 2022

Hi Lisa and below are the comments I was going to make at the meeting on May 31.

Good morning and thank you for allowing me to speak to the development proposal known as 1107 Main St. W.

My name is Loretta Jaunzarins and I was the Pastor at Grace Lutheran Church from 2005 - 2021, now part of the pastoral team at Trinity Lutheran.

We sold the property in November 2017 to the Adas Israel Synagogue and partners. We knew that a housing development was planned for the property and that the building would be demolished and supported the vision for housing for the Adas Israel community and the neighbourhood.

I want to bring to your attention the letter read by Councillor Wilson at the May 31st meeting. Unlike the writer of the letter implied, Grace was not a discriminated against German speaking congregation. Grace came into being in 1955 out of an expansion of an English/German speaking congregation in downtown Hamilton as an English only congregation. Many small housing sites were purchased to form the Grace Lutheran parcel accomplished with the help of the Rt. Hon. Ellen Fairclough in the late 1950's. Politically, Hamilton was in favour of a Christian church on Main St. West, over a Jewish synagogue. Grace was never excluded from the Westdale neighbourhood because of ethnicity etc but because of the cost of land which was much cheaper on the Ainslie Wood side of Main. We had a friendly relationship with the Adas Israel over all those years and the neighbourhood.

I agree with the heritage architect who attended the meeting on May 31st. The Grace Lutheran building is deceiving from the outside. The limestone finish is stunning but inside the sanctuary is plain, built of cement block with no architectural significance. The Agreement of Sale and Purchase specifies that the stain glass remain the property of the congregation, now amalgamated with Trinity Lutheran. In 2021 we removed many of the stain glass windows except for the very large one on the west wall. We plan to salvage as much as possible of that window when the facade is dismantled. We support the integration of the facade, arches and another stone into the new development. We support the concept of a community garden and the planting of as many trees as possible at ground level and higher levels. We hope that native species that can tolerate a busy street will be planted.

The city is changing rapidly and must respond to the number of people now calling Hamilton home, the lack of diversity in housing along that stretch of Main W, the needs of McMaster University and the installation of the LRT.

Sincerely,

Rev. Loretta Jaunzarins

Rev. Loretta Jaunzarins M.Div., PCSG, CPCA
Pastoral Team
Trinity Lutheran Church
104 Hughson St. N
Hamilton, ON L8R 1C6
905-974-9878 (church office)
trinity-hamilton.com

"Think of a narrative thread in your own life that could use a better storyline, and like a new pen on a clean page, begin writing your way to a happy ending." Carrie Newcomer (song writer, poet and prairie mystic)