

Re: St Mark's submission, Thursday April 18, 2024

Attention: Matt Gauthier, City of Hamilton

Members of the Facility Naming Sub-Committee

- Councillor Craig Cassar, Chair
- Councillor Matt Francis.
- Councillor Tom Jackson
- Councillor Alex Wison.

Dear Sub-committee members,

I am writing to ask that you do not accept the proposed new name Magnolia Hall for the former St Mark's Church. This renaming is of great concern to me because;

- I do have a Facebook account and therefore was not aware of the renaming of St Marks and who to contact.
- No Town Hall meeting has taken place. Why? All citizens have a right to be informed and play a role. That is democracy.
- In my opinion the Survey ignored the City of Hamilton Municipal Property and Building Name Policy specifically the intent of the Policy Statement, and Naming Criteria and Guidelines.
- I researched and learned that February 23rd, 2005, the Facility Naming Sub-Committee was established by Council. The Objectives were to develop a policy and make recommendations to the General Issues Committee respecting requests to name municipal facilities and or properties. The current City of Hamilton Municipal Property and Building Name Policy was updated and is current as of 2016. Is this protocol being followed?
- I presume Engage Hamilton is a new and interactive online space for Hamiltonians. Do citizens of Hamilton know how to engage with this new online system?
- In my opinion, The Engage Hamilton Rename St Marks is flawed and possibly biased.
- In my opinion it is not the citizens who are making the renaming recommendation. It is staff and the councillor of the ward, who were not present when Mayor Bob Morrow, Councillors of ward 2, Bill McCulloch, Vince Agro, along with Canon Peter Moore and I met to discuss the possible transfer of ownership to the City of Hamilton
- In my opinion it is the responsibility of the Durand Neighbourhood Association (formed in 1972) along with the citizens of Hamilton and members of city council, to have major input to decide the re-naming not Tourism and Culture Division staff. That is why a Town Hall should be held prior to any renaming decision, with input from citizens, the Municipal Heritage Committee and all city councillors.
- The name should refer to Hamilton's history or culture. What significance does Magnolia have for Hamiltonians in need of strengthening their attachment to and their love of the city?

- How does Magnolia capture what is specifically the Hamilton identity? In my opinion there is no connection.
- James Durand sold his lands to George Hamilton. St Marks is located in the Durand Neighbourhood; thus the name Durand has significance for St Marks.
- The Durand Meeting Place at St Marks as once suggested would honour Hamilton's history.

Community consultation is vital; therefore, I hope and trust one of your recommendations will be to set up a Town Hall meeting so that all city councillors will send an invitation to their constituents.

Thank you for receiving my letter.

Sincerely,

Diane Gower Dent PhD

Founder Durand Neighbourhood Association 1972

Vice Chair Heritage Hamilton Foundation

Chair Friends of Auchmar