

On Renaming Town Hall

Kathy,

We would appreciate your forwarding our opinion to the Mayor and Council.

Urszula and Andrzej

Urszula and I had walked with our successive dachshunds in Washington Grove for more than 30 years before we moved herer. Then we viewed it as a uniquely beautiful and idyllic place. Beautiful it still is. But our naive view of the Grove as a paradise on earth was sha ered by the debate around the RASEC report and resolutions as well as the proposal to rename the McCathran Hall. Both have released a mix of positive and (mostly) negative emotions. Thus, our community mirrors, more than we thought, the nation as whole, which has been convulsed by racial tensions.

As to Hall's name, we have heard enough arguments from both sides to make up our minds. We believe that extending the debate around the issue won't make it more meaningful or bring any more suggestions of solution. So far, there are three proposals on the table, or rather on the listserv platform:

- Rename the Hall
- Leave the name as is
- Leave the name, but add a plaque explaining the historic context, as suggested by Ann Philips and Ken Shapiro.

We support holding a plebiscite, as suggested by Eva Patrone, to decide which way to go. The sooner we hold such a plebiscite, the better, because the controversy is likely to fester until is resolved, spoiling neighborly relations and the community spirit.

Also, it's worth noting that the majority of residents haven't spoken yet, most likely, because they don't want to aggravate the community spirit further.

Urszula Zwaniecki
Andrzej Zwaniecki