

Plantations Two Community Conversation November 3, 2022

On November 3, 2022, approximately 80 people attended a facilitated discussion on the community name. Speakers signed up to speak at the meeting and were randomly selected. Each speaker was given 3 minutes to express their thoughts and opinions about the community's name. The following represents the comments made by speakers that evening.

Other comments were submitted in writing and can be reviewed [here](#).

1. People knew the name of our community when they purchased their home. Homes are selling well (market value is not negatively impacted by name). Changing name erases history and removes the reminder of the stain slavery is on our country. There will be a cost to make the change (one number is \$25,000). It is deceptive to change name in that the name on deed will be different than new name.

2. The name reflects our history and those who were enslaved in Maryland. The name honors the nameless slaves. Changing the name erases history. Need to honor Josiah Hanson, JoAnn Bland, Harriett Tubman and others named. We have value in our homes now – changing the name will erase reputation. Keep name the same – the cost of change is burden. Consistent with point of view of Civil Rights Leader in Selma who does not want to change the name of Edmund Pettus Bridge. Community is diverse now.

3. I am new to community. If changing community name but not changing name of Plantations I feels like a half-hearted change. "Plantation" is not a name that bothers me. The way I see it the community has two choices:

- Erase the past.
- Know the name and the reason for it.

Would support the change if there was a financial reason to do so – e.g. homes not selling. (This person later spoke again toward the end of the meeting and applauded the community for having the courage to have the conversation.)

4. Plantations II is a wonderful community – safe, welcoming. The current name reinforces our history of injustice in the US – a system with whites on top; blacks on bottom. The original marketing of the community touted "have what Robert E Lee had." Plantations in history regularly harmed black slaves. Name still harms and brings up pain and hardship. Analogy would be to name a community "Holocaust Hills."

5. We purchased our home here for the community and for the schools.
“Plantations” has negative connotations, but it doesn’t really make a difference if we change the name but the legal name, name on deeds does not change.
Put money toward how we connect with others.
Concerns about costs of name change.
People will not be able to find our homes and our community if the name is removed from the sign.

6. I didn’t know the history until tonight – that slaves were owned on this land. The fact that people were enslaved here makes me feel even stronger that we should keep the “Plantations II” name. Be proud of our country, where we are now. Evil of slavery was corrected and apologized for. History makes me even more proud of this history. (This person spoke again later in the meeting to reinforce considering the danger of erasing history).

7. Changing signs does not change history. Keep the name as a teaching tool for our kids. Reflect that we now have a nice, diverse community. Put a financial contribution toward a charity that supports Black History or the telling of History.

8. We love this neighborhood.
Original impressions: beautiful, thrilled to raise our kids here.
Two years ago when friends (African American) were visiting I felt ashamed of telling them we live in the “Plantations Two” community.
The name represents oppression and violence to my friends.

9. The amount we will need to invest to change the name of the community is overstated.
The committee identified low-cost ways to change the name.
Corporations change their names all the time.
We have a beautiful community with tree-lined streets.
What value does the name “Plantations II” add?
We can do better – it is time to rebrand ourselves.
We have a beautiful community – why add anxiety with the current name.

10. Not opposed to name change.
Assessments keep going up.
If we decide to change the name, I want to do so without: raising assessments, a special assessment or tapping capital reserves.

11. I’d like to begin by talking about Harley’s plantation farm. This was a peanut farm owned by an immigrant black family. I worked on that plantation.
No one wants to erase history- don’t take our name away.
There have been so many changes – Statue in Wilmington – was called Rodney Square, now Emancipation Square – to me that is erasing history -Dismay to change the name.
Kids don’t know what they are coming back to.

12. I'd like to begin by reading the National Geographic definition of "plantation" – historically staffed by indentured servants, then indigenous people and then eventually slaves brought from Africa. It is a forced labor camp.

Maryland Archives has recorded that in 1664 the Slave Law was passed – created a legal presumption that all blacks were slaves until abolished in Maryland in 1864.

Slaves worked much of farmland in Montgomery County and the very land we are on.

I did think about this when I moved in – Now it feels very important to change the name to have a positive environment to raise a child.

13. 23/26 years in the community. Concerns about who brought idea to change name to Board (captured in questions).

14. Raised 3 kids here and purchased the 7th house sold on Pecan Lane.

Kids went to Woodfield ES, Baker, Damascus HS. Quote "The place disagreement/divide is about wanting to hold onto a nostalgic version of the past vs moving toward the future."

No one in this room had direct experience of slavery.

Who knows the names of those enslaved here. Reads some of the names Isaac, Sam, Sarah, Harriett, Thomas There is power in a name.

I ask you to ask yourself "What is the basis of our current name?" "Why do you embrace it?"

15. I live on Dixie Ridge Terrace. New to community.

Name is very hurtful to our family.

Sons are 4 and 6 and we are worried about raising them here.

Name weighs on me and my family every day. There were people who bled and died here.

Even if the name does not impact you, know that it impacts many deeply.

Small things are a big olive branch – we can make a small change that will make a big difference.

16. When I purchased my home I never saw the sign. If I did it would have changed my mind. Lived here 10 years.

I have 3 black friends who told me they will not come to the community – they are concerned they will not be welcomed.

Breaks my heart that my black friend who is a business owner could not bring herself to buy here due to the name of the community.

17. Lived here 36 years. Greatest neighborhood. Never heard anyone complain. Knew name when they moved in – why did they move in. I am a fisherman. My friends who I fish with and who help me like I am their grandfather are black Muslims. I love them. I am Jewish. My wife Italian.

I never thought about the name having to do with slaves.

If you don't like the name, move.

Questions Asked

1. Would like names of those who served on name change committee meeting notes are posted on the HOA meeting monthly reports. The name committee was comprised of community members. All name committee meetings were announced and open to the community.
2. Question – Is “Plantations I” community changing its name? The proposal is related to Plantations Two only. The Plantations (Plantations One) is a separate community with its own homeowners’ association.
3. Who initiated considering name change? Committee or Board? Community members brought the suggestion to the Board for consideration.
4. If we change community name does it impact the Street Names? No impact on street names.