

Renaming Grandin Community What We Heard Report

Public Engagement Insights on Potential Name Changes and
Community Perspectives



RENAMING GRANDIN COMMUNITY WHAT WE HEARD REPORT

Overview

Between February 3 and February 21, 2025, the City of St. Albert conducted public engagement to gather suggested new names for the Grandin neighbourhood and its associated assets (Grandin Road, Lane, Place, Ravine, Pond, and Clubhouse) in anticipation of a potential renaming. While the survey was designed to collect name recommendations, some participants also provided feedback on whether a name change should occur. A total of **335** responses were received. This report provides additional detail on the specific themes, suggestions, and concerns participants raised. All feedback summarized here will be considered under **Municipal Naming Policy (C-CC-05)**.

Public Input and Survey Interpretation

Understanding the Purpose of the Engagement Process

The engagement process was designed to gather proposed new names in anticipation of a potential renaming, as the Municipal Naming Policy (C-CC-05). The policy outlines a two-step decision-making process:

1. Council must first decide whether to rename the Grandin neighbourhood and its associated assets.
2. If Council decides to proceed with renaming, a new name (names) will be selected based on public feedback and in alignment with the City's naming criteria.

How Participants Used the Survey to Address Renaming

Despite the survey's intent on gathering new name suggestions, many participants used the open-ended response fields, particularly the "Provide Rationale" section, to express their views on whether or not renaming should occur. Specifically:

- Some participants proposed "Grandin" as a suggested name in an effort to retain the existing name.
- Others used the rationale section to argue against renaming, rather than explaining how their suggested names met the selection criteria.

This was not the survey's original intent but reflects the public interest in the broader renaming discussion.

Participation Snapshot

- **Total Responses:** 335
- **Location:**
 - Grandin residents: 149 (44 percent)
 - Other St. Albert neighbourhoods: 176 (53 per cent)
 - Business owner: 1
 - Visitor/other connection: 5
 - Work/study in St. Albert, live elsewhere: 4
- **Familiarity** (multiple selections allowed):
 - Very familiar: 175
 - Somewhat familiar: 148
 - Not very familiar: 13
 - Not familiar at all: 2
 - Total “familiarity” mentions: 338

What We Heard in Detail

1. Reconciliation and Inclusivity

- **Strong Emphasis on Indigenous Recognition**
Over half of the open-ended comments explicitly mentioned the importance of reflecting or honouring First Nations and Métis heritage. Participants often connected the renaming to a broader need for reconciliation, indicating that names can carry significant cultural weight.
- **Desire for Local Knowledge Keepers**
Many felt new names should be developed in consultation with Elders or community leaders who can accurately represent Indigenous history. There was frequent mention that “tokenistic” changes should be avoided and that meaningful engagement was essential.
- **Link to Contemporary Values**
Respondents favouring renaming frequently stated that municipal names should evolve to reflect current values. Some explicitly argued that continuing to use “Grandin” contradicts the City’s commitments to inclusivity and respect.

“We should consult the knowledge holders in the community to find a name that truly reflects the spirit of this land and its people.”

“This is about more than just a name—it’s about a chance to do right by those who have been overlooked.”

2. Keeping or Changing the Name “Grandin”

- **Mixed Opinions**

Approximately one-third of those leaving open-ended feedback favoured retaining “Grandin,” whereas around two-thirds saw a rename as necessary or at least strongly worth exploring.

- **Reasons for Keeping “Grandin”**

- **Personal and Historical Ties:** Some have lived in Grandin for decades and feel deeply attached to the name. A few commented that “Grandin has never caused them personal offense” and is “part of the city’s history.”
- **Concerns About Erasure:** Several worried that eliminating the name might “erase” or distort local history rather than educating about it.
- **Practical Realities:** Those opposed to change often cited costs, logistical complexity, and potential confusion.

“I’ve lived here for over 30 years. It’s part of my identity, and I’m concerned changing the name won’t fix deeper issues.”

- **Reasons for Changing “Grandin”**

- **Moral and Historical Imperatives:** Many stated that if the name is linked to contentious or harmful historical figures, continuing its use conflicts with the City’s stated values of reconciliation.
- **Desire for Updated Identity:** Some commented that a new name could revitalize local identity and showcase the City’s commitment to learning from the past.
- **Alignment with Indigenous and Botanical Themes:** Several proposals (e.g., Goldenrod, Gagnon, Savard) reflected local flora/fauna or Métis/First Nations family names.

“If we keep Grandin, we must be certain it doesn’t undermine our reconciliation efforts.”

3. Costs and Logistics

- **Address and Signage**

Most Grandin residents (as self-identified in open-ended feedback) expressed worry about updating their personal documents, home addresses, business registrations, and other official records. Several asked the City to provide transitional support or at least a timeline for when changes would occur.

- **Who Pays?**

Numerous respondents wanted clarity on whether the City would absorb all or part of the cost for new road signs and whether homeowners would be compensated or assisted with changes to property deeds, driver’s licenses, etc.

- **Phased or Gradual Implementation**

About 20 percent of the comments referencing costs suggested a phased approach to mitigate financial strain and reduce confusion for emergency services, postal delivery, and mapping systems.

“Renaming might be fine, but I need to know if I’m stuck paying for every address update.”

4. Name Suggestions and Rationale

- **Consideration of “Grandin” as a Suggested Name**

A number of respondents proposed retaining “Grandin” as their suggested name, with Grandin being mentioned 207 times. While all submissions were reviewed, the engagement was designed to collect potential replacement names should Council decide to proceed with renaming. Since “Grandin” is the existing name rather than a new proposal, it does not meet the criteria under the Municipal Naming Policy (C-CC-05) and has been omitted from the list of names.

- **Focus on the Letter “G”**

Most new names proposed began with G (e.g., Gaillardia, Ghostkeeper, Gagnon), maintaining continuity with the existing naming convention for the neighbourhood. Many participants felt this would help preserve local identity and mitigate confusion.

- **First Nations or Métis Families**

Suggestions like *Savard*, *Gagnon*, and *Benoit* reflected early settlers or leaders in the area with a Métis background. Several comments highlighted these families’ deep roots and contributions to St. Albert’s development.

- **Botanical and Natural Themes**

Names like *Goldenrod*, *Gooseberry*, and *Green Ridge* were repeatedly proposed as an extension of St. Albert’s “Botanical Arts City” branding. Participants emphasized the city’s abundant green spaces and wildlife.

- **Figures with Positive Legacies**

A subset of respondents proposed local civic leaders or historical figures they felt had universally positive reputations—e.g., *Fowler* (a former mayor and MLA).

“‘Savard’ is one of the earliest families here. We should acknowledge them.”

5. Desire for Continued Communication

- **Transparency on the Process**

A significant number of respondents asked for more frequent updates, including:

- Why is the name being reviewed now?
- How new name ideas are being assessed against policy.
- Whether there will be a shortlist or vote before final decisions.

- **Potential for Further Engagement**

About 15 percent of open-ended remarks explicitly urged additional public sessions—like open houses or workshops—so residents can better understand potential names, costs, and timelines.

“Keep us informed: who is deciding, how are they deciding, and what’s the timeline?”

Concluding Observations

Many participants appreciate the opportunity to address historical naming in light of contemporary values. Approximately two-thirds of open-ended responses endorse a rename, citing reconciliation and inclusivity; about one-third either oppose or question whether a name change is worth the disruption or cost. Despite differing opinions, there is a common call for:

- **Clear rationale** behind any decision.
- **Transparent cost allocation** and transitional planning.
- **Meaningful consultation** with Indigenous communities and local residents.

Staff will review these findings against the **Municipal Naming Policy (C-CC-05)** and other relevant guidelines. Any subsequent decision-making process will benefit from the robust insights offered here, including the numerous suggested names and rationales.

Appendix A: Comprehensive List of Proposed Names

Below is a detailed table of all name suggestions, including participant rationales and indications of how each name aligns with policy criteria. The original wording used by participants has been retained as closely as possible.

Name Proposed	Criteria Met	Public Rationale
Astoria	• Historical event or figure	“Came off your list of approved names. One of the first hotels in St. Albert.”

Benoit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognizes Indigenous history, culture, or traditions • Historical event or figure 	“History. Used on Benoit pedestrian bridge, in honour of Joe Benoit who played for the Montreal Canadiens. Other Benois are in the Black Robes.”
Fowler (x2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historical event or figure 	“Richard Sherwood Fowler served St. Albert as a local businessman, Councillor, Mayor, MLA, Solicitor General, Minister of Justice, and Provincial Court Judge. He lived his entire adult life in the Grandin neighbourhood. ‘People like Richard Fowler do not come along very often.’”
Gaa-wiika Park (Gah-WEE-kah)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognizes Indigenous history, culture, or traditions • Reflects diversity • Continues naming theme (“G”) 	“Meaning ‘Never Forgotten’ in Cree, a tribute to Indigenous history.”
Gabourey (x2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognizes Indigenous history, culture, or traditions • Historical event or figure • Reflects diversity • Continues naming theme (“G”) 	“Etienne Gaboury was an architect and distant relative of Louis Riel. Marie-Anne Gaboury Lagimodière was the first European woman to settle in Western Canada and grandmother of Louis Riel. Her courage, sense of adventure, and determination are an inspiration.”
Gadwall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aligns with “Botanical Arts City” brand (flora, fauna) • Recognizes Indigenous history • “G” theme 	“Native duck, significant in Indigenous waterfowl hunting traditions.”
Gagnon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognizes Indigenous history, culture, or traditions • Historical event or figure • “G” theme 	“Recognizing early Métis families like the Gagnons, who lived in the St. Albert area. Donald Gagnon’s life and legacy make him an excellent candidate: strong ties to the city’s heritage, dedicated service, and positive impact on the community. ‘By choosing to honour Donald Gagnon, St. Albert acknowledges its proud Indigenous roots.’”
Gagos	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Botanical Arts/natural elements • Recognizes Indigenous history • “G” theme 	“Dene for ‘swan.’”

Gaiety	• “G” theme	“Feelings of joy and cheerfulness through laughter and positivity in your home.”
Gainly	• “G” theme	“Means graceful.”
Gah	• Botanical Arts/natural elements • Recognizes Indigenous history • “G” theme	“Dene for rabbit/hare.”
Gaillardia (x2)	• Botanical Arts/natural elements • “G” theme	“Native Flower.”
Gall	• Historical event or figure • Reflects diversity • “G” theme	“Honouring Gerald Gall, a longtime St. Albertan of one of the first Jewish families in the city, a defender and promoter of freedom and justice, an authority on Human Rights, recognized as a man of action who championed issues of world concern.”
Galette	• Recognizes Indigenous history, culture, or traditions • “G” theme	“Métis style bannock.”
Gallium	• Botanical Arts/natural elements • Recognizes Indigenous history • “G” theme	“Native plant species.”
Gander	• Botanical Arts/natural elements • “G” theme	“Each suggestion is in keeping with the ‘Migration’ artwork in the roundabout and the water fowl at Grandin Pond. A reference to geese.”
Gannon	• Historical event or figure • “G” theme	“The Gannon family has deep roots in St. Albert, with many generations having lived in the area. ‘There are still many Gannons in the community.’”
Garden (x28) Variations: Garden Valley, Garndens, Garden Ridge, Gardenia (x5), Garnden Grove, Garden Hill, Garden District, The Gardens	• Botanical Arts/natural elements • “G” theme	“Garden” aligns with the Botanical Arts City branding. It’s a lovely name for a community and keeps the ‘G’ theme. Gardens were a common part of Metis homes. A place where families and friends work together, share bounty, and spark conversations.”
Garneau (x2)	• Recognizes Indigenous history, culture, or traditions • Historical event or figure • “G” theme	“Could reference Laurent Garneau, a Métis rebel who fought with Louis Riel, or Marc

		Garneau, the astronaut. Strong French connection.”
Garnet (x2)	• “G” theme	“A red gemstone fitting with nature/beauty.”
Gaspard	• Historical event or figure Reflects diversity• “G” theme	“After Dominique François Gaspard, a WWI hero and doctor of African descent who bridged barriers of race, language, and class.”
Gateway (x2)	• Geography/topographical• “G” theme	“Symbolizes the community as a gateway into St. Albert from Edmonton/Henday. Invites a path to the rest of the city.”
Gatineau	• Geography/topographical• “G” theme	“Named after a river in Quebec.”
Gaudreau	• Historical event or figure• “G” theme	“Keeps the G foundation and French roots of St. Albert.”
George Simpson	• Historical event or figure• “G” theme	“Scottish explorer.”
Geranium	• Botanical Arts/natural elements• “G” theme	“A well-known flower that aligns with St. Albert’s garden-focused identity.”
Gervais	• Historical event or figure. • Continues naming theme (e.g., “g” name).	
Gentian	• Botanical Arts/natural elements• Recognizes Indigenous history• “G” theme	“Native flower, used in traditional Indigenous medicine.”
Ghostkeeper (X7)	• Recognizes Indigenous history, culture, or traditions• Historical event or figure• Reflects diversity• “G” theme	“Honours Métis Elder Tom Ghostkeeper, who advised City officials on Indigenous cultural relations and co-hosted the inaugural National Gathering of Elders in 2017.”
Gillespie (x2)	• Historical event or figure• “G” theme	“Reference to the flour mill built in 1908 and later sold to Gillespie Flour Mills. Part of St. Albert’s heritage.”
Giverny	• Geography/topographical• “G” theme	“French town, home of Monet.”
Giwedinnook (Gee-way-din-nook)	• Botanical Arts/natural elements• Recognizes Indigenous history• Reflects diversity• “G” theme	“Anishinaabe word for ‘North Wind,’ representing the natural beauty of the land.”

Glade(s)	• Geography/topographical• Botanical Arts/natural elements• “G” theme	“Evokes a clearing in a forest, aligning with the city’s natural environment.”
Gladiola	• Botanical Arts/natural elements• “G” theme	“Flower.”
Gladstone (x3)	• Recognizes Indigenous history, culture, or traditions• Historical event/figure• Reflects diversity• “G” theme	“Named after James Gladstone, the first Status Indian to serve in the Canadian Senate. He was an activist for Indigenous interests at a time when Indigenous people could not vote in Canada.”
Gladu	• Historical event or figure• Reflects diversity• “G” theme	“Common last name with local ties.”
Glendale	• Geography/topographical• “G” theme	“‘Glendale’ is a generic name signifying beautiful, fertile land.”
Glenora	• Continues naming theme (e.g., “G” name).	“Nice name associated with Edmonton
Glenmore	• Continues naming theme (e.g., “G” name).	“Calgary resevoir:
Golden (x3) Variations: Golden Hill	• “G” theme	“Many native plants to the area are called ‘golden’ (Golden Aster, Goldenrod, Golden Bean). Gold is rich, timeless, ancient.”
Golden Eagle	• Botanical Arts/natural elements• Recognizes Indigenous history• “G” theme	“One of the largest birds in Alberta, important in Indigenous cultures (honour, strength, courage). Distinctive name.”
Goldenrod (x6)	• Botanical Arts/natural elements• Recognizes Indigenous history• “G” theme	“A native herbaceous perennial used medicinally by Indigenous peoples. Symbolizes the area’s natural heritage.”
Goldeye	• Botanical Arts/natural elements• “G” theme	“Fish species found in Big Lake.”
Goldeneye	• Botanical Arts/natural elements• “G” theme	“Duck species found in Big Lake and near the Grandin duck pond.”
Goldfinch	• Botanical Arts/natural elements• “G” theme	“A native bird to Alberta, fitting local wildlife and the ‘Botanical Arts City’ theme.”
Goodwill	• Recognizes Indigenous history, culture, or traditions• Historical event or figure• Reflects diversity• “G” theme	“Jean Cuthand Goodwill was one of the first Indigenous nurses in Canada and an advocate for Indigenous health.”
Gooseberry (x3)	• Botanical Arts/natural elements• “G” theme	“A plant thriving in Alberta, reinforcing the botanical theme.”

Gosling (x2)	• Botanical Arts/natural elements• “G” theme	“In keeping with the ‘Migration’ artwork and waterfowl near Grandin Pond. Symbolizes young geese.”
Graeg	• “G” theme	“Means ‘grey.’”
Gracious	• “G” theme	“Represents kindness and goodwill.”
Great Lake	• Geography/topographical• Botanical Arts/natural elements• Recognizes Indigenous history• “G” theme	“Refers to the Cree phrase Mista Sakahikun (Big Lake). The English words preserve the ‘G’ theme but present the Cree words as well.”
Great White (Buffalo)	• Botanical Arts/natural elements• Recognizes Indigenous history• “G” theme	“Refers to the great white buffalo, an iconic symbol in Indigenous culture.”
Grainfield	• Botanical Arts/natural elements• “G” theme	“Honors the area’s agricultural and natural heritage.”
Grand (x11) Variations: Grande, Grand Arbre, Grand Bois, Grandeur	• “G” theme	“Simply truncate ‘Grandin’ to ‘Grand.’ The neighborhood is a grand one. Could ease the transition since the first five letters remain.”
Grand Chief	• Recognizes Indigenous history, culture• “G” theme	“Respects local First Nations peoples and keeps the ‘Grand’ tie.”
Grandville / Granville (x4)	• Historical event or figure• “G” theme	“Easy to say, still has ‘grand.’ Nice name that begins with G.”
Grandview (x2)	• Geography/topographical• “G” theme	“Keeping the ‘Grand’ portion for an easier transition. Reflects the mature landscape and well-established walking paths.”
Grateful	• “G” theme	“A harmless play on the idea of a progressive city that wants to move forward from an old harmful name.”
Grazing Meadows	• Geography/topographical• Botanical Arts/natural elements• “G” theme	“Honours wildlife and green space in our area, also referencing Indigenous traditions of respecting the land.”
Green Acres	• Geography/topographical• Botanical Arts/natural elements• “G” theme	“Widely used internationally, promoting the beauty of natural environment. Grandin is known for its trees and landscapes.”
Green Ash	• Botanical Arts/natural elements• “G” theme	“Common tree — many tall ash trees in Grandin.”

Green Alder	• Botanical Arts/natural elements • Recognizes Indigenous history • “G” theme	“Common tree, also used in Métis medicine.”
Greenbriar (x2)	• Botanical Arts/natural elements • “G” theme	“Briar is a natural plant. Evokes greenery.”
Greenfield (x3)	• Geography/topographical • Botanical Arts/natural elements • “G” theme	“Represents fertile land, growth, and opportunity, highlighting natural beauty and renewal.”
Greenhill, Green Haven (x3), Green Grove (x3), Greenland, Green Meadows, Greenridge (x3), Greenview (x3), Greenway (x3), Greenwich (x3), Greenwood (X4)	• Geography/topographical • Botanical Arts/natural elements • “G” theme	“Focuses on ‘green’ to highlight the lush foliage, mature trees, and the natural environment of the area, aligning with St. Albert’s Botanical Arts identity and continuing the G naming tradition.”
Grenfell, Greyeyes, Grey Hill	• Varies (some reference historical figures, some reference topography, some reference Indigenous history)	“Mary Greyeyes was the first Indigenous woman in the Canadian Armed Forces. ‘Grey Hill’ references the hill overlooking the Grey Nuns forest. ‘Grenfell’ is proposed as a G-based name.”
Griffin (x2)	• “G” theme	“A mythical creature.”
Griswold	• “G” theme	“Clark Griswold is a fictional character symbolizing family-oriented values.”
Grizzly	• Botanical Arts/natural elements • “G” theme	“Refers to the grizzly bear, an iconic species in Alberta’s wildlife.”
Groot	• “G” theme	“Comic book character.”
Grosvenor (x10)	• Historical event or figure • “G” theme	“References Grosvenor Boulevard and pool—part of St. Albert for decades. Means ‘great hunter’ in French.”
Grove (x2)	• Geography/topographical • Botanical Arts/natural elements • “G” theme	“Represents a grouping of trees, matching the city’s emphasis on green spaces.”
Growth	• “G” theme	“Symbolizing the city’s desire to move forward and cultivate life.”
Gruffalo	• “G” theme	“A mythical creature from a children’s book.”
Interurban Railway (x3)	• Historical event or figure • “G” theme	“Much of Grandin Road follows the former right-of-way built for

		the Edmonton Interurban Railway, established in the 1910s.”
Irene Murdoch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historical event or figure • “G” theme (<i>the “G” theme is less direct but included in the submission</i>) 	“She was an Alberta farmer-rancher whose case, ‘Murdoch vs. Murdoch,’ spurred changes in Canadian marital property law, a fight for women’s rights.”
Kikiwaw / Kikinaw	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognizes Indigenous history, culture • Diversity • “G” theme (<i>pronounced with a G sound</i>) 	“Means ‘our home.’ Sounds like ‘G’ when pronounced.”
Laurel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Botanical Arts/natural elements 	“A flower signifying honour and victory.”
Richardson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historical event or figure 	“The naming of Richardson Street is good; it’s from the significant names list. Dan Richardson served on Town Council and was a key organizer.”
Savard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historical event or figure • Recognizes Indigenous history, culture, or traditions 	“One of the first Métis families to settle St. Albert. ‘By changing the name to Savard, the City honours its history and embraces reconciliation.’”
Violet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Botanical Arts/natural elements 	“Better to stop naming things after people, in 40 years someone might be offended.”
Wynn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historical event or figure 	“After Constable Dave Wynn, who served the community and gave his life.” (<i>Note: Some participants acknowledged the Wynn family has requested no further use of his name.</i>)

Appendix B: Participant Quotes and Additional Rationale

Below are direct quotes submitted by participants, grouped by theme. Offensive or profane language has been omitted.

1. Concerns About Changing Names & Erasing History

“Renaming changes St. Albert’s culture. Renaming this area is hiding the history of St. Albert. Leave the names alone.”

“There is no need to change the name of this neighbourhood. ... A balanced approach is necessary to make decisions based on truth, common sense and not strictly on emotional reactions all these decades later.”

“I am disappointed in this whole agenda of renaming Grandin, the streets and schools. You have no right to do this without the public voting on this.”

“Stop trying to erase history as well as cater to the me too crowd / woke crowd.”

“Grandin Road is part of the history of St Albert and will always be in its history. Please keep history and its name.”

“Retaining the name allows us to remember the events of that era, not to suppress them, so we are reminded that we can always do better.”

2. Financial and Logistical Burdens

“We cannot rewrite history at the expense of residents. Who is going to pay for new signage or the address changes on my mortgage, insurance, and more?”

“What about reprinting all my business cards, marketing materials, and licensing? Will the City help at all?”

“Unless the city is going to reimburse me for the HOURS I would have to spend changing addresses ... I am adamantly opposed to this.”

“Please leave the name alone. This is an unnecessary debate and a waste of taxpayers’ money.”

3. Perspectives on Bishop Grandin Himself

“Bishop Grandin was a decent and dedicated person who did great work for all people in the St Albert area.”

“Although Bishop Grandin was the architect of Indian Residential Schools, he did not do it out of malice. He could be compared to a modern day politician where he lobbied the Canadian government for funding...”

“Bishop Grandin did a lot of good. What he did had no malice intent. It was what was acceptable at that time. We need to acknowledge that it is no longer acceptable and move on.”

“He was not only important to our history and culture but a far more moral man than anybody in our current St Albert government. ... Let’s not remove him from history.”

4. Support for Keeping “G” Names and Other Thematic Ideas

“Goldenrod is a medicine native to our homeland ... a beautiful way to transition to a more appropriate name while maintaining the ‘G’ theme.”

“Each suggestion is in keeping with the ‘Migration’ artwork in the roundabout near Grandin Road, and the water fowl at Grandin Pond.”

“Name does not need to change; but if we do need to change the name, ‘Ghostkeeper’ would be so cool. Plus, it represents Indigenous history.”

“Greenfield: Represents fertile land, growth, and opportunity, highlighting natural beauty and renewal.

Greenwood: Represents lush and mature trees...

Greenridge: Suggests a scenic, elevated area... with a focus on nature and peaceful surroundings.”

"I would like to submit the name 'Golden Eagle' ... The Golden Eagle is one of the largest and most identifiable birds native to Alberta. ... This choice would also serve to keep the neighbourhood in the 'G's."

5. Calls for Referendums or Public Votes

"Stop caving to every fringe request. Have a referendum and see how many people actually want the name to change. You are supposed to represent the will of the majority."

"I am disappointed in this whole agenda of renaming Grandin ... You have no right to do this without the public voting on this."

"If the majority wants to change the name, I would ask you to keep with the 'G' naming convention."

6. Examples of Botanical, Indigenous, or Hybrid Suggestions

"Goldenrod, is a herbaceous perennial with up to 120 species native to the area ... used in Indigenous medicine for wound healing, pain relief, etc."

"'Garden' aligns with the Botanical Arts City branding. It's a lovely name for a community and keeps the 'G' theme."

"Garneau: Could reference Laurent Garneau, a Métis rebel who fought with Louis Riel, or Marc Garneau the astronaut. Strong French connection."

"Ghostkeeper ... brings positive attention due to the name being unique and interesting. It also represents Indigenous history in a meaningful way."

"Gagnon for recognizing early Métis families who lived in the St. Albert area. Giwedinnook is the Anishinaabe word for 'North Wind.'"

7. Balancing Acknowledgment of Past Wrongs with Present Realities

"We should teach the history of the name and leave it as is. At least people can see and remember it happened, rather than rename and forget."

"We cannot erase the past. Let's add a sign or plaque explaining the story, not pretend it never happened."

"Historical Significance – The name 'Grandin' has been part of St. Albert's history for many years. Changing the name risks erasing an important part of the city's past, rather than acknowledging it and learning from it."

8. Additional Reasoning on Specific Names

"Garden is an obvious and safe choice. Simple, appropriate, and botanical. Sounds similar enough to Grandin, and is not offensive."

"Grand is easy and cost-effective: just truncate the last two letters from signage, addresses, etc. Could keep the same postal code."

"Gillespie was a flour mill built in 1908 and later sold to Gillespie Flour Mills. Part of St. Albert's heritage."

"Wynn: After Constable Dave Wynn, who served this community and gave his life. But note the Wynn family requested no further use of his name."

9. Broader Reflections on History and Learning

"Renaming doesn't fix the real issues. We need honest education on the harm that was done, and how we can prevent it from happening again."

“Erasing names from maps doesn’t erase the suffering of those who were impacted; it might just make it easier for us to forget.”

“We must remain open to the possibility that historical figures had complicated legacies. Should we define them only by their worst mistakes?”

End of What We Heard Report

For further questions or clarifications, please contact the Office of the City Clerk.