

PETITION

"Petition to Rename Disraeli Bridge" Stalled at City Hall Office of Sons of Ukrainian Pioneers (S.O.U.P.)

December 5th, 2017

■ The Sons of Ukrainian Pioneers, at their May 2017 monthly meeting, instructed their interim chair, Rt. Rev. John Melnyk, to forward the following communication by public press to all interested citizens of Winnipeg including the Ukrainian community.

The following letter, presently with an addendum, was delivered to the Office of Mayor Bowman on June 1st, 2017. Our Club has not received a reply from the mayor's office to date.

May 31st, 2017

Your Worship, Mr. Bowman
Winnipeg Council Members
510 Main Street
Winnipeg, MB

Your Worship:

Re: *Petition to change name of Disraeli Bridge to "Stephen Juba Bridge"*

Our Club, "Sons of Ukrainian Pioneers" (S.O.U.P.), forwarded a signed petition by 1,340 persons to the City of Winnipeg, as shown by a communication to councilors Eadie and Schreyer as of September 23, 2015.

I, the undersigned, act as interim chair of the said Club, forwarded a letter to councilors Eadie and

Schreyer on December 1st, 2015, requesting a meeting with the two councilors.

Early in 2016, I started to call councilor Schreyer's assistant, Chris Hurley, asking him to arrange a meeting with the two councilors for July 10, 2016.

Both councilors were very pleased meeting with me. They gave suggestions regarding plaques and a dedication event to follow. I loaned a book "Stephen Juba" to councilor Schreyer. He was pleased with the book also because his father, the Honourable Ed Schreyer, was mentioned often in his dealings with the late Stephen Juba.

The East Kildonan-Transcona Community Committee met a few days following our meeting on July 10, 2016.

I called Mr. Hurley a few times as to the outcome of the committee meeting. To my surprise Mr. Hurley told me that he could not give me any information as there seems to be a problem.

Early in August 2016, I delivered some past correspondence and a petition journal containing the 1,340 signatures of Winnipeg residents to Mr. Hurley in councilor Schreyer's office.

I continued to call Mr. Hurley to arrange a meeting with the two councilors to discuss procedures to be followed with the said petition.

Finally, on November 17, 2016 I sent a letter to councilors Eadie and Schreyer asking that I would like to meet with each of the two ward committees, namely, The East Kildonan—Transcona and the Lord Selkirk—West Kildonan wards.

Councilor Schreyer called me in mid February 2017. He stated that he is in the process of making contact with a few individuals at City Hall in order to follow the petition through the steps. I was pleased with his suggestion.

Over the next 3 months, I did not hear from the councilor. I called Mr. Hurley twice, called councilor Schreyer 3 times and no calls in return. At this time, I began to realize that the petition has been stopped from being placed into the community committee agenda. I reported this problem at our Club's next monthly meeting.

I then called one of the ward clerks or secretary asking what is the procedure for a citizen to appear at a community committee meeting. I was told, (1) the community committee has to place our petition into a monthly agenda, (2) the committee would then call me to attend the meeting as a speaking delegate and, (3) if the committee refuses to place the petition on their agenda, then the petition is dead.

Our Club at the May 4, 2017 meeting cannot understand how both councilors Eadie and Schreyer were very enthusiastic with the petition in July 2016, and then almost immediately they became silent with difficulty being contacted by phone.

We also noticed in the latter part of April 2017, City workers were at the site of the Stephen Juba marker. They trimmed hanging branches which covered the plaques and brushed the limestone marker with wire brushes. What a coincidence after 34 years? The City maintained the marker once in 34 years? Did the petition prompt the City to take action that all is well?

Our Club now expresses concerns with the delay and actually the refusal to bring our petition to an agenda with a community committee. We realize that a committee possibly has the authority to refuse a frivolous petition or request to a meeting agenda.

How does the City's policy regarding transparency, integrity and working collaboratively apply to our petition? Further, our petition has been supported by 1,340 signatures regarding a mayor who served the City, its residents and province for 20 years, this giving our City unblemished service.

Addendum: How did Stephen Juba work and succeed without an Executive Policy Committee during his 20-year term of office? Today and the past two or three mayors used an executive policy committee by appointing its members to perform in harmony with the mayor. These members receive an extraremunera-

tion. A member may be relieved from her/his position at the pleasure of the mayor. Normally a mayor may appoint two extra council members to the executive committee to give the mayor a majority vote on council. The late Juba was inspiring, honest, creative, imaginative, independent of political ties to a party, memorable, colorful, bold, friendly but always "a man of the people, for all people."

The late Stephen Juba as former mayor left a multitude of achievements during his longest years as any other mayor. During his City Hall service, here are some of his achievements: the Pan Am Games to Winnipeg; changed formation of Council; built the new City Hall; Administrative Building Offices; Winnipeg Convention Centre; Emergency Call Centre 911; colored margarine (MLA); Pan Am Pool; Velodrome track and field; Sister Cities in Ukraine, Japan, Israel; football stadium; St. John's Cathedral Boys School in Selkirk; proposed Mono-rail; rapid transit similar to Vancouver Sky Train and Westphalia, Germany (Swiss and Japan engineers \$4 Million per mile); and the Disraeli Bridge which helped East Kildonan, North Kildonan, Transcona and East St. Paul in their growth, development and easier access to Winnipeg; Juba was named Officer of the Order of Canada in 1970.

Our club realized that the City probably installed a marker along a rather secluded roadway in 1983-1984. Driving from the north along Waterfront Drive the plaques and marker are easily missed. During the period 1983, Waterfront Drive had very little car traffic and basically no pedestrian movement.

By renaming Disraeli Bridge to "Stephen Juba Bridge" does not take away any importance from the name Disraeli as Disraeli Street remains untouched.

Encyclopedia Britannica has an interesting account of the present name "Disraeli", a surname that was changed or evolved in England from De Israeli or D'Israeli to Disraeli. Britannica uses the name Benjamin Disraeli, Earl of Beaconsfield as a reference.

We as a Ukrainian community, supported by 1,340 petitioners, hope that our City will reverse its decision and permit the renewal of the petition to move through the administrative steps to a finish, hopefully in our favour.

It is imperative, that we today continue to honour top provincial, civil and federal leaders who are contemporaries of our times. It was worthy to note leaders of the Confederation and twentieth century periods.

Why are some in opposition to rename Disraeli Bridge to "Stephen Juba Bridge", who initiated the building of the bridge in order to link East Kildonan, North Kildonan, Transcona and Elmwood easier access to Winnipeg's city centre for the work force and shopping? One may say "well, the City erected a marker in 1983 in the present day Waterfront Drive. Who in the 1980's knew where the present day "Waterfront Drive" was?

Our Club, on the meeting on May 4th, 2017, instructed me to forward a letter to you. Your Worship and to city Council.

May it be also known, that our Club holds no fault with councilors Eadie and Schreyer for the delay and reluctance and continue to move our petition through the administrative steps for final approval. Is it possible that both councilors were advised to delay the petition to a final "dead" issue?

Finally, may it be known also that our Club at the May 4th, 2017 meeting included in their motion that they will proceed to inform their 1,340 petitioners by public print media when all positive progress in the movement of our petition through the administrative steps for approval fails prior to and including July 28th, 2017.

The late Stephen Juba passed into eternity on May 2nd, 1993.

Buried in All Saints Ukrainian Cemetery.

"Well done good and faithful servant, you shall be rewarded tenfold".

Without prejudice, I remain,
Yours truly, "originally signed by"

—Rt. Rev. John A. Melnyk

Interim Chair-S.O.U.P.

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