

Let Your Voice Be Heard
Community Listening Sessions
Session Review and Analysis

December 11, 2017

The Cube Stapleton

8371 Northfield Blvd

Denver, Colorado 80238

Session 1: 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm

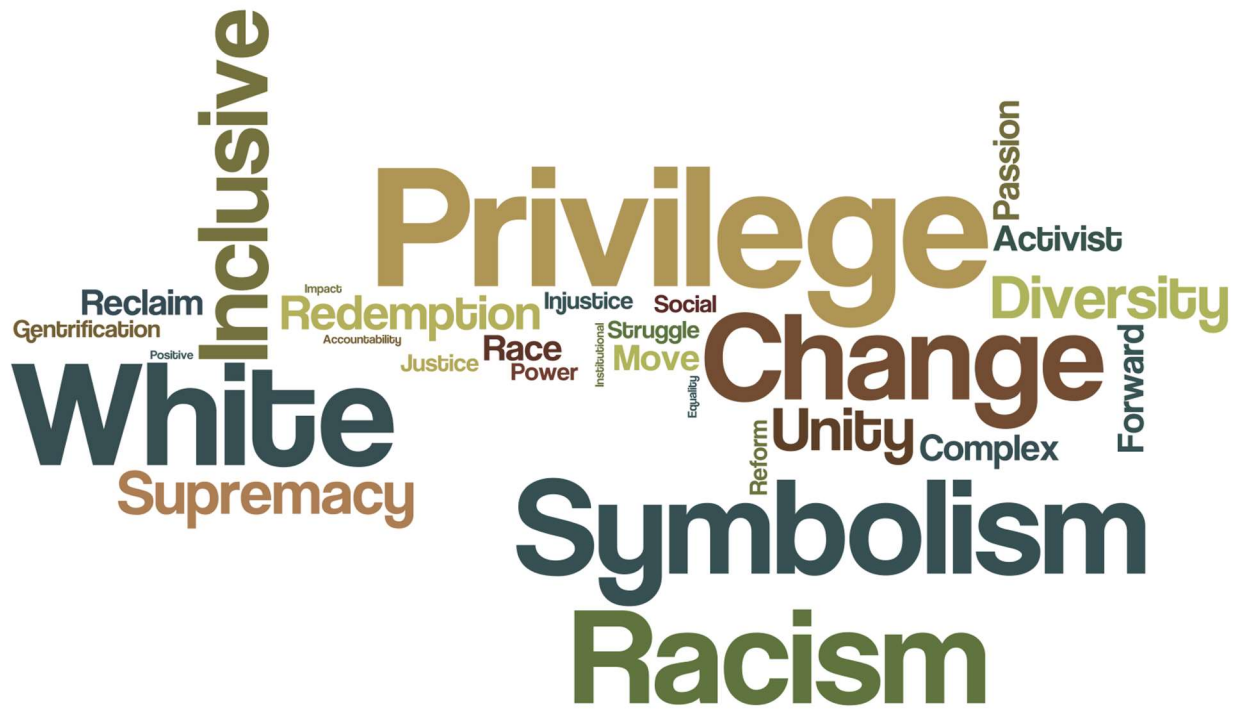
Session 2: 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Moderator – Dr. Nita Mosby Tyler



It was a privilege to serve as your moderator for the Stapleton Community renaming listening sessions. Thank you for providing me with the opportunity to guide an important component of your work. I have compiled key insights and analysis to support you as you and other community stakeholders explore your next steps.

Nita Mosby Tyler



The word cloud above highlights the most prominent words expressed during the course of the two community listening sessions. As participants expressed their views about the name Stapleton, we tracked the most frequently used expressions or insights. In this word cloud, the larger the size of the word...the more frequently we heard the use of the word. This framework gives us important, at-a-glance, insights into areas of opportunity for community work, activism and healing.

Thoughts at the Mic

Session One

The Session One community listening session was held from 1:30 pm -3:30 pm and involved approximately 100 participants. The following section is a broad summation of the insights and opinions shared by participants in Session One. These are all direct quotes that were captured as each participant volunteered to come to the microphone to share their voice, insights and opinions as they explored the impact of the name Stapleton. Though not every comment is reflected here; the theme of all comments is captured in what is presented here.

- White people in Stapleton are not bad people. *Love my neighbors* comes to mind.
- When you live with privilege you don't see injustice because you don't live it.
- If you live with money you may think "we've reclaimed it." Please open your mind to this change.
- This issue is related to lots of other issues happening locally. We are calling people to action in the community.
- Check out www.renameforall.com
- There is a misconception that Ben Stapleton came out against the KKK. He was manipulative and used the Klan to get into power. There was a power struggle between the Klan and himself. He was also a prohibitionist. He never came out directly against the Klan or racism.
- This is a trigger to help people wake up.
- To small business owners, this is going to take years and years to pull off.
- One of the many goals is to have a business advisory committee. We are looking to get grants/funding/donations.
- Forest City branded this entire community.
- We also want to hold Forest City accountable.
- We are looking at the wrong issues with Ben Stapleton. It was a risk for him to change and go against the Klan.
- You are asking us to change our minds to reform.
- I don't understand the white supremacy in the room or in the community.
- When I think about Stapleton I think of Hugo Black who was also a member of the KKK and left the Klan. Do we "trash him" even though he was a civil rights activist later?
- Focus on redemption - people can change and become a different person, I urge you to keep the name.
- Earlier a speaker talked about "love thy neighbor." Religion can also honor redemption.
- Change is good.
- I empathize with Ben Stapleton. Yes, I know he was very racist, sexist, homophobic. I've had some of those problems, too. However, I started meeting people with different points of view and learned how hard it is to change everything you believe in. People do change, though.
- Instead of changing a name we should focus on redemption and how important it is to change and be a better person.
- I had no idea where the name came from and learning the involvement with the KKK with Ben- I was disturbed.

- What are we going to call it? The community can suggest the name preference on their website. Vote for your favorites and be a part of the conversation
- I am white, I do not see the injustice, but we have an opportunity with the community on race, and equality. We are an open inclusive community
- The Greenbook that we are founded on as a community is inclusive and open and welcoming, and this is not who we are and not who we want to be moving forward.
- There is an opportunity for an enormous positive impact for the community.
- It's a great start and we, as a community, can come together and make a change with voting.
- Have faith in and love your neighbors. if we have neighbors who are hurt and uncomfortable by this name we need to do something about it. "Love your neighbor."
- Kansas City Chiefs have faced this issue with their name and the impact to Native Americans. Some didn't see the problem and others saw the images of Indian chiefs, etc. as derogatory. Changing a name is very difficult and complicated. I hope that something is decided to change and help the community.
- Businesses in the neighborhood worry very much about the transition, cost, and support to change their names.
- MCA needs to be informing people about the discussion; half the neighborhood might not be aware that this is happening and we need to be informed about these decisions.
- I understand the privilege that I benefited from growing up. I grew up in a middle-class home and once I graduated I knew I was a token of color.
- This is a huge hurdle for people of color. It's not about me or the name, or what the residents feel about the name; it's those who feel strongly about the name.
- This is a huge step forward to realize what is important to others. It is important to us and a huge statement of inclusiveness.
- I am a minority resident. I live in an initial block of 16 homes primarily minority/mixed-race families in those homes. This is important.
- For over 15 years I have had a business with the name Stapleton in it. It would be complicated to change that.
- As a minority home owner in Stapleton I don't necessarily see the biggest impact we could have by just changing the name; we need more minority home owners within our neighborhoods.
- As a business owner of 15 years I have done all I can to show honest personal service apart from Ben Stapleton's stance/history. I would have a really difficult time to change this as a business owner.
- I have mixed feelings. I would need to figure out a way to rebrand in a way that lets minorities of Denver know they are welcome here in Stapleton.
- Symbolically a name change tomorrow might not change how our neighbors feel.
- I am a small business owner open for a year. As a new business, it is challenging to think about changing my name.
- What are the resources that will be needed to change the name; what does that look like?
- I have not heard any ideas of where we would go and what this would look like. I would like to see the vision of where we are going and also including how we make the most inclusive neighborhood.
- Denver has a history in race relations and inclusiveness and has gone through some tough times.
- George Washington High School had riots around bussing. Park Hill has had long, hard discussions on inclusiveness and the people on the advisory committee had a vision of that inclusiveness.
- As I read the history and pivotal time in our country we need to have this discussion; this is not just a name change.

- Unfortunately, that dark history of the KKK reminds us that we need to remember what is happening is bigger than us in the nation.
- “What does this mean for me?”
- The future is our responsibility.
- I see in these kinds of community meetings that most people are afraid of being accused as being racist from community members.
- How can we create a socially just community? Will the name change make this happen by just purely looking at the name?
- How can we take this as an opportunity to make Stapleton a more just community?
- Perhaps the name change brought up some other issues on a broader level that we need to look at from a community perspective. I don’t know if the name change alone will help these issues.
- To create something that is socially just means we need to be aware that this will be challenging.
- Changing the name means a lot of things to different people. We, as a group, are not asking businesses to change or your house deeds/etc. to change.
- The name Stapleton was only going to be used as a locator. This has more to do with the present; this thing called gentrification.
- White privilege has moved in our community and pushed out the people of color. It is part of the legacy of the KKK. Forest City promised us diversity, yet we are 83% white.
- We, today, are living the legacy of white privilege.
- Yes, the name is symbolic, but if we are not doing the simpler thing then we are not going to do the harder thing.
- When a place or object is named how does it make you feel? It’s a place of prominence and if there’s a name that’s planted on an entire community, it’s never absent and you never forget it. I’m from this place and it’s there all the time. It is a bit more insidious.
- In terms of personal legacy, Ben Stapleton was a successful politician, however he rose to power in the wrong way. You cannot ignore how he became a civic leader. I support the name change personally.
- What does it take to dismantle white supremacy and how can we encourage other conversations to be started in the country?
- Running out of places where I feel safe here. I grew up in San Francisco and I had to be taught how to stay safe in that place. I then moved to Colorado with dreams and lofty goals of diversity and inclusion. There’s a wonderful park here in Stapleton. A white man decided to harass a few women that were Hispanic nannies. We should not have to experience this
- Another white man followed an Asian family saying, “This is not your neighborhood.”
- What does it mean If we don’t change the name? It means we do not care enough about our neighbors.
- Changing the name could send a positive message and take this opportunity to better our community and city.
- I hope the passion of people behind both sides can be used to address the common concern.
- I live in Park Hill and my children are mixed race. That’s what the Greenbook was used for; a foundational commitment to diversity, to reflect the percentages of people in Denver, race, income, age. There is more that needs to be done here in Colorado.
- Everyone in this room that is interested in these changes needs to do something meaningful, take up the fight, make a remarkable community.
- We never asked the question about the name. We came here to look at homes and it is only recently that the name comes with some baggage/issues for us.

- The great American dilemma was built around race and it is not going to go away. One of the things to think about is how do we learn from these issues? It's what you make of the name. We have to talk about the future of Colorado.
- We have to wash this name and the way we wash it is diverse schools, with economic opportunity for everyone. We can't go back we can only go forward.
- I am a new member of the Stapleton development and have been upset about the name from the beginning.
- When there was a community meeting here a few years ago they had this same conversation and nothing came of it.
- A call to action for white people to attend an event at a church talked about what it meant to be a white person in Denver. I don't know how to say this to you, but white supremacy was created by you, so fix it.
- Stapleton Blvd. needs to be changed. There are parks that need to be changed. I am in the field of law and working to get this changed for our community.
- I was not aware of the history of the name and then became aware there was this effort to change the name and thought about the implications and what it meant to me as a Black man growing up in Colorado and Denver. I was seeing the demographics change and being a part of that change, seeing more and more white people coming into Colorado.
- There has been a shift; the name Stapleton is not just a name that we need to give different meaning to. It was named for somebody and I don't think we need to have this legacy continued. It is insulting to me for people to just see it as a "name."
- This might be a small issue compared to what is going on in the world. But, if you know it is wrong and you have the ability to do something about it, decide to make a change for the better and challenge yourself to be better.
- Support the name change. Colorado did not seem very diverse when I first moved and it is important to me that it is.
- The Forest City slogan "it's okay to be out there." I bought into that vision, but didn't know about the name Stapleton. This has been a promise and concern for years.
- If we need to continue with the intent to be inclusive, it's just a name to us but this means something to others, then let us change it because it means something to them.
- I moved here for work and it seemed like just a name. What does the name mean to us as a family? We love and are proud to live here. I would say there is more inclusivity here than from bigger cities.
- In Stapleton and in Denver I believe the people here are inclusive.

Session Two:

The Session Two community listening session was held from 5:30 pm -7:30 pm and involved approximately 88 participants. The following section is a broad summation of the insights and opinions shared by participants in Session Two. These are all direct quotes that were captured as each participant volunteered to come to the microphone to share their voice, insights and opinions as they explored the impact of the name Stapleton. Though not every comment is reflected here; the theme of all comments is captured in what is presented here.

- I am feeling passionate and there is an opportunity here that is unique and special. Stapleton is one of such compassion, helpfulness, inclusivity, and engagement in this neighborhood, I understand the need to change the name, but what would resonate even more than the name change is if you took the name proactively and loudly said what we are as a community through art, community outreach, financial donations to organizations, grants etc. If you just change the name and wipe it clean you are losing authenticity and community and the opportunity to take something back and make it mean something more. It sends a bigger message to the world
- I don't think as a neighborhood, this particular neighborhood, is any more racist than the world and where we are as a country right now. We need to be more open-minded and passionate to people who are passionate and affected by this name.
- We have a lot of money in this neighborhood and when you're white and have money- especially here, you don't see the injustice because it's not your experience and you have to work really hard to see those injustices. Here's this opportunity to have this great opportunity to change. It's a start and it's not the end.
- The name Stapleton to people who are long-term residents is a symbol and it triggers emotions in your brain, and runs very deep. When the KKK took over it is important to remember there are people in Denver who have deep memories and this name is more than a name; it is symbolic. You can't erase a burning cross out of your mind. You cannot erase a swastika. The KKK marched down the streets here in Colorado. No matter how hard you work to be accepting in the community, you can never change these ties and these memories.
- We need to put forward the effort. Changing the name is a relatively simple and symbolic effort and a signal to Denver at-large that we want to increase diversity and this allows us to start this conversation.
- This community is over 80% white and we need to start this movement for a better Denver.
- There was real violence and strict parameters back with the KKK where minorities could live and not live within certain parts of Denver; this affects all people even today.
- I like to think of myself as empathic and progressive. I thought people were being oversensitive. Stapleton was the airport name and my sense was 'it doesn't matter.' Nobody thinks of this person (Ben) - they just hear a name. But then I realized I was projecting my own experiences as a white person. I tried to imagine what this would mean to someone who would have a different outlook and experience than myself and how they would feel. I realized that to not be willing to change the name would be so insensitive and absurd to other people in this community.
- This name is a symbol of terror. It makes us complicit if we do not change anything. I am still impacted by racism.

- I thought I was aware of my privilege. In talking about symbols and power and language and how powerful that is, you see groups of people who have been treated badly. They will take derogatory language and use it among themselves. They take it and use it for themselves because it has been used against them so they want to make it their own. They want to reclaim it. We need to listen to others (minorities) and try to imagine their experiences.
- This is a denial of history. We need to start acknowledging the real history and do something about it.
- I don't want to live in a community knowing who Ben Stapleton really was.
- I have my own experience being mixed-race and my own racism in my childhood. It is one of the reasons why I would like to change the name. The kind of community I want to live in is one that can face the truth about our history and know that truth to make an honest and conscious decision about who we decide to honor within our communities.
- That name - Ben Stapleton's name and membership with KKK does not honor our community and we need to intentionally decide to rename our community.
- We have differences in our perspectives and I think that using the word racism is difficult because people use it differently. When I use the word racism I am describing white supremacy. Some people say that Stapleton is something the community claimed. I think for many of us on the rename side, it is a specific name with a specific person with a specific history and social context. It cannot be changed by good deeds; it's about who we choose to honor and I will not honor Ben Stapleton.
- Sometimes in life it is very unusual to take the right steps. I've heard a lot of 'if we change the name Stapleton we must change the name of anything or anyone that is at all imperfect.' That's not what we have to do. We can weigh the benefits of the good and bad. Ben gave us an airport, and he also instituted a reign of terror over our city. That balance is different.
- We can make certain decisions and that doesn't mean we have to make every other decision. We can change the name of some in order to send a message that we do care and not dismiss what our neighbors are saying about their experiences and that doesn't mean we have to dig up every deed of every home in this entire community and re-write them and cost millions. If we identify a name, we can start saying that's what we are called. Some of us can call it Skypark and some can call it Stapleton. We cannot be dismissive of what people are telling us which is that it is real and it is meaningful.
- I want to give us the space to say, 'don't do it for me as a black man who lives in Park Hill who sees the injustices for name trauma etc., the misallocation of resources etc., failing of the vision of the Greenbook to reflect the communities around it, etc.' Not only is Stapleton whiter than Denver; it is whiter than Colorado. There is a disconnect about how we feel about what the reality is.
- Not only is this a situation where we are allocating resources where race comes into play, but you are misallocating resources for yourself. You don't have the new urbanist community that you wanted, you don't have that the construction where it needs to be because you have a corporate system that has taken us away from doing the right thing- that the Greenbook told us to do, and moved us into believing that we have a place that we don't have. This is as old as Ben Stapleton. He appointed multiple Klansmen and Chiefs of Police. This isn't just about racism which is fundamental to American pathology, but it's about foundational principles about a group that ran the city, and made small businesses pay into organized crime. These are things that you as a white person should understand is wrong. So, don't do it for me, do it for American values. This is not simply empathy for folks that are not like you; this is actually realizing that you are acting against your own American values, by honoring somebody whose principles do not match your American values.

- I am opposed to changing the name. We have folks coming up here talking about the truth and history that acknowledges our history and all this stuff. This doesn't really acknowledge our history; this is a question of redemption. Somebody mentioned a complex person where they did something bad and did something good, so how does history remember them as a whole? I think the city should remember Stapleton for what historians Robert Goldberg and Phil Goodstein have characterized. Stapleton's run with the Klan was short-lived; less than 2 years after the group had helped get him elected, Stapleton severed ties pushing out the police chief that had been appointed and breaking up the Klan corruption and police force. In 1925, Stapleton officially welcomed the NAACP to town and the city hung banners. Yes, Ben allied himself with the Klan which is not a good thing, but 2 years later he kicked out the police, welcomed the NAACP.
- It's a mixed issue and furthermore, there is no institutional racism keeping people of color outside the community. Stapleton is a meritocracy; you work, earn the money, and come in and buy a house like anyone else. There is affordable housing and there is no such thing as white privilege or any other kind of privilege. You work and you earn the money and you can go wherever you want. I am against changing the name.
- I have lived in Stapleton since 2011. My understanding is there are 25,000 people living here. I have a dark-skinned son, I am terrified of his future. I thought about him and kids in this community and the message and values we want to instill in them. My son has faced racism at Stapleton elementary with kids saying, 'I'm glad my skin is not brown like yours, your skin looks like poop, called the N- word, etc.' As a community, we are on edge when it comes to safety and security. I think race exacerbates the issue, and makes people more sensitive and more fearful. I have to tell my son eventually, 'you can't wear a hoodie, if a ball goes over a fence you cannot jump it to go get it because someone might think you are breaking into their house, you have to ask the neighbors permission, you can't have a toy gun etc.' I am terrified when he starts driving, or if/when he gets pulled over by a cop. I'll always feel it might not have happened if he were white. People of color face disparities every day in this community. This is an opportunity to change it.
- I am a junior at George Washington High School and have lived in Stapleton since 2003. I think my family was in the first 20 or 30 houses to move in, so we have been here since the beginning and I think what I have to say is pretty important. From my perspective, it would be ignorant if I said I have grown up in what I can see as a diverse and inclusive community. My block is completely white, and when I told my friends I support the name change they responded let's name it "white-peopleton" or "entitleton." That's the only image they have of this community. I am open-minded and a racially tolerant person, but I know I do things that absolutely perpetuate racism. The first step to make any positive change is admitting that we are part of the problem. I want to come up here and I want to say I am part of the problem.
- I am a Denver native, and grew up in these neighborhoods and watched the transformation of Stapleton. As a college professor and student of history some of the comments indicate some people do not know their history. For one, the myth of meritocracy. I would say you do not know your history. If we were truly going to reward the hardest working people, the most sacrificing people, the people that put blood sweat and tears in this community it would be the indigenous people. Naming is so important because one of the first things colonizers do is to take away your name. My family is multiracial and my relative talks about one of the first things she did was to cut off her hair and change her name. If you don't claim your own name, someone else will name you. Names matter. Name isn't innocuous; it has very specific historical meanings. We are reclaiming and telling the full history. No one here is talking about erasing. What we are saying is tell the full history. No one is saying redeem Hitler. I am not comparing Stapleton to Hitler, but I am comparing the Klan to genocidal terrorists. We cannot forget and just forgive. Changing the name needs be universally decided upon.

- I am a longtime resident since 2005. I am a Denver native grew up Catholic. We have faced the reality of the KKK and a target of the Klan. Being Catholic I believe that people need to be judged by their whole life and I am in opposition of the name change. It is very clear that what Ben Stapleton did with the KKK was wrong. I did some research and I found that he threw out the KKK in 1925. He faced re-election 5 times and won in overwhelming landslides, I saw he was instrumental in starting Red Rocks and sustainable park systems. We need to look at his whole record as an individual before we determine that he is irredeemable. Mayor Stapleton built the airport with a lot of grief and hardship to make that happen. I believe going down this path that there is no individual that is perfect. Let's look at our city as well. We have further to go, but is this going to make our city a better place? We need to spend more time on issues like the opioid epidemic.
- We have lived in this neighborhood since 2008. I think the finer points of Ben Stapleton should be persevered in museums. I learned about Ben Stapleton's KKK involvement in 2013 and it left me nauseous. Had I known the history I wouldn't have chosen this neighborhood to live in. Back in 2015, when there was a petition to change the name, I signed and thought this was a no-brainer. I posted the petition to Stapleton moms group and I was invited to "go back to where I came from" and invited to "get over it." This person mentioned my home state and it concerned me that she was searching my profile. She wrote to me "If you're a transport and unaware of our cities history than you shouldn't have a say. It's not just a neighborhood it was our airports name for many years; stop moving here and trying to change everything." I responded, "Is there something about Stapleton's history and KKK that you can be proud of?" She mentioned "His years as mayor here, the airport, Red Rocks, Civic Center Park - go back to where you came from and if you don't like it get over it." I said, "You go back to where you came from." The message is pretty similar to how Stapleton and his associates felt about immigrants. Her response was "Then call me Mrs. KKK and feel free to leave." This was in 2015. Changing the name is an opportunity. Leaving it sends a message to honor a man who walked with the Klan. I fear the name of our neighborhood will attract others that are proud of Stapleton's association with hate. Let's show them they are not welcome here.
- I am new to Denver and Stapleton neighborhood. The first night we moved in, not an hour had passed, and one of our neighbors came in and said, "How nice, that's so kind of you to come in and clean the house for the people that are moving in." I chuckled and it had been a long day. They could not fathom that we, a Black couple, were the new owners of the house. I don't know if changing the name of Stapleton would change those people attitudes. I think that that's the type of work that has to go person to person. I want to be clear - Stapleton was named after him (Ben) and yes, he created the airport and fired the police chief, etc. However, The Agency of Human Rights and Community Partnerships began as a commission by the City and was put in place as a direct response to the racist leadership Ben Stapleton had put in place.
- I am a law professor at DU and have been a resident of Stapleton for the last year. I favor renaming Stapleton. In 1988-2002 there was a committee and report that went out. For marketing purposes, the report said we may need to keep the name so people knew exactly where they were but after time the Stapleton name would drop off and everything would be called something "at Stapleton" and after time the "at Stapleton" would drop off. I don't know why this should be so hard. The reason it's hard is a thing called institutional racism-why does the name continue on? Who's here defending that? If Ben was at all associated with the KKK that alone is enough for the name change; it doesn't matter what else he did.
- We thought about putting an art exhibit in our building to explain the history of this area and Ben Stapleton's involvement with the KKK. We became involved with Black Lives Matter and researched Ben Stapleton's first campaign. His campaign director was a part

of the Klan. Yes, he did a lot of other things, but his political opportunism is what shines in that first campaign. We need this name change. Yes, he cleaned house later, but how did he get his start?

- I don't live in Stapleton but have been doing a lot of research and reading and there is a lot of history that has been misunderstood. There are two in-depth records of research about his issue. There were 40,000-50,000 members of the KKK during that period. The KKK is still in Grand Junction. We need the entire history in Denver to be realized. Please inform yourselves.
- I have been a Stapleton resident since 2010. Ben Stapleton is a symbol of white history that exemplifies an administration in the 1920's-1940's that was anti-immigrant and anti-newcomer. They worked to round up Mexicans and Mexican Americans and place them in concentration camps. They were at the forefront of relocating Japanese Americans from their homes during WWII. During that administration, they worked with developers who placed heavily racial-restrictive covenants all throughout the city. When we think about this history it is very complex. I am in favor of changing the name.
- I am a resident and I work with district school leaders. My emphasis tonight is to think about what are the children thinking about as they watch us. I want to do the right thing here and now. These things matter to me. I do not want to be part of a community who was connected to racism, oppression, abuse and tragedy. Its time. We have to stand up. I'm looking at our nation and we, like other people, need to say enough is enough. I want to change the name and the children will watch us and be able to stand up for their futures.
- Living in Denver for over 5 years I became embarrassed to say I lived in Stapleton after I learned of this community's history. When we say that our community is 83% white and we say there's opportunity for all to be here, we need to look deeply at that. If there is opportunity for all to be here, then why is it that our neighborhood is 83% white? Either there isn't access, or there isn't desire, and that's what we need to look at. Our brand isn't what we think it is. It's about what people that might want to move here say it is. It is what people say when we are not in the room.
- There are a lot of sociopolitical issues that play here that are not going to be solved by a name change. However, those who are fighting for this name change, are also fighting for a lot of other things. We are activists; this is about social and racial justice and we live and breathe that every day. One real thing to do is to symbolize we are taking a stand and we will not stand behind this name. It is so symbolic in all the other work we are trying to do.
- This is deeply personal to me. My wife is African American and my family is deeply mixed and diverse. When I married my wife, my cousin told me "you will have to carry that with you." One person's experience should be enough to change this name. If we have compassion, how can we not be affected; we are all one race one family. I see diversity as a strength and I want to do everything and anything I can to make this community more diverse and welcoming. Racism weighs on everyone and I will do everything I can to lift that burden.
- I guess I'm really frustrated that really the only opposition to changing the name, is only rooted in fear, and I think that's really dangerous. Pointing out only the good things that someone has done does not minimize the bad. Everyone can struggle and that doesn't mean that my struggle is worse than someone else's. I'm angry. White people are coming up here to point out other problems we are facing and as far as I'm concerned, I don't think white people can go up and say why racism isn't important or outweighed by other issues.
- One quick thing I want to say is even though we have talked about changing the name of the community here, one of the real tasks at hand, is about changing the community. Even though I was a part of naming SUN (Stapleton United Neighbors), in my opinion, its

way past time to change the name. It won't cost a lot of money to do. You have heard from scholars and community members. This issue on this very day is being studied-many are taking a look at what is going on here at this time-we are making history. DSST, the entire middle school, is studying this issue right now and writing opinion pieces on this. We thank you for your enthusiasm and engagement, we thank you for doing the right thing.

- To the people that are not in support of the name change, I appreciate those people that had the courage to talk about their opinions. When I heard this idea of white privilege not existing, it really took me by surprise. I have two white children; I have no concerns about the virtue of their "whiteness." That is not the same concern that people who have mixed-colored children feel. I have never thought about the fact that I am white. I don't have to think about it and I don't have an acute awareness of my whiteness. I hear people of color talk and it something that they have to think about and consider all the time. When you say there is no white privilege, you are not listening to others about their experiences in this world.
- As a person of color, as a black man, when you're in a room and you're discussing race and the implications of race, you hear people that will say there is really no issue. They say, "I don't see what the issue is." It's difficult because as a black man, you are always aware of your blackness. When you enter into a situation where you are aware of your race, you have to learn to navigate the systems that are set up, and learn how to engage with the police so you don't come up as a victim. It is challenging. As a member of this community, when I found out that this neighborhood was named after someone in the KKK, I was stunned. Someone might say "they are just letters." They are not just letters. They MEAN something. We cannot put that aside, or change it and make it something different - that's absurd. It's just as absurd as saying "let's look at the guy who shot up the theater in Aurora, let's look at the good he did. Let's not focus on that and focus on all the good he did." Let's come together as a community and do good right now.
- I spent a lot of time in my life being ignorant about things that I didn't know I was being ignorant about. "When we know better we do better." We know better so I am encouraging us to do better.
- I agree that one-heart felt story can be enough to change the name. I will tell you a story of my grandfather in 1909 from the Czech Republic, Eastern Europeans at the time were heavily discriminated against. When he would go into town people would throw water bottles at him and call him dirty and let him know he wasn't welcomed. Eastern Europeans changed over time and by the time he fought in WWII, he was able to marry my grandmother and live a life of white privilege in Denver. They built a house in Loretto Heights. He was Methodist and there was a Catholic church across the street that wanted to build a convent for women with Down Syndrome. The community did not want this convent because they thought it would drive the property values down. Where they wanted to build this convent was on his grandfather's property line. My grandfather determined this was going to be built. Before my grandfather died I asked why this was an issue that he decided to take on and he said, "Because I don't want anyone to experience the discrimination that I did as a child." One story of trauma is enough to tell us that this name change is an issue and people feel excluded and it's not welcoming.

Analysis

This section is a broad analysis of the data captured during the two listening sessions. The analysis is intended to give a general perspective about the community insights that were documented and recorded. Each item is designed to provide an area for further discussion/remedy.

1. The community input was diverse and clearly followed the continuum that I introduced at the beginning of each listening session. This continuum described the diversity of feelings that community members would likely experience around the topic of “renaming Stapleton.” Feelings and insights were stratified across this continuum and were articulated respectfully and honestly.

Apathy→Disagreement→Sporadic Concern→Pain & Trauma→Anger→Passion→Activism

2. Based on the data captured from speakers in each session, more participants **agreed** that the name, Stapleton, needed to be changed.
3. It is important to note that a substantial number of speakers agreed that changing the name was not the final solution. There was agreement that there would need to be strong community focus to tackle gentrification, racism and the lack of racial diversity in the community. The name change, alone, would not solve those issues.
4. It was clear from the listening sessions that the great majority of community members who spoke had no prior knowledge of the negative history associated with the name Ben Stapleton before moving into the neighborhood.
5. In several cases, the issue of safety/fear (as related to race relations) was revealed. These examples involved negative verbal interactions perpetrated by a white person towards a person of color in the neighborhood.
6. The data from the listening sessions revealed the sense that advancing a name change was a social justice issue; not just a direct response to the history of Ben Stapleton. This is an important broadening of the movement that leaves room to work on other associated issues (i.e., increasing neighborhood racial/ethnic diversity, creating more inclusive communities/relationships, etc.)
7. From their positions of “disagreement” to “activism,” participants were able to hear each other during the listening sessions. This was a strong indicator that stakeholders are positioned well to develop systems of inclusion within the community.