

CHERRYWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION SIDEWALK PHILOSOPHY
MEETING MINUTES 06 JANUARY 2010

1. Welcome, introductions, and statement of meeting purpose. (6:35)
 - Approximately 30 people in attendance.
 - Purpose of meeting is to collect neighborhood input to adjust or affirm the neighborhood association's adopted philosophy about sidewalks.

2. History of past neighborhood consensus on sidewalks. (Girard Kinney)
 - The neighborhood should be safe and walkable for everyone.
 - In 2002, the city began responding to ADA pressure to put sidewalks on both sides of every street. The city had been sued for lack of accessibility.
 - Because of impending construction and the policy the city must follow if the neighborhood does not propose a different one, the CNA realized that the neighborhood needs to develop and adjust its own sidewalk plan. As long as a reasonable plan (one that supports accessibility and that is not cost prohibitive) is proposed by the neighborhood, the city will follow it.

3. Explanation of Cherrywood's two-part sidewalk planning process (Jeremy Mazur)
 - 'Philosophy' meeting tonight, 'specifics' meeting in two weeks.
 - The plan must be given to the city by March 15. Construction begins in 2011.

4. Online survey results (Aaron Choate)
 - 41% of respondents selected the option that aligns with the neighborhood's currently adopted philosophy
 - 26% of respondents selected options that present fewer sidewalks than that philosophy
 - 33% of respondents selected options that present more sidewalks than that philosophy

5. Open discussion of philosophy
 - Desire for clarification of the statement in the philosophy that sidewalks always be 'within a block or two' of every home. Some want that changed to 1, others 2, still others 'a few' (which would in effect mostly mean no sidewalks on interior streets).
 - Several parents are in favor of more sidewalks. One suggests that a lack of sidewalks is actually creating extra car trips because parents don't feel comfortable allowing children to walk to school or to friends' houses.
 - Girard suggests we talk about streets in terms of their 'types'. Some streets serve as conduits. He also suggests that streets with a lot of foot traffic are safer than streets without.
 - Isabelle (spelling?) mentions that an able-bodied adult without children may not feel vulnerable on streets where people accompanied by children or adults who are not able-bodied may feel very differently.
 - Concern over how the sidewalks will be maintained, whether they will become uneven. Girard thinks we may be able to insist that sidewalks are built with sections connected by steel to prevent unevenness.
 - Questions about cost, determination between sides of streets to build sidewalks.
 - Concern that we need to emphasize the goal of safety, not just connectivity.

—Some need for clarification with the language describing streets, especially 'internal accessible corridor'.

6. Reassessment of the originally presented philosophy statement.

—The statement has been edited and the group has reached a consensus.

—This meeting-approved statement will be discussed and possibly voted upon at the next SC meeting.

7. Meeting adjourned at 8:35.