

CHERRYWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION SIDEWALK PHILOSOPHY
MEETING MINUTES 20 JANUARY 2010

1. Welcome, introductions, call to order. (6:35)

—Approximately 23 people in attendance.

2. Presentation of progress thus far and outline for the rest of the meeting (Girard Kinney)

—Reading of philosophy statement approved at the last sidewalk and steering committee meetings

—Note that there is no funding in the city for sidewalks outside of this street reconstruction project at this time

3. Carlos Garcia + COA team review the plans and schedule from the city's perspective

—The city is also reconstructing some water and drainage passages

—The current project's scope includes around 11,000 linear feet of streets.

—A past city council resolution mandates sidewalks on both sides of all streets. The city engineers offered to work with us to accommodate the neighborhood's desires.

—Those accommodations may require various maneuvers like building retaining walls, removing retaining walls, going around trees, having the sidewalk change sides of streets, etc.

—The city is committed to making sure that curbs, gutters, and aprons are in good repair because any flaw in them can weaken the integrity of the street itself.

—Overhead utility lines will likely not be effected or changed by the street reconstruction. Lines are going underground at the Cherrywood Green only, unrelated to sidewalk reconstruction.

—A meeting attendee (Patrick ___?) asked about underground gas lines and meters, particularly on Lafayette, which will need to be moved. Carlos will check on this. He is not sure what will happen with gas, but he can suggest that the city's utility meters be moved near the house if that is desired.

4. Question and Answer

—Q) How will we deal with the live oak trees on Lafayette on both sides of the street?

A) They will probably have to be addressed on a property-by-property basis. These issues will be brought before the City's arborists for advice. If a tree enters the sidewalk right-of-way clear-height, the arborist will recommend a maintenance plan so that the tree is pruned correctly. Also, there are methods for laying sidewalk over older trees' root growth that will minimize damage.

—Q) How wide?

A) 4', but can be 3' for short distances where needed.

—Q) Can we see examples of work from similar reconstruction projects in other neighborhoods?

A) Yes

—Carlos will provide a list to Girard which will be distributed.

—Q) Can you request that streets be narrowed, regardless of tree issues?

A) Yes, but the debate becomes about how much street parking you want and/or whether you're ok with cars having to wait for each other to pass.

—Q) If you narrow Lafayette, could you remove other traffic calming devices like the road humps?

A) Maybe, but it's unlikely that you can narrow Lafayette without losing some parking.

—Q) Are there plans to extend the bike lanes on Cherrywood north of Manor Road?

A) Carlos is not aware and it is not within the scope of his team's project.

—Q) Can we weigh in on 'signalization' at this time?

A) Yes, Carlos can coordinate with the city's traffic planners and communicate neighborhood concerns and suggestions.

—Q) Who pays for what?

A) City pays for: utility removal, manhole replacement, sometimes grass replacement. Homeowner pays for: anything illegally placed in the right-of-way (damage to or moving of an existing stairway, moving of mailboxes, moving of a fence, relocation of landscaping). There are exceptions to this rule, and the city may pay for some of these things, or offer the homeowner a great deal to fix a problem during construction.

—Q) Do we have options when it comes to retaining walls?

A) Yes, the city will make sure the materials used are appropriate and aesthetically continuous with the rest of the neighborhoods. Limestone is widely available, inexpensive, and attractive, so it is commonly used for these walls.

—Q) Will we be given examples of all the tools that are being discussed?

A) Carlos will provide some examples or street addresses of places where various techniques have been used.

—Q) Will the sidewalk be flush with the curb or inset into the right-of-way?

A) Carlos says there is no 'assignment' for this project because of the number of obstacles. The sidewalk will go where it fits best. The city likes to have an inset usually, but it's just not possible here and the neighborhood generally seems to support sidewalks that are flush with the curb.

5. The Plan

—Perimeter streets: there is consensus that they need sidewalks on both sides

—Commercial and interior corridors: this includes Cherrywood and 38th 1/2 east of Cherrywood. There is generally consensus that these should have sidewalks on both sides. Question about one small stretch of the south side of 38th 1/2. No one present was opposed.

—Sidewalks on Cherrywood north of 38th 1/2 Street: Although south of that spot the sidewalk is on the west side, many other factors (including grade, connectivity to Mueller and Patterson Park, and landscaping) suggest the east side as a better option. Neighbors present support this idea.

—West side of Maplewood to connect with the school. It will be expensive on that side because of the grade, but it will be safer that way.

—Ashwood: Sidewalk is partial and stops without even connecting to the street. Needs to be continued further.

—Lafayette: seems to be a consensus with this group. Deciding which side will be a question for the walkthrough. There is still debate about the north end and the potential stop light at 38th 1/2.

—To add: Breeze, south of 32nd to Manor. [side discussion: parking issues with Thunderbird cafe that will be mentioned to owner and UBC business rep Ryan McElroy]

6. Walk through meeting set for Saturday, January 23 from 12 to 3 pm. Meet at Cherrywood Coffeeshop. 7. Meeting adjourned at 8:37.