

MINUTES FOR SIDEWALK AD HOC COMMITTEE

August 3, 2009

Attendance: Adrienne Foster, Bill Art, Betsy Mellor, Megan England, Linus Orth, Brian Weese, John Carter, some Residents of Roeland Park. Absent: Bob Meyers.

Call to order 6:00 PM by Adrienne Foster

Reviewed the purpose of the committee. See agenda.

1. **Choose a Chair responsible for minutes, creating agendas, and setting timeline for committee.** Adrienne suggested/appointed Bill to be chair as senior councilman on the committee. The committee members were in agreement. Adrienne left the meeting. We went around the room and introduced ourselves and talked a bit about our thoughts and wishes regarding sidewalks in Roeland Park.

One member shared some **history** of sidewalk placement criteria that were established in 1983. – they were a way to get around the city, sidewalks were placed on the opposite side of the street of the street lights, if a block of residents had major objections to a sidewalk then that block was left off the sidewalk master plan. There exists a master plan for sidewalks from 1983. Placing sidewalks up against the curb allowed sidewalk placement to be more agreeable to residents.

We discussed the **why** we need sidewalks. Childhood obesity, they create memories of what it was like in years past, safe route to school, the last comprehensive plan, the last survey gave low score to the number of sidewalks available in the city, they maintain property values, one ward is close to the future East gateway development, sidewalks build a sense of community and neighborhood, way to keep families safe, and one comment indicated that he understood that a sidewalk was to go on every street. Plus, storm water projects are almost complete. CARS funded streets must have a sidewalk.

We discussed the **financials** of sidewalks. A “sidewalk plan” permits access to some of the money that is there to build sidewalks. The National Board for Safe Routes to School has access to resources. Sales Tax fund 27D is for infrastructure could be a source of money to build and maintain sidewalks. Funding sidewalks can be done by pay as we go, while doing a storm water project, or from CARS funding.

New best practices in sidewalk making. The sweeping angle at corners with a ramp down to the street for the disabled is no longer considered a best practice. It has been found that this allows traffic to take these corners too fast and go up on to this ramp area. It has been discovered that tighter right angles make it harder to turn too fast. Not good to have a sidewalk up against the curb. To have that separation away from the curb makes the sidewalk safer. Permeable concrete allows for sidewalks to be built over tree roots without damaging the tree.

2. **Review of Article 3: General Street and Sidewalk Regulations:** We started discussion about this code. There is concern about snow and ice left on the sidewalks and how dangerous it is in the winter to walk. Code 13-301 address the issue of keeping sidewalks clean and safe. This is not enforced unless neighbors call in. This particular code also addresses the need to keep the grass and debris off the sidewalk and there are a number of areas that this has been a problem. The city staff sends a letter out to the whole block about the need to clean and most of the time this gets taken care of. We talked about the idea of the city using a pesticide to keep the weeds down. It would need to be a pesticide that that meets sustainability standards and not pollute the area. The committee wants to take a look at standardization of crosswalks. We asked city staff for the other parts of the code related to Sidewalk Regulations.
3. **Review of Roesland Elementary School Signing and Pavement Marking Study.** The committee will review before the next meeting.
4. **Review draft of sidewalk criteria-** A copy of this was given to the members of the committee at this meeting to review for the next meeting.
5. **Review of map of current sidewalks and proposed sidewalks.** The committee reviewed this map.

The next meeting will convene 9-8-09 at 6:00 PM before the city council meeting and before the first city council meeting of each month thereafter for about the next 6 months.

Meeting adjourned at 6:55 PM