

Pien, Janet

From: Wolfe, James
Sent: Tuesday, May 20, 2014 9:55 AM
To: Pien, Janet
Subject: FW: Bittersweet Place improvements

Janet, can this be included/sent to the BPW for tomorrow's hearing on Bittersweet PI? Thanks!

From: David McKee [<mailto:dmckee41051@gmail.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, May 20, 2014 8:46 AM
To: Wolfe, James
Subject: Fwd: Bittersweet Place improvements

Jim, please forward this to the Board of Public Works ASAP. Thanks.

David McKee

----- Forwarded message -----
From: "David McKee" <dmckee41051@gmail.com>
Date: May 18, 2014 5:08 PM
Subject: Bittersweet Place improvements
To: <district11@cityofmadison.com>
Cc:

Dear Alder Schmidt,

Let us apologize in advance for the length of this letter. Unfortunately, matters have emerged in the last few weeks that require some explanation. We hope you will take the time to read all of this letter and heed it's arguments.

We are writing to you in support of the so-called "24 foot plan" for improvements to Bittersweet Pl. which has been proposed by the city engineer. We view this as a very reasonable accommodation to the concerns that Bittersweet residents have expressed about possible negative changes to the character of the street. An extra 2 ft. added to the paved width of the street and the *cul de sac* is a small sacrifice, it seems to us, in exchange for elimination of the open drain and repairs to water and gas lines. As you pointed out at the most recent neighborhood meeting, the *de facto*, practical width of the street for parking is already at least 24 ft. We believe the city has listened to residents' concerns and has come up with a very reasonable plan.

While we are not concerned about the city's plan, we **are** concerned about two possibilities: delay in construction and the *appearance* of quite a bit of neighborhood discord about the project. These two things are related. **We are concerned that the appearance of discord among Bittersweet residents might have the effect of delaying the project.** We want work to begin this summer (August 2014), first, because we are tired of the winter problems created by the open drain and, second, because of safety. As we understand it, there have been **eight gas leaks** on Bittersweet in recent months. This is in addition to the numerous water manne problems over the last 12 months. The gas leaks, in particular, are a very significant safety concern, as we see it, and delaying the project just makes our street more unsafe. We also have learned of a fairly recent case of an EMS vehicle having to park on Border Dr. because Bittersweet was impassable. As residents living on the *cul de sac*, we have a special interest in access for emergency vehicles.

Concerning the appearance of considerable discord about the improvements, I think it is a misrepresentation of the general mood of Bittersweet residents. We have talked to many people on the street and there is certainly a majority that supports the city's proposal. The *appearance* of discord has been, we believe, created by a small, vocal group of Crestwood residents, only one of whom lives on Bittersweet Pl. This group has, in the last 2 weeks, been researching various alternatives to the city's plan; finding "solutions" to problems that we don't even face on Bittersweet Pl. in cities in Minnesota and Oregon. These "solutions" have been presented as elements of an alternative to the city's "24 foot" plan. We are unclear about the reasons for all this "research" into alternatives that don't really apply to the particulars of the problems on our street. Those reasons have not been made very clear. We are concerned that the **actual** reason is to give the appearance of enough neighborhood discord to delay construction. That would be most unfortunate. We want you to know emphatically that we want the city's proposed project to begin at the proposed time in August 2014. We have encouraged other Bittersweet residents who support the plan to write to you, and, finally, we urge you to urge the other members of the Council to support the "24 foot" plan.

Sincerely,

David and Alison McKee
5745 Bittersweet Place