

TPC 11.09.16
ITEM F.2.

Benishek Clark, Anne

Subject: FW: Resolution RES-09-00997

HAND-OUT

----- Original message -----

From: Leslie Schroeder
Date: 11/08/2016 7:45 AM (GMT-06:00)
To: "Kamp, Charles"
Subject: Resolution RES-09-00997

Hello Mr. Kamp,

Please forward to Transit and Parking Commission Members.

thank you,

Leslie Schroeder

Dear Transit and Parking Commission Members,

I am writing in regards to agenda item F.2. at your 11/9/16 meeting which is resolution 09-0097 recognizing the importance of trees in street reconstruction in the instance of laying new sidewalks.

I have been involved in efforts to preserve and protect canopy trees in our city street terraces as emerging awareness has developed that many city policies are at odds with growing and preserving the incredibly valuable canopy trees in our urban forest. Some of the main conflicts are infrastructure such as above ground utility lines and sidewalk routes, and restricted growing space from narrow terraces and small building setbacks.

Recognizing it is important to accommodate the needs of many users of the roadways, I hope as this proposal proceeds through the city process that expertise from each committee will improve upon how to creatively satisfy the needs of varying interest and value the contribution trees make to our city.

Thank you for your consideration,

Leslie Schroeder

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Benishek Clark, Anne

Subject: FW: Input on Resolution 40307 re: complete streets

HAND-OUT

-----Original Message-----

From: Sue Gleason [mailto:smgleason54@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, November 08, 2016 10:46 AM
To: Benishek Clark, Anne
Subject: Input on Resolution 40307 re: complete streets

Hello,

I am unable to attend the Transit and Parking Commission meeting this week but wanted to share my feedback. I support Alder Ahrens resolution amendment to give homeowners a voice in the installation of curbs, gutters, and sidewalks. In general I am opposed to forcing these projects into neighborhoods that were originally built, and have existed just fine, without them. In this fall season we again hear about not raking leaves into the street since they will decompose and be washed into the lakes. This does not happen in streets without gutters and sewer routes that run directly into the lakes.

In addition the character of neighborhoods are changed, trees and yards are impacted, additional shoveling is required, and lastly the cost is passed onto the homeowner, many who can ill afford such an added expense that they did not request.

I live in the Lake View neighborhood, on Madison's Northside, on a very steep street with little traffic. We have been here for 30 years and have many walkers. There have never been any pedestrian or bike incidents that I am aware of yet people are able to walk easily in the neighborhood.

Alder Ahren's resolution would at least provide an opportunity to be part of the decision-making process and allow those of us that are not in favor of the changes to have a voice.

Thank you for sharing this with the commission.

Sue Gleason
4202 Esch Lane
608-217-6022
smgleason54@gmail.com

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Benishek Clark, Anne

Subject: FW: Curbs/Gutters in Lake View Hills Neighborhood

HAND-OUT

From: Itsmine93 [mailto:itsmine93@aol.com]

Sent: Tuesday, November 08, 2016 11:13 AM

To: Benishek Clark, Anne

Subject: Curbs/Gutters in Lake View Hills Neighborhood

Hello,

I am a new resident in the Lake View Hills neighborhood, a single middle aged woman. I purchased my home on a corner lot on a dead end wish to express my opposition to the "Complete Streets" project, file no. 16250.

There is no bus service on my road, and very little vehicle or pedestrian traffic. Installing curb/sidewalks on my property would cost well in excess of \$10,000 which is totally out of my ballpark. It makes no sense, given what I have noted, and will reduce my yard space. Additionally, there is a trench drain on my property near the road which redirects water. This would need to be addressed as well, at a significant cost to me in addition to the sidewalk/curb replacement. I simply cannot afford to have the city change the landscape of my property.

Lisa Otis

Benishek Clark, Anne

TPC 11.09.16

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HAND-OUT

Subject: FW: Resolution 40307 at 11/9 TPC meeting

-----Original Message-----

From: Madison Canopy Street Trees [<mailto:info@madisoncanopystreettrees.org>]

Sent: Tuesday, November 08, 2016 8:00 PM

To: Benishek Clark, Anne

Subject: Resolution 40307 at 11/9 TPC meeting

Hello Ms. Clark,

Please forward this to the members of the Transit and Parking Commission.

Thank you.

Dear Transit and Parking Commission Members,

We at Madison Canopy Street Trees Group are excited to see this first piece of legislation proposed with the intent of creating the right place for canopy trees in our city by recognizing the infrastructure needs of our city have placed trees for far too long as dead last on the list of priorities.

As you contemplate the resolution before you we wanted to provide a consolidated list of some of the many significant benefits canopy trees provide in an urban environment.

Canopy trees benefit us by: absorbing stormwater, removal of air pollutants, reduction of urban heat-island effect, carbon sequestration, reduction in road noise, provide shade reducing air conditioning use, habitat for birds and small animals, protecting roadway surface from UV degradation, increase of adjacent home values, decrease in crime. and last but not least the presence of trees has been shown to have human health benefits such as reducing stress and increasing overall measures of wellbeing and life satisfaction.

More canopy tree benefits, citations for this list, and other information can be found on our website madisoncanopystreettrees.org/

We'd also like to draw attention to the The Madison Sustainability Plan passed by Madison Common Council in 2011. Among other tree supporting objectives the plan states under Goal 7 Action item 8 "Minimize loss of tree cover and green space in public rights of way." The full text can be found here:

<https://www.cityofmadison.com/sustainability/documents/SustainPlan2011.pdf>

Our general belief in regards to the need for amending the Complete Streets Program is: a street is not complete without trees.

Sincerely,
The Madison Canopy Street Trees Group

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TO THE MEMBERS OF THE TRANSIT AND PARKING COMMISSION
REGARDING MODIFICATION RESOLUTION FILE 40307

INTRODUCED BY ALDER AHRENS

I am writing in support of Alder Ahrens proposal which would allow neighborhoods to have a voice in the installation of curbs, gutters and sidewalks in Madison neighborhoods where they are currently lacking. I am sorry I am unable to speak at this meeting, but it is my elderly mothers 95th birthday and I am celebrating with family.

While I understand the good intentions with which the Complete Streets initiative was enacted in 2009, and while I also understand that some of this infrastructure may be needed on large and heavily traveled streets, I believe that in most cases the implementation of this initiative should be done with the involvement of the affected neighborhoods.

I am a 62 year old lifelong Madisonian. My parents met at the UW here in the late 1930's and lived and worked here their entire lives. They built three homes in Madison. I graduated from the UW and worked for the state and then for the city of Madison, retiring after 28 years in law enforcement with the Madison Police Dept. Although city police officers were eventually allowed to live outside the city limits, I have always lived in the city, preferring that my tax dollars go towards the schools where I received my education and the city services of which I was a part. I have owned nine homes in Madison and have lived on every side of the city, either in a home or an apartment.

I currently live at 1513 Longview St in the Lake View Hill neighborhood on the north side. I chose this neighborhood carefully, wanting to remain within the city limits so my taxes would support the schools that gave me my education, and to enjoy the liberal politics and quality of life Madison has to offer. When I purchased my home, I purposely chose to buy in a neighborhood lacking in curb gutters and sidewalks, for a number of reasons:

1. I did not want to live in a neighborhood with curbs and gutters because they direct rainwater into the lakes without allowing it sufficient opportunity to soak into the ground, and I did not want to contribute to the degradation of our lakes. In fact, the EPA states that one way to reduce damaging runoff is to remove curbs and gutters. Currently, even in a rain that dumped about 5" of water in my neighborhood within two hours, all had soaked into the ground within about an hour of when the rain stopped. I should also note that one day as I was walking in an area that had curb and gutter, I followed a trail of water going down the gutter for about 5 blocks. Someone was apparently draining their pool or hot tub and I was amazed at how far the water was going, but of course, it had no chance to be absorbed into any permeable surface.

I am not certain why curbs and gutters became the solution for our lake pollution, but clearly it does not work. When the majority of rainwater is diverted down concrete

rather than being allowed to dissipate into the ground or seep into features such as rain gardens or other alternatives, all the pollutants in the water are carried into the lakes.

2. I did not want sidewalks due to the removal of trees and other landscaping which enhance air quality in an urban environment and provide wildlife habitat. Removal of the trees and landscaping in order to put in sidewalks is a huge detriment to the feel and character of the neighborhood, and reduces air quality and wildlife diversity.
3. I did not want sidewalks due to the extra work it would cause me as I aged. Having had several work-related injuries to my shoulders, I did not want to subject myself to the potential for additional injury due to the maintenance required.

As our population ages, consideration should be given to the needs of those who chose or have no choice but to remain in their homes. Every year, one hears about the injuries and deaths of aging homeowners as they struggle with snow removal. That the city is willing to overlook these significant needs of a significant portion of the population is unconscionable.

Additionally, sidewalks pose a hazard if they are not kept in good repair or cleared of ice and snow. My mother walked daily until her stroke at the age of 87. She fell numerous times on sidewalks which had heaved but had not been repaired. Once she broke several bones in her face. She eventually began walking in the Oak Crest neighborhood a block from her home where many of the streets lacked sidewalks, because she felt the streets were more predictably maintained.

4. I did not want sidewalks due to the cost of installation and repair.

I wholeheartedly support Alder Ahrens proposal as it relates to the self-determinism of neighborhoods which currently lack curbs gutters and sidewalks. The "Complete Streets" initiative was approved in 2009 (a scant seven years ago compared to the 50-60 years these neighborhoods have existed). I do not think that anyone paid much attention to this initiative at the time it was enacted. It is only when the city begins to impose its tenets on the neighborhoods that the residents feel the full force of the dramatic change this will mean for them.

When 90% of the residents on Turner Ave (many of them aged and on fixed incomes) can oppose sidewalks, curbs and gutters in their neighborhood, and the city imposes them on them anyway, adding insult to injury but charging them thousands of dollars for the installation, this is wrong.

When 80% of the residents on E Dean Ave do not want sidewalks and are told they will get them anyway and be charged for them, this is wrong.

I want a city government that does not impose costs and unwanted infrastructure lightly. I believe people choose their neighborhood based on a totality of factors including whether or

not they prefer curb gutters and sidewalks. There are numerous neighborhoods available that have these features if they are desired. In most cases on smaller lightly travelled streets lacking schools or bus stops, there is no need for sidewalks. Statistics have proven absence of sidewalks does not create a safety hazard as far as pedestrians are concerned.

I urge you to support Alder Ahrens' proposal and allow individual neighborhoods to vote on whether they want curbs gutters and sidewalks. I further urge you to mandate a process through which city government must review and distribute a process for implementing the complete streets initiative that does not force our city into a concrete jungle, and if implemented, is implemented without regard to the socio-economic status of the individual neighborhood. I say this because of the wealthy Arboretum area currently under consideration for annexation which has been assured they do not need to worry about installation of curb gutters and sidewalks, and the Highlands area for which these changes have not been mandated.

Respectfully,

Sara Petzold

1513 Longview St

Madison WI 53704