

DRAFT Minutes
September 10, 2015 Draft Minutes
Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee

1. Roll Call and Brief Neighborhood Report
2. Approval of July (unanimously approved)
3. Officers and Staff Report

Discussion of 5' Sidewalk Letter:

Jim Todd - The letter needs to have concrete examples of sidewalks that have failed where 5' sidewalks have been petitioned. We need to highlight that ADA requirements are not 5'. We also need to say that the alternative is to have no sidewalk and the county should understand the cost perspective. We should also request that the utility strip be reduced. Natasha - Our project on 23rd Street failed the first time with 5' sidewalks. It was petitioned a second time and then passed. Jim Feaster - We do need to write and say the standard should be 4' in residential areas. Alexandra Bocian - We need to make sure that we don't lose our audience. We could end the letter by saying we could provide examples. Kathy Guernsey - I am a supporter of 5' sidewalks. The current standards call for flexibility and if we don't have that we should look into it. I have concerns about going lower than county standards. Strollers, wheelchair users take advantage of a wider sidewalk. Paul Bolejack - I would agree with Kathy that the county does provide flexibility, but even with that flexibility people still vote against sidewalks. David Haring - I would like to see the policy stay at 5' and work down from there. We had two projects that came up right at the start of this. I used some of the newer 5' sidewalks and found that I liked them better. If you do it for ADA reasons, you choose a 5' sidewalk. It would be a mistake to have the standard start at 4'. Deborah Wood - In our neighborhood sidewalks are mostly 4' and it's difficult to get 5' sidewalks in, especially in critical areas. Jim Todd - On my own street the county gave us a 4' sidewalk and told us we could not repeat that. If there are exceptions, I'd like to see them. The process is opaque. It's presented as a special exception. Alexandra Bocian - Why are we engaging in this and why are we ok moving forward. Rob Swennes - It has affected us but we do have several projects that have failed. Changing the policy will get us more sidewalk projects in the future. Kath Guernsey - If you make it a 4' minimum, it will never be 5'. Jim Todd - I move that we take another shot at this letter and

state more explicitly the exceptions and make sure the exceptions are being followed by the county and more fairly applied Kathy Guernsey - Second. Rob Swennes - Substitute motion - Approve the letter before us with minor word corrections but nothing substantive. It does talk about creating more flexible rules. Sarah – Second. Call the question to stop talking - 18 in favor 9 against. 14 in favor of substitute motion and 13 against. David Haring - I made the argument that a 5' sidewalk is better than a 4' sidewalk. It's much easier to start the discussion if you have a policy or standard. I don't think in terms of the process, this is going to help things; I think it's going to make things more confusing. I think sending this letter is more detrimental in the long term.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30pm