

SIDEWALK COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
City Commission Room
Wednesday, May 28, 2014
5:15 pm

Committee Members: Jeff Lechner, Arnold Baltzer, Sharon Knapp, Joe Keffeler, Anita Weidaman, City Commissioner Jeremiah Corbin (ex-officio); staff contact – City Engineer Chad Comes.

The following members were present at the meeting: Jeff Lechner, Arnold Baltzer, Sharon Knapp, Joe Keffeler, Anita Weidaman, Jeremiah Corbin, and Chad Comes

Others present at the meeting: Todd Laube and Patti Fiegen.

Motion by Knapp, 2nd by Lechner to approve minutes of October 16, 2013. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Lechner, 2nd by Knapp to approve revised agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

The Committee welcomed new member Joe Keffeler.

Chad Comes discussed background for minimum desired 5 foot offset, discussed other various aspects to consider for all variances, provided discussion of alternatives to variances in general, provided input to committee about long term sidewalk perspectives and public works perspectives, and described recent history of standards development. Committee members discussed longer term history of program and general conversations and intentions.

The Committee discussed variance request from Todd Laube of 607 N. Roosevelt and Patti Fiegen of 613 N. Roosevelt to install sidewalk less than 5 feet from behind the back of curb to avoid impacting trees on both properties – proposed to install approximately 3 feet behind the back of curb for the entire length. Chad Comes discussed the basis of the standards and the variance process outlined in City Commission Resolution 2684 and presented a sketch for the affected areas for discussion. There was significant discussion about the variance and the hardship present or the lack thereof. No trees would have to be removed if variance requests were rejected; however, a major limb in the south Fiegen tree would likely have to be removed. For the north Fiegen tree a series of branches would have to be removed at any setback. Some members expressed interest in a compromise such as curving the west edge of sidewalk up to 8 inches around the tree and/or moving the sidewalk to a four foot setback. Per City Commission Resolution 2684 the motion was made by Lechner and seconded by Knapp to recommend to the City Commission to approve the variance as requested due to extraordinary hardship per Article IV, Section 18.59 (d) of the Revised Madison City Ordinances. Roll call vote: Keffeler – Nay; Lechner – Yay; Knapp – Yay; Baltzer – Nay; Weidaman – Yay. Motion carried 3 to 2.

Meeting adjourned at 5:50.