

From: Blanche Ferdon [<mailto:bbf1@me.com>]

Sent: Sunday, June 24, 2018 2:06 PM

To: Ashton Hayward <mayorhayward@cityofpensacola.com>; Sherry Morris <SMorris@cityofpensacola.com>; Ryan.N.Wiggins@gmail.com; JWiggins@gmail.com

Subject: 1771 E. Mallory Street - Sidewalks - Wiggins

Dear Mayor Hayward and City Council Members,

My name is Blanche Bell Ferdon. My father, Dr. John Bell, built the two brick homes at 1771 E. Mallory Street and 1774 E. Moreno Street, as well as the two stucco houses next door at 1758 E. Moreno Street and 1746 E. Moreno Street. I grew up in the home at 1771 E. Mallory Street, which was built in 1942.

I met the Wiggins family last year when I was visiting Pensacola for my high school reunion and they allowed me to come inside their home and walk down memory lane. They reached out to me this week to ask if I remembered who built the sidewalks surrounding the property and, as a matter of fact, I did.

As I recall, when I asked my Dad about the lack of sidewalks on the other nearby blocks, he said if a homeowner wanted sidewalks, the city would put them in, and the owner would pay for them on their monthly bill from the city, and he wanted the sidewalks. Therefore, the sidewalk that joins Moreno and Mallory Streets is not the city's investment, but my father's.

I hope this helps clear up any speculation on the matter.

Sincerely,

Blanche B. Ferdon

Mr. Butch Cook
1801 E. Mallory Street
Pensacola, FL 32503
June 26, 2018

Mayor Hayward and Pensacola City Council Members
222 West Main Street
Pensacola, FL 32502

Dear Mayor Hayward and Pensacola City Council Members,

I have lived at 1801 East Mallory Street for over five years. During that time, I have never seen anyone use the sidewalk on the west side of 18th Avenue between Moreno and Mallory Streets except, perhaps, for the two owners of the two homes on that short block. What I do see are pedestrians and perambulators, cyclists and skateboarders by the score, and they all travel on the street. They cannot bike or skate on the sidewalk, and they certainly can't run on the sidewalk as they push their babies in sleek strollers designed to be used on long, flat surfaces, not on a single, inaccessible, short length of sidewalk.

As for "men who dream by day" who would have us believe that government must be legally blind in its vision of a completely accessible and connected urban environment, even when that accessibility or connection serves no purpose whatsoever, I would remind them that government should be about the people they serve, not a blind adherence to the latest socially engineered imperative.

My neighbors want to improve their properties, make a better life for themselves and stay in the home and neighborhood they love. As people served by your governance, they deserve your support and your approval of their sensible and personal request.

Sincerely,



Butch Cook
1801 E. Mallory Street
(850) 281-6577

Brandi Deese

From: Christian Wagley <christianwagley@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 10, 2018 6:52 PM
To: Brandi Deese
Subject: Fwd: Planning Board this week

FYI. I emailed some board members but do not have an email address for new member Victor Jordan. Can you send to me please? Thanks!

----- Forwarded message -----

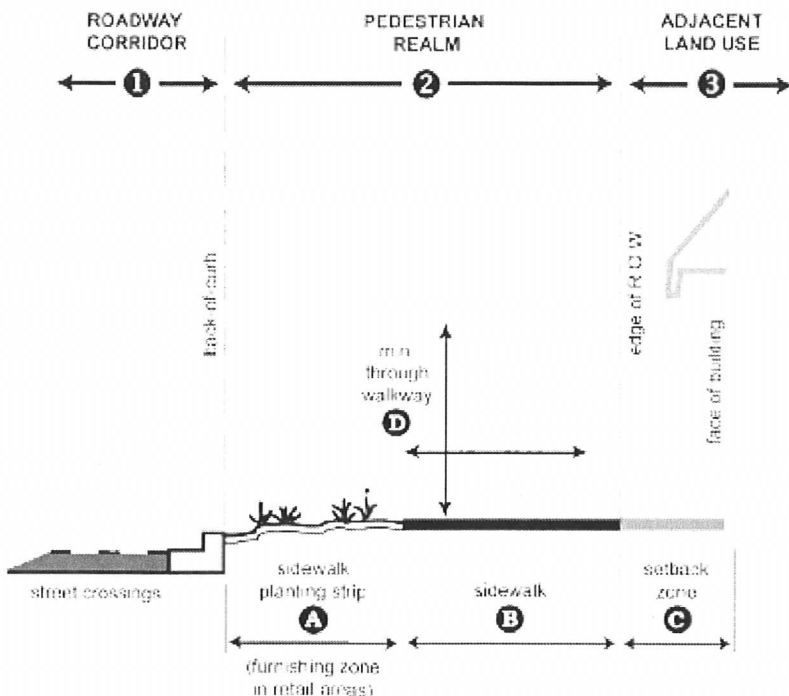
From: Christian Wagley <christianwagley@gmail.com>
Date: Sun, Jun 10, 2018 at 6:24 PM
Subject: Planning Board this week
To: pritz@bullocktice.com

Dear Paul

I hope you are well. I'm writing in regard to Item 1 on the June Planning Board agenda, which is a proposed right-of-way vacation along 18th Ave. in East Hill.

I am strongly opposed to the full proposed 34.5' vacation, as it does not allow for the safe and proper replacement of the existing sidewalk.

I agree with the staff position that a 24.5' vacation is acceptable, but only in conjunction with the replacement of the existing sidewalk at its existing width of 5'. Such vacation allows for the relocation of the sidewalk in a widely-accepted design that calls for a planting strip between the street and the sidewalk. In this case a 5' wide planting strip (which is an ideal width and should be no less than 5') is vital for sheltering the pedestrian from traffic and allows space for street trees needed for shade and traffic calming. Such an arrangement of sidewalk and planting strip is a standard best practice for community design that is utilized in cities and towns all across the country. Here is an example:



Source: www.planetizen.com/node/41262

The proposed vacation site is on a city block that includes a fully intact sidewalk in excellent condition that traverses the entire perimeter of the block. It allows a resident of that block to “walk around the block” safely and pleasantly. Additionally, the sidewalk proposed for removal as part of the vacation is within one block of a city park called Operto Square, making it an important element of the city’s sidewalk network in which access to city parks is prioritized.

If the applicants are not required to replace the existing sidewalk as part of any right-of-way vacation, then the thousands of taxpayer dollars used to fund the construction of that sidewalk will have ultimately been squandered. It will also lead to another loss of connectivity to the city’s sidewalk network, at a time of enhanced pedestrian activity in Pensacola.

Finally, the thought of a pedestrian being forced into the much less safe condition of walking in the street because a public sidewalk is allowed to be removed to facilitate private use, is untenable. In the world of public infrastructure, sidewalks are perhaps our most democratic institution as they allow for safe and free movement by all--the youngest and oldest, the financially poor and the rich, and the able-bodied and the disabled. They must be protected and enhanced.

Thank you for your service, and for considering my comments.

Christian Wagley

801 East Larua St.

Pensacola, FL 32501

850-687-9968

Brandi Deese

From: Amy Hargett
Sent: Monday, June 11, 2018 10:54 AM
To: Brandi Deese
Subject: FW: input for public hearing

Amy D. Hargett
Planning Technician
Planning Services
City of Pensacola
(850) 435-1670



For Non-Emergency Citizen Requests, Dial 311 or visit Pensacola311.com

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From: thomas dannheisser [mailto:tomdannheisser@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, June 11, 2018 10:01 AM
To: Amy Hargett <ahargett@cityofpensacola.com>
Subject: input for public hearing

Dear Ms. Hargett

Thank you very much for sending me the information for the proposed road vacation on 18th Avenue in East Hill. As a property owner in East Hill and a past local government attorney I have great concerns regarding the proposal.

Typically, right-of-way vacations relate to unused abandoned areas such as alley ways that have no present or feasible future use. I have never heard of a request to actually vacate a major portion of a typical improved and utilized right-of-way.

I am sure that the applicants are fine people but the request should be denied for many reasons including but not limited to the following:

1) The vacation would set a catastrophic precedent. Every single property owner in the City would certainly desire to increase the size (and it appears in this case from the aerial by up to 50%) of their

property. The City would immediately be presented with hundreds if not thousands of similar petitions if this was ever granted.

2) The requested vacation appears to be **impossible** from a public works/utility management prospective. Almost all utilities, power, water, sewer, drainage, etc.. are typically located in the area between the "paved" roadway and the edge of the right-of-way. In fact, it would seem to be impossible to even replace or repair the paved portion of the right-of-way if the unpaved portion is vacated, because such activities require much physical work off of the paved portion. Just imagine 18th Avenue (and any/every other road in the City) where the City's ownership just off of the paved area was lost, and the right-of-way was reduced from the typical 60 feet to 20 feet in width.

Again, thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely

Tom Dannheisser



Brandi Deese

From: Thomas Douthat <tdouthat@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 07, 2018 10:50 AM
To: jared@jandmvalve.com; pritz@bullocktice.com; hesscampbell@aol.com; kurt@fire-help.org; fathernathan@gmail.com; kowens@amalighting.com; dgrundhoefer@qgarchitects.com; Public Works; Brandi Deese
Cc: Brian Spencer
Subject: Concern about abandonment of ROW and Sidewalks

Dear Planning Board:

I am writing to express my deep concern about the protection of public ROW and sidewalks in Pensacola.

Before the board is an application for a vacation of the ROW on North 18, and the removal of sidewalks.

This to me is contrary to the public policy stated in the City's Comprehensive Plan, to the safety and mobility of of vulnerable populations (children, wheelchairs, etc.), and of a generally livable Pensacola.

I am not opposed to the city working with the homeowners, but not at the expense of good sidewalks, and planting strips. I am gobsmacked by the logic that past neglect of sidewalks justify abandoning ROW.

Here are examples of new construction or renovations, that has harmed, removed, or rebuilt without sidewalks:

La Rua and 12th (retaining wall), two home development on 11th and La Rua (no sidewalks on 11th), Gas Station on 12th, New duplex development on 14th and La Rua, multi-home development between Gadsden/Jackson and 12th.

All of this will be hard to dial back, but because the city has erred in past management of ROW, does not mean that it should double down. What makes Pensacola attractive is it's outdoor amenity value, and walk-able neighborhoods contribute to this.

I would be happy to have anyone of you over for coffee and take a walk with my two year old in a stroller to demonstrate the problem.

Please do your part for the future of pedestrian safety, livability, and shared spaces in Pensacola. Your decisions are about more than the needs of present owners, and will affect the city for generations to come.

Cordially,

Tom Douthat

--
Thomas Douthat
802 793 3442

Ms. Patricia Gavallas
1800 E. Moreno Street
Pensacola, FL 32503
June 26, 2018

Mayor Hayward and Pensacola City Council Members
222 West Main Street
Pensacola, FL 32502

Dear Mayor Hayward and Pensacola City Council Members,

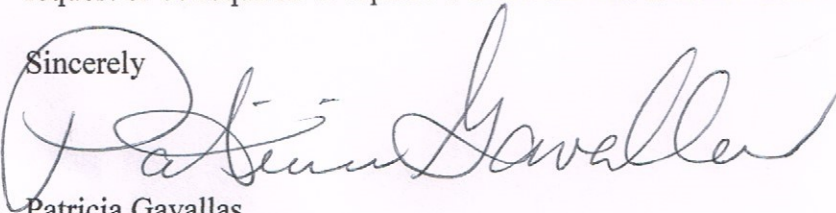
I am writing you today to ask that you consider allowing my neighbors across the street at 1771 E. Mallory Street and 1774 E. Moreno Street obtain the right of way abutting their property and thus removing the sidewalk on that block.

I was raised in my home on the corner of 18th Avenue and Moreno. I have lived here my entire life and can tell you, until Mrs. Wiggins approached me about the right of way and the sidewalk, I had forgotten there was even a sidewalk on that property. With the growing popularity of East Hill, we have had an influx of young families move into the neighborhood. While I see them walking and pushing strollers down 18th Avenue all the time, I never see anyone using the sidewalk in question. I walk on 18th Avenue almost every single day and have never considered using that sidewalk. Because it does not connect to any parks or places of interest for the public, the sidewalk is impractical and unnecessary.

Additionally, I am concerned that if my neighbors were required to replace or move the sidewalk, it would look completely out of place. Because the sidewalk does not connect to any additional sidewalks on 18th Avenue, I am concerned that a brand-new sidewalk built closer to the road would stand out in contrast to the rest of the yards on 18th Avenue. It would look as though it were a mistake or the city ran out of funds before they were able to complete the project. The aesthetics of that would be out of character and would not fit with the current appearance of 18th Avenue. I am also concerned that moving or replacing the sidewalk would force the neighbors to take down trees that provide shade and move gardens that provide beauty to the neighborhood.

I appreciate that my neighbors want to improve their property as any improvements they make will increase the property value of my own home as well. As a taxpaying citizen and thus one of the current owners of that right of way, I see no valid reason that my neighbors should be denied their request or be required to replace a sidewalk that is never used to begin with.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patricia Gavallas". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely".

Patricia Gavallas
1800 E. Moreno Street