

Craig, Sondra

From: Mary Wisneski <marywisneski@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 9, 2024 1:00 PM
To: ZZ Council Members
Cc: Mary Wisneski
Subject: Sidewalks on 28th and 29th Streets

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Dear council members,

My husband and I built our home in Janice Court in 1984. At the time our children were 5 and 7.

We were attracted to this neighborhood for a number of reasons, and were happy when Jake Hoeschler reconfigured the available center lots to 6 rather than 8 to make it more family friendly with larger yards etc.

We loved:

the scenic bluffs

the nearby park

convenient access to Hixon Forest trails access by school bus to State Road School Short commute to work

Furthermore the neighborhood was attractive because people were very friendly, cared for their landscaping, the park offered safe rec. dept. activities for our children, and our children could walk or bike safely to nearby friends and attractions. We walked with them when they were younger....

28th Street was and is a great street to walk. I walked over 900 miles on neighborhood streets, including Ebner Coulee, with my dog in 2023.

The only times I use extra caution is navigating the 29th Street "bump" over the ditch where the sidewalk ends: this is because many people cut the corner where Cliffwood meets 29th, and frequently accelerate the distance to Cass St., including going over the "bump"! It seems like effective solutions might simply and economically include stop signs, and/or pedestrian/crosswalk warning sign.

Absolutely the biggest obstacles I encounter are inattentive drivers frequently using cell phones while speeding and turning corners with one hand on the wheel, occasional "packs" of bikers hogging the lane, and the speeders who use 28th after being diverted by trains on Main, Cass and Farnam Streets.

Finally, I have several issues which the sidewalk lovers ignore:

1. Sidewalks damage the environment by increasing the concrete footprint, removing mature trees and other valuable landscaping that provide shade and habitat for wildlife.
2. Secondly, we have a fragile area for drainage and bluff runoff, to keep our neighborhood out of the floodplain: sidewalks would have a negative effect.
3. Sidewalks would add expense and challenges for our elderly citizens who often have to pay for private services to shovel etc.
4. Finally, as we age, we realize our access to some of the things we loved like hiking the Hixon trails, biking the area trails etc. are no longer a practical/safe option. The ADA has brought many positive features to communities everywhere. This does not mean that every inch of the city needs to adapt to the same features of accessibility, ignoring that all the citizens that live here are entitled to shape their neighborhoods based on their preferences. As an elected body you serve all of us!!!

Please do the right thing and govern for the people who elected you, not to further your own beliefs and preferences.

Sincerely,
Mary Wisneski
851 Janice Ct.
La Crosse