

Renee Padgett

From: Cathy Kromm
Sent: Wednesday, August 11, 2021 9:12 AM
To: Diana A. Santiago
Subject: FW: Summit Street project proposal

From: Traci J. Reed <Traci.Reed@Appleton.org>
Sent: Wednesday, August 11, 2021 8:02 AM
To: Cathy Kromm <Cathy.Kromm@Appleton.org>
Subject: FW: Summit Street project proposal

From: Paula Vandehey <Paula.Vandehey@Appleton.org>
Sent: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 10:35 PM
To: Traci J. Reed <Traci.Reed@Appleton.org>
Subject: Fwd: Summit Street project proposal

Traci I need to attach another document to the Muni Services Committee minutes. Is that still possible?

Paula

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Brad Firkus <District3@appleton.org>
Date: August 10, 2021 at 9:31:12 PM CDT
To: Paula Vandehey <Paula.Vandehey@appleton.org>
Cc: "Amanda K. Abshire" <Amanda.Abshire@appleton.org>
Subject: RE: Re: Summit Street project proposal

Alright, let's try this then:

On Aug 10, 2021 7:37 AM, Paula Vandehey <Paula.Vandehey@Appleton.org> wrote:
Hi Brad,

I did not get the attachment with your email.

Paula

From: Brad Firkus <District3@Appleton.org>
Sent: Monday, August 9, 2021 8:43 PM
To: Amanda K. Abshire <Amanda.Abshire@Appleton.org>; Paula Vandehey

I am a resident of 714 S. Summit Street. I, along with three other Summit Street residents, attended and spoke at the Municipal Services Committee meeting of July 26. Attached is a letter signed by many of the Summit Street residents who would be affected by the proposed reconstruction project. The letter is self-explanatory and expresses our opposition to the bulk of the proposed project.

Let me just add a few additional comments. We believe that narrowing the width of the street from 28 to 26 feet and eliminating parking on the west side is a very bad idea for the safety and other reasons mentioned in the letter. Additionally, to do that probably also would necessitate posting permanent "No Parking" signs along the west side of the street. That would diminish the beauty of the street. I am sure that no one living on the west side of the street would want to have such a metal sign in front of their house.

Further, with respect to saving the mature trees, it is my understanding that there is a digging technique called "air-spading" which can be used and is much less damaging to tree roots compared to digging with a bucket. If it is determined that comprehensive sewer/water main work needs to be done (as opposed to simply fixing the water main in front of 719 S. Summit St.), then I would suggest air-spading. Finally, if more comprehensive underground work is determined to be necessary, resulting in repaving the street instead of just patching it, we all request that any such repaving not involve the existing curbs, since keeping the street at 28 feet wide with parking on both sides is important to us.

I am sending you this email instead of using the City's contact form, because there is no way to attach documents on the City's form. Thank you, Jonathan Menn

Attention: This message was sent from a source external to the City of Appleton. Please use caution when opening attachments or clicking links.

July 29, 2021

Dear Appleton Common Council Members,

We are the residents of South Summit Street (between Prospect and Fourth). We have been made aware of a proposal of the Engineering Division of the Municipal Services Committee to reconstruct sanitary sewer, storm sewer, and water main, increase the size of the terraces on both the east and west sides of the street, reduce the width of Summit Street from 28 feet to 26 feet, re-asphalt the entire street, eliminate parking on the west side of the street, and remove five mature trees along the street.

It appears that there may be a problem with the water main in front of 719 S. Summit St. If that needs to be fixed, then we agree that that should be fixed. However, we all strongly oppose the rest of the proposal (i.e., increasing the size of the terraces, narrowing the street, doing comprehensive underground work and re-asphalting, eliminating the parking on the west side, and removing the existing trees). There are several reasons why we believe this is a very bad idea (and four of us were able to be at the Municipal Services Committee meeting on July 26 to voice our concerns).

First, this comprehensive proposal is unnecessary.

- The letter of July 12 from the Engineering Division did not indicate that *any* of this was necessary.
- No one who lives here has noticed any problems or voiced any desire to have any of these things done. To impose this major revision on our street and neighborhood seems wrong.
- Our portion of Summit Street is only two blocks long and is not a thoroughfare. Consequently, spending over \$200,000 to make major revisions to our street is an unwarranted use of taxpayer money which could better be spent dealing with streets that are thoroughfares.

Second, the aspects of the proposal to which we object would adversely affect the character of our street and neighborhood and, if carried out, would likely make the traffic situation worse.

- Other proposed street projects (as discussed at the July 26 meeting) involve streets 35 or more feet wide. Our street is only 28 feet wide now. To reduce its width by two feet would make backing out of the driveway (if there are cars parked on the street) much more difficult. It would also make turning into the street much more difficult, especially in winter and when there are vehicles parked on the street and/or vehicles at the corners waiting to turn on to Prospect or Fourth.
- We need the parking on both sides of the street. There is an Air BNB (unfortunately with a non-resident owner) located at 628 S. Summit St. They frequently have several cars on the street for guests and parties. To eliminate parking on the west side of the street would adversely affect everyone who lives on the street when we have guests or parties of our own.

- This short street has a historic and distinctive character. Many of the houses were built in the 1920s and 1930s. Most of the trees are mature. To repave the street, eliminate parking, and remove some of the mature trees would adversely affect the character of our neighborhood.
- Regarding the trees, the Forestry Q&A section of the City's website says, "Large trees provide a significant value to the City of Appleton. We strive to maintain them as long as they are safe and healthy. Tree removal is usually only considered as a last option." All of the mature trees along our street have been alive for decades. They are all in full leaf. None of them appears to be diseased or dying, and they all appear to be thriving. While the tree in front of 707 S. Summit St. lost a limb in a big storm a few years ago, it was otherwise not affected and is thriving now. The trees in front of 714 S. Summit St. have never required any repair or maintenance. They have never lost any major limbs in windstorms. Clearly, therefore, these trees do not require a wider terrace to "be saved" and thrive. These trees provide significant value to the City, to the residents of Summit Street, and to the character of Summit Street. They are safe and they are healthy. There is no good or necessary reason (let alone a "last option") to remove them.

In sum, if it is necessary to fix the water main in front of 719 S. Summit St., then, of course, do that. However, all the other aspects of this proposal are not only not necessary but are counterproductive. We therefore request that the street narrowing, terrace enlarging, parking eliminating, comprehensive underground work, street re-asphalting, and tree removal aspects of the proposal NOT be approved.

[Signature] 711 S Summit St Sincerely,
 Marcia Ostroch 715 S. Summit St.
 54914
 Rick Martin 707 S. Summit St.
 Jean Mautts 805 S. Summit St.
 Annesa VanHelen 719 S Summit St.
 Douglas Martin 720 S Summit ST
 [Signature] 714 S. SUMMIT ST.
 Rachel TenHaken 811 S. Summit St.
 Butany Schumacher 711 S. Summit Street.
 [Signature] 811 S. Summit St.
 [Signature] 719 S. SUMMIT
 Michael R. DeHate 715 S Summit
 Janna Foster 728 S Summit

Name of Member 714 S. Summit St.