



Michael J. Gallagher PE, Director

August 4, 2021

RE: Robinson Trust Sidewalk Project- Alma St SE

Dear Property Owner:

The Department of Public Works (DPW) will be hosting a public meeting for the opportunity to present the Engineering Report of conceptual designs for the Robinson Trust Sidewalk Project considered for your street. Following the presentation by staff there will be an opportunity for you to ask questions and provide comments. Additionally, you may submit question and comments to us via email: sidewalks@viennava.gov in advance of the meeting. The meeting will be on **Wednesday Aug 18th from 8:30 pm to 9:30 pm** in the Council Chambers located at 127 Center Street South. In adherence to COVID recommendations unvaccinated persons should wear masks or face coverings. Physical-distancing strategies also will be employed during the meeting.

Background

At the April 26 Town Council Meeting the Council authorized the Town Manager to apply to the Maud Robinson Trust for design of sidewalk projects on the following streets: Alma St., SE; Birch St., SW; Blackstone Terrace, NW; Charles St., SE; Cherry Circle, SW; Elmar Dr., SE and SW; Oak St., SW; Symphony Circle, SW; and Timber Lane, SW. The authorization **does not designate** which side of the street the sidewalk project will be built upon. The authorization allows for field survey and preliminary engineering to be performed on both sides.

At the May 10, 2021 Town Council Planning Session DPW indicated that it would prepare an Engineering Report for each street project that includes a conceptual design for each side of the street and a staff recommendation of which side of the street the final design should pursue. The Engineering Report will evaluate each project to address concerns that were raised during the April 26, 2021 Council Meeting and to address comments received related to the projects. Additionally, DPW will provide analysis of the pros and cons that support the recommendation of each project. Factors to be considered for recommending that the new sidewalk be proposed on one side rather than the other side may include more favorable support from property owners, less impact on trees, less grading on private property, no constructability issues such as utility poles that cannot be designed around, connectivity to adjacent sidewalks, trails, schools, parks, shopping areas, or other destinations, and cost.

The Report will be available on the Town website approximately one week before the meeting at www.viennava.gov/RobinsonTrustReports .

After the Report has been completed and DPW has made presentation of the Report to the property owners, the Council will make the final determination of how to proceed with the design of each project. The Council will make this determination at a future Town Council Meeting.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Gallagher, PE
Director DPW



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August 4, 2021

RE: Robinson Trust Sidewalk Project- Blackstone Terrace NW

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The Department of Public Works (DPW) will be hosting a public meeting for the opportunity to present the Engineering Report of conceptual designs for the Robinson Trust Sidewalk Project considered for your street. Following the presentation by staff there will be an opportunity for you to ask questions and provide comments. Additionally, you may submit question and comments to us via email: sidewalks@viennava.gov in advance of the meeting. The meeting will be on **Monday Aug 16th from 8:30 pm to 9:30 pm** in the Council Chambers located at 127 Center Street South. In adherence to COVID recommendations unvaccinated persons should wear masks or face coverings. Physical-distancing strategies also will be employed during the meeting.

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August 4, 2021

RE: Robinson Trust Sidewalk Project- Charles St SE

Dear Property Owner:

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Director DPW



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August 4, 2021

RE: Robinson Trust Sidewalk Project- Symphony Circle SW

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Michael J. Gallagher, PE
Director DPW

Charles St SE and Blackstone Terr NW

August 16, 2021

Town Council Chambers

In attendance: Robert Froh (TOV), Alsinia Ervin (TOV) and Catherine Hardman PAC

Public Works hosted a public meeting to present the Engineering report of the conceptual design for the Robinson Trust sidewalk projects considered for their street. Robert Froh created a video presentation for each of the projects, providing detailed information about both sides of the street to include the impacted trees, poles and fire hydrants that would impact the location of the sidewalk. After the presentation there was an opportunity to ask questions.

Charles St SE 7:30 – 8:30 pm

None of the homeowners from Charles Street attended the meeting.

Blackstone Terr NW 8:30 – 9:30 pm

The home owner at 612 (Wendy Cardany) was the only homeowner in attendance.

- There is a 2-tier terraced (landscape timber) planter wall in her front yard and wants to know if the sidewalk can be narrowed to avoid impacting the wall. The wall was there when she purchased the property 14 years ago. **(It was explained that we are proposing to install the sidewalk adjacent to the curb and gutter in front of this address at a 6 foot width. Installing sidewalk at 6 feet wide separates the pedestrian from the traffic as well it provides enough room when a parked car opens it door. The first tier of the terraced wall would have to be removed. To support the remaining wall a 6 inch high retaining will be installed)**
- She is a naturalist and has planted native plants that would be removed with the sidewalk project. She wanted to know if the contractor would relocate the plants as a part of the project. **(If the homeowner would like to save any plants, the plants could be relocated by the homeowner prior to the start of work. The contractor is not a landscape contractor)**
- She agrees that if sidewalk were to be placed on Blackstone Terr, it should be installed on her side of the street. The odd numbered side of the street has significant trees where the even numbered side of the street does not.

- There is not a lot of traffic on the street. She walks multiple dogs on the street and feels safe. Her kids have grown up there. **(Not everyone is comfortable walking in the street. A sidewalk will allow everyone, including people in wheelchairs, parents with strollers, kids, etc. to safely walk in the town).**
- The concrete sidewalk is impermeable, not good. Has there been a consideration to have a permeable sidewalk installed. **(Permeable sidewalks were considered. However, this option is costly and would be a maintenance nightmare for the Town)**
- Currently there is an asphalt all the way to the curb. **(As part of the sidewalk project, this address would receive a concrete apron)**
- Who would be responsible for transplanting trees on her property. **(Relocating trees will be done as a part of the project, depending on the size, type and condition of the tree. The contractor will work with the homeowner to confirm where the tree would be relocated to. The homeowner would not be charged for relocating the tree(s). However, there would be no warranty on a relocated tree. Only the newly planted trees would have a warranty)**
- She is concerned about the added runoff of water because of this project. **(It was explained that the Town is looking at this issue; and considering the purchase of storm water credits)**

Symphony Circle SW and Alma St SE

August 18, 2021

Town Council Chambers

In attendance: Robert Froh (TOV), Alsinia Ervin (TOV) and John Okee (PAC)

Public Works hosted a public meeting to present the Engineering report of the conceptual design for the Robinson Trust sidewalk projects considered for their street. Robert Froh created a video presentation for each of the projects, providing detailed information about both sides of the street to include the impacted trees, poles and fire hydrants that would impact the location of the sidewalk. After the presentation there was an opportunity to ask questions and to comment.

Symphony Circle SW 7:30 – 8:30 pm

Robert Witzleb 911 Symphony Circle. Mr. Witzleb has read the information posted on the Town's Website and was surprised to read the information about the health of the trees in front of his house.

- Mr. Witzleb is in support of the project and has solicited opinions from the homeowners on Symphony Circle. One of the homeowners he spoke with, has four kids, is in support of sidewalk on Symphony Circle only if the sidewalk will connect to a sidewalk on Melody Lane.
- Mr. Witzleb feels that Town Council should have approached these projects differently. The homeowners should not have the ability to vote on a public sidewalk on the street. The Town Council should inform the homeowners that there will be a project on the street, and let the homeowners vote on the concept (which side of the street sidewalk should be installed).
- He is in support of the project.

Alma St SE 8:30 – 9:30 pm

Kurt Wenk 501 Alma St

- Moved in to this house about 3 years ago and wanted to know if the sidewalk configuration proposed for in front of his house could be changed. Can the crossings be directed across the street to Delano Dr. **(Robert said that he will look in to the suggestion)**

- Is concerned that there is added concrete and the street is in a resource management area

Chris and Karen Hager 510 Alma St

- In support of sidewalk- on odd side of street.
- Wanted to make sure that the turn restricting signs were not going to be removed because of the sidewalk project. **(Alsinia told her that the signs would stay. The signs have nothing to do with the sidewalk project)**
- Suggests that the sidewalk on Delano Dr should be installed on the southside of the street where there are more houses

Jason Zara 504 Alma St

- Stated that he is an engineering professor. He feels that the survey results should be updated. As homeowners change their minds about sidewalk. The number of people who responded to the survey was not sufficient. Believes he did not receive the questionnaire.
- Indicated there is considerable drainage from rear yards toward street. **(Robert indicated the final design will consider this, and possibly install an underdrain if necessary).**
- The trees planted in front of his house were there when he purchased the property. He likes having the trees there to provide a buffer. **(the trees in the right of way are considered Town trees. Some trees can be relocated depending on the condition, size etc., others will be removed and replaced based on the Town's Arborist, and where possible the sidewalk will be installed to go around a healthy tree)**

Paul Leighton 502 Alma St

- Had thought that the Mayor and Council members were going to be present.
- He believes that he never received the survey.
- He and his wife went to all of the houses on the even numbered side of the street and obtained signatures from most. The sheet provided, indicates that the homeowners on the even numbered side of the street prefer to have the sidewalk installed on the odd numbered side of the street. He feels that we should have obtained responses to the questionnaire from all or nearly all of the residents. He suggested the Town staff should have obtained more responses by knocking on doors. **(He was told the Town does not have the resources for this suggestion)**
- He does not feel that enough effort was done and wants to know when the decision is going to be made. **(He was informed that Town Council will be making the final decision, which side of the street, both sides of the**

street or no project at all. When this issue is on the agenda, he is welcome to attend the Town Council meeting to express his opinion)

- The Robinson Trust sidewalk projects are being forced on them.

Other topics discussed by the group:

Utility Undergrounding - Some residents believed that the Dominion Virginia Power project will conflict with the sidewalk project, and that the overhead wires and poles would be removed. **Robert indicated that the Dominion project will be constructed on “private” property; whereas, the sidewalk project will be constructed on the existing R/W. The Undergrounding project is voluntary- depends on DVP obtaining the easements from the homeowners. The DVP project will mostly be constructed by directional drilling. If the DVP project were constructed after the sidewalk project, there would be minimal conflict to the new sidewalk. Robert indicated that the DVP project, if constructed, would only remove the overhead electric wires- not the cable, fiber, or telephone lines. Most likely the poles will need to remain to support these other utilities.**

Safety at the Delano/ Alma Intersection- The citizens had concerns regarding the cut-through traffic to and from the Navy Federal Credit Union. **Staff advised them to contact the Transportation Safety Commission and provided contact information.**