



CITY OF AMITY

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AGENDA ITEM

Subject: Sidewalk Program – Fee-in-lieu and Repair
Date: May 15, 2024
Origin: Nathan Frarck, City Administrator
Action Requested: Review the proposed sidewalk program and talk through the approach, questions, and any further ideas or comments.

Background:

The City of Amity has had many recent discussions regarding sidewalks throughout the city. Sidewalk infrastructure was also identified as a priority in several council goals including “Explore a sidewalk cost share program”, “Inventory existing sidewalk facilities”, and priority repairs in several locations. Given the stated Council goals, I believe the development of a strong sidewalk policy and program are essential in defining the City’s approach to sidewalks going forward.

Additionally, the City has recently had issues with the sidewalk requirements as they’re imposed on people who are rebuilding their homes. This isn’t really an issue with brand new development, but we have several property owners who are just in really old homes, manufactured or stick-built, who seem to want to update their home. Most of these property owners don’t have sidewalks in front of their home. The Amity Development Code and Municipal code requires sidewalk improvements with the development of new homes. Generally speaking, our city streets are not as wide as we’d like and the primary stormwater conveyance is drainage ditches (usually right where the sidewalk would need to be installed). The lack of ROW or proper street alignment poses a challenge when determining where property owners should install sidewalks in front of their home.

With these issues in mind, I’ve been thinking about trying to push forward a couple of changes to Amity’s sidewalk program. The first piece is a fee in lieu program that would allow property owners to pay a fee instead of installing sidewalks. The second piece is a repair/replacement grant program that would be used to incentivize repair of the sidewalks already in place in Amity, and preferably get our main walking paths to have usable sidewalks. I’ve outlined the programs in the attached word document and have included our current sidewalk ordinance for reference.

Exhibits:

- Exhibit A – Sidewalk program outline
 - Exhibit B – Ordinance 622 that established Section 92.04 of the Amity Municipal Code on sidewalks.
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Recommendation:

Review the proposed sidewalk program and discuss.