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Dear Mr. Chairperson, committee members and community members,

Pursuant to Mr. Minikel's letter dated August 7th, 2024 regarding Proposed Sidewalks for Royal Oaks Subd. No. 3 (Knuell St., Red Fox Ln. & Deerbrook Ln), I'd like to kindly offer this dissent in the necessity for sidewalks and corresponding rationale and questions. I am joined by fellow residents as outlined in the closing salutations.

I'd like to begin with addressing specific points raised in an email from Jerry & Louise Strharsky to Mayor Nickels, the Safety Committee members and Todd Reckelberg, our district Alderperson, on August 6th.

Regarding Paragraph 2:

Mr. Strharsky asserts that additional information was not provided to the appropriate governing bodies. From my review of the meeting minutes, adequate statutory notice was given and ample opportunity was provided for anyone to provide supporting documentation.

It is the opinion of myself and my fellow residents that ample opportunity was provided to governing committees for consideration.

Regarding Paragraph 3:

Mr. Strharsky asserts that there is rampant abuse of speed limits on the street by numerous vehicle types. As I understand it, there are at least two law enforcement officials that live in the neighborhood and have had ample opportunity as such to advise of any traffic safety issue and to the best of my knowledge, have not.

It is the opinion of myself and my fellow residents that unless the Manitowoc Police Department has record of vehicular / pedestrian safety issues, no such issue of public safety exists and sidewalks are not warranted.

Regarding Paragraph 4:

Mr. Straharsky asserts that the City does not adequately / timely plow the streets, thus use of sidewalk is necessary for winter pedestrian traffic given the City's inability to maintain the streets. Can you confirm that the area in question is plowed by the City in accordance with the law and governing standards? Can you also confirm the ordinance / governing law regarding a resident's requirement to plow their sidewalk?

It is the opinion of myself and fellow residents that the City is plowing as they should, in accordance with any governing standard, and that any governing standard for the removal of snow on sidewalks would not

assist in Mr. Strharsky's assertion that sidewalks are necessary given residents can remove snow within the reasonable time governed by the city.

Regarding Paragraph 5:

Similar to the response of paragraph 3, law enforcement officials reside in this area. They have a duty to make known a public safety issue and to the best of our knowledge, have not done so.

It is the opinion of myself and fellow residents that without documented violations of safety by the Manitowoc Police Department and nothing noted by law enforcement officials in the neighborhood, the safety issues do not exist as Mr. Strharsky asserts.

Regarding Paragraph 6:

Mr. Strharsky asserts that colored concrete downtown was a misspend of city funds and because of the funds spent on that, the City should say yes to forcing homeowners to spend money on sidewalks in the area in question. I'd appreciate your insight as to the traffic counts downtown and other areas where colored pedestrian crosswalks exist, and the traffic counts in the area in question. I would believe that while safety is important everywhere, enhanced measures are taken in priority zones based on several factors, one of the main being the amount of traffic encountered.

It is the opinion of myself and my fellow residents, that the safety condition necessitating enhanced pedestrian safety does not exist in the area in question vs. downtown as Mr. Strharsky asserts and sidewalks are not necessary as the areas are vastly dissimilar.

Regarding Paragraph 7:

Mr. Strharsky asserts that advance notice will allow other residents to budget. He also again asserts that additional time or effort may be necessary by City committees / governing bodies.

It is the opinion of myself and fellow residents that this paragraph is not germane to the issue and budgeting is the onus of each individual resident. It is also our opinion that the City has done due diligence on this matter, and except for the Board of Public works, all governing bodies have put this issue on file and per City Attorney Nycz, and in this option "that is the end of the matter."

On July 8th, the issue of constructing sidewalks was brought to the Public Safety Committee. It was moved that the request be placed on file, and referred to Common Council. On July 15th, Common Council took up this issue and referred it to the Board of Public Works. On July 24th, the Board of Public Works met and this agenda item was requested to be removed from the agenda on the meeting minutes. On the July 8th Public Safety Committee meeting, under agenda item 24-1666, there is attachment 23-0618PI. This attachment references this sidewalk issue as part of the Public Infrastructure Committee, dated August 2, 2023, where this attachment specifically places this issue on file and recommends "no sidewalks."

It is clear that multiple committees have already reviewed this issue and have taken the action of placing it on file and have also gone so far as in document 23-0618 from August 2, 2023 that there are to be "no

sidewalks.” While I am uncertain as to the timing of all of these committees and specifically your letter dated August 7th, it becomes clear that all committees up to this point have found that this issue should be placed on file, and per City Attorney Nycz’s letter dated July 2nd on the matter, “is the end of the matter.”

Respectfully, it now appears per your August 7th letter, that this issue is with the Board of Public Works, for which many of us are either in attendance or have otherwise provided our input to this matter.

Given the entire body of debate and committee work that has gone into this issue as to the time of the letter, and specifically the refutations I have addressed above to Mr. Strharsky’s letter, we find there is no public safety hazard that exists in the area in question and ask that this issue be, once and for all, placed on file and no action be taken.

Kind regards,

Philip Todd and Amanda Moolenaar 2628 Knuell Street

This letter is in addition to more general petitions that have circulated in the neighborhood in opposition of this matter.