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INC

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Neighborhoods work better when they work together.

Parks and Recreation Committee

March 1 2019

Dear Director Haynes,

We have been keeping up to date about new sidewalks going into parks and invited Deborah Turner from Public Works come to our INC Parks and Rec Committee meeting in November 2018. She explained the new sidewalk plan and that Public Works was going to look first at city owned land.

In our discussion Ms. Turner was asked about the process for putting sidewalks into parks. She told us that the Parks department determines where the sidewalks are going to be placed in parks and parkways. She also said she works with the Parks department and that she understood the need for the Park department to engage the community.

We appreciate that often sidewalk placement in parks does not seem like a major project to involve neighbors and park users, however sidewalks become permanent structures and change the look and the circulation in the parks. INC Parks and Rec Committee believes that when changes occur in parks which will impact the neighboring community and park users, there should be notification and early involvement of the people.

Our residents do have an understanding of a park project's impact, both positive and negative, and the community needs to be respected by letting them know when project planning begins. As you are aware, many times there are no questions or expressed concerns, but if they do arise there is an opportunity for the community to weigh in. Regardless, people appreciate information, transparency and mutual respect.

An instance of this has been brought to our committee, the Sloan's Lake sidewalk project. The neighbors have concerns and they feel they were not given a chance to express them in a meaningful way. This appears to be an example of a lack of process without early engagement and transparency.

We ask you to please look at this project and help these residents to have a voice, share their community knowledge and have their concerns addressed.

Sincerely,

Cindy Johnstone

Maggie Price Co Chairs, INC PARC

CC. Craig Long, Deborah Turner, Gordon Robertson, Jennifer Olson, Scott Gilmore, George Mayl, Loretta Kohler

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