

April 11, 2021

RE: Griggs-Scheffer Paving Project Phase 2

Dear Council President Brendmoen and Council Members,

We implore you to take time to understand the detrimental - *and absolutely avoidable* - implications of the Griggs-Shafer Paving Project Phase 2 on Edgumbe Place.

My wife, Kimberly and I moved to St. Paul in 2001 for what we thought would be a short stay. We quickly fell in love with St. Paul, and have been delighted to call this our home for 20 years. Our family of five live at 5 Edgumbe Place in a historic 1923 home that we understand was the original home on this little street. Our two oldest children are students at Highland Park Senior High, our youngest will attend Highland Park Middle School next year. We cherish St. Paul as much as we do our little part of it and feel very much as if we are meant to be stewards of its unique heritage and characteristics¹.

As it is currently laid out, Phase 2 of the Griggs-Shafer Paving Project appears poised to remove Edgumbe Place - a short, narrow, terminal road with a small cul de sac at the end - and build a new road, significantly offset from the old one. Should the new road be completed as it is currently laid out, shifted substantially from the current road, numerous mature trees will be lost, walls, fences and landscaping will be damaged or removed, and at least one resident's yard will be significantly altered as traffic shifts to within roughly three yards of their home.

It would seem that significant project costs associated with tree removal, wall, fence and landscaping demolition and/or removal, and unearthing and leveling existing yards, could be avoided by simply ensuring a newly built Edgumbe Place follows the road currently in existence. This is what the neighbors and taxpayers of Edgumbe Place are unanimously requesting: a more cost effective, less invasive alternative, with seemingly zero drawbacks.

When reconstructing Edgumbe Place, can the City Council please ensure the project follows the existing road?

Kimberly & Michael Miller
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¹ Which is why when the St. Paul Regional Watershed District needed project partners a number of years ago to support stabilizing the ravine on the northside, all the Edgumbe Place residents on the ravine willingly granted permissions and worked with watershed experts to ensure the project's success.