

From: David Rothstein [davidroth64@yahoo.com]
Sent: Saturday, November 03, 2012 3:04 PM
To: *CI-StPaul_Contact-OFS
Subject: 2013 Proposed Assessment statement from David Rothstein

Dear St. Paul City Council Members,

As President of the White House Condo Association (143 Arundel St), I represent the members of our condo association as well as other neighbors of ours whose property adjoins the alley between Arundel and MacKubin streets (east to west), between Selby and Laurel (north and south). My statement regards the proposed alley maintenance fees for 2013.

Our alley is one of the old brick alleys in St. Paul. However, it is apparently not on the historical register and at one point was paved over by the city, probably in the early 1990s. Remnants of the tar that once covered our alley are still there. Over the years, the alley has developed ruts and holes, making navigation difficult. But because it is mainly a brick alley, the city has not performed the kinds of upkeep and maintenance that it does with oiled/paved alleys. For years we have been paying a fee for oiled/paved alleys, but the city has done no maintenance for us. Until this past spring, 2012.

After we made several calls to the appropriate city department, the city finally agreed in spring to lay a gravel mixture on the alley to smooth out the ruts, but to avoid laying a permanent surface. Then the heavy rains early this past summer washed about 2/3 of the gravel mixture away, down into the city sewer, which probably will cost the city to have this removed from the sewer.

The city should never again lay a gravel mixture on this alley because of the inevitable wash-out that will occur. The solution would be to pave this alley as it once was in the past. However, the city is unlikely to do this. **Therefore, if the city cannot act to maintain our alley, we propose that no alley assessment fee be charged to any of the property owners who adjoin this particular alley, starting in 2013 and continuing until the city acts to maintain the alley in some form in the future.**

Again, we strongly urge the city to consider paving our alley, which is not on the historic register and has lost any aesthetic integrity it once had due to deterioration along with the broken tar remnants of a previous paving. If the city decides to pave our alley in 2013, we will gladly and rightly pay the yearly assessment fee. But if no action is taken by the city, then it would be wrong for us to pay any fee at all.

We would appreciate your reading this statement at the November 7, 2012 meeting at which the 2013 Proposed Assessment Rates will be discussed. And a reply would be appreciated either by e-mail or letter.

Thank you,

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