



CITY OF SAINT PAUL
Christopher B. Coleman, Mayor

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Street Engineering/Construction
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June 5, 2014,

Amy Spong
Planning & Economic Development
1400 CHA, 25 West Fourth Street
Saint Paul, MN 55102

RE: Appeal of HPC decision to deny Sidewalk Construction in front of 1173 Davern Street

Dear Ms. Spong:

Be hereby advised that the Sidewalk Section of Public Works is appealing the decision of the Heritage Preservation Commission of May 22nd in denying the new city sidewalk construction in front of 1173 Davern St, William & Kathryn Davern Farmhouse.

The sidewalk proposal is for the west side of Davern Street from St. Paul Avenue to Colvin Avenue. The west side of Davern Street was chosen over the east side due to better topography conditions. The east side of Davern Street is not being considered for new sidewalk construction due to the steepness of the topography which would need retaining walls to be constructed which could cost well over \$100,000.00 The west side proposal is abutting six properties which 1173 Davern Street is one of the properties.

I believe the Commission erred in its decision when they indicated that “a new city sidewalk, while replacing some green space, is at grade and will impact the site’s integrity of setting”. Sidewalks are flat to the topography. They do not obscure buildings. The proposed city sidewalk is approximately 12 feet from the property line and 130 feet from the house. There is no impact of the integrity of the property. There is already a trample down pathway along the back of the curb indicating pedestrians already walk there. This however is unsafe. Changing the beaten dirt pathway to a concrete sidewalk would be allowing the pedestrian access to a better surface and better safety.

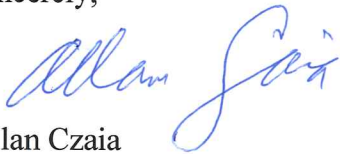


The original staff findings were a thorough evaluation of the significance of the property and demonstrated that a new city sidewalk constructed for better pedestrian safety along the street will not adversely affect the property or the preservation thereof.

I hereby request that the decision of the Heritage Preservation Commission of May 22nd in denying the new city sidewalk construction in front of 1173 Davern St, William & Kathryn Davern Farmhouse be overturned. I further request that the HPC staff recommendation be reinstated as the conditions that will be followed during construction.

If you have any further question, please feel free to contact me at 266-6108.

Sincerely,



Allan Czaia