

October 22nd, 2015

To: Planning Commissioners

From: City of Austin Pedestrian Advisory Council

Re: Support for proposed changes to §25-2-513 of the Land Development Code

Via: Electronic mail

Dear Honorable Planning Commissioners,

The City of Austin Pedestrian Advisory Council met on September 14, 2015. At that meeting, the PAC received a presentation from Mr. Girard Kinney about restrictions on porches in residential side yards and how those restrictions differ from those in front yards.

At this meeting, the PAC voted to support Mr. Kinney's letter to the Codes and Ordinances Subcommittee of the Planning Commission (attached). That letter outlines proposed changes in language that would allow more porches to be built along street side yards on corner lots citywide.

Several PAC members noted during discussion how important porches are in bringing residents out of their homes and engaging with the street, emphasizing that porches are critical for the good pedestrianism that the PAC promotes and supports.

Thank you,

Heyden Black Walker

Chair, City of Austin Pedestrian Advisory Council

The Pedestrian Advisory Council (PAC) shall advise the City of Austin on pedestrian planning, policy, design, funding, education, and enforcement efforts regarding the creation, maintenance and operation of pedestrian facilities in order to ensure a safe and enjoyable circulation for both commuting and recreation within the City of Austin. The PAC's goal is to ensure sensitivity to pedestrian issues in the design and implementation of all public and private projects impacting pedestrians.



The Cherrywood Neighborhood is bounded by IH-35, Airport Blvd and Manor Road and is a flourishing neighborhood of homes, businesses, and green spaces in Central Austin.

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1 September, 2015

Members of the Codes and Ordinances Subcommittee
Planning Commission
City of Austin
301 W. 2nd Street
Austin, Texas 78701

Dear Subcommittee members:

This letter is to inform you that, at the regular quarterly general meeting of the Cherrywood Neighborhood Association (CNA) on 19 August, 2015, Mr. Girard Kinney, AIA, presented a proposal to amend § 25-2-513 of the Land Development Code to allow covered open porches to extend five feet into sideyards on corner lots throughout Austin.

Specifically, the proposed amendment would add the phrase “and/or street sideyard” to section § 25-2-513 (G), so that it would read:

This subsection applies to a building located in a multifamily residence medium density (MF-3) or more restrictive district. A covered porch that is open on three sides may project five feet into a required front yard and/or street sideyard.

The Association voted unanimously to support and recommend adoption of this amendment, as detailed in the enclosed document.

I speak for the Cherrywood Neighborhood Association in urging the City to adopt this amendment.

Respectfully,

Jules Kniolek
Chair, Cherrywood Neighborhood Association

Enclosure: Kinney proposal