

Alley Closure Meeting Minutes

June 14, 2012

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Kevin Orr at 7:35 PM. A history of discovering that there is an alley between Brookfield and Elmwood was given. Not many neighbors were aware that there was an alley owned by the city of Bellewood between these two streets. Cardinal Surveying was hired by the city last fall to determine exactly where the alley was located. The survey was completed and presented to the mayor and city commissioners. It was decided that the alley should be closed by the city and the land given to the adjacent homeowners. The survey showed that the alley was 10 feet wide; therefore each homeowner would gain 5 feet of additional property.

Kathryn Matheny, an attorney retained by the city, presented the procedure to be followed to close the alley. All homeowners involved would have to sign consent forms to agree to the alley closure. One hundred percent participation is needed in order to close the alley. Once the forms are received the city council would present an ordinance to close the alley. If 100% participation is not received the city can sue in order to close the alley. This is a step that the city does not want to take.

Richard(?) Matheny, owner of Cardinal Surveying, presented the survey that his company did and explained how it was done. Richard also had property plats from the Jefferson County Courthouse which showed when land was developed for the city of Bellewood.

Megan Walz, a city commissioner in charge of city beautification, presented a report prepared by an arborist, Greenhaven Tree Care, that the city hired to survey trees in the alley. The arborist survey was done to determine whether the trees the homeowners would be gaining are healthy. Trees that were deemed unhealthy would be removed by the city at the city's expense. Eight trees were recommended to be removed. It was also recommended that vines on trees be severed, and trees with deadwood should be pruned. Several trees were

recommended to be monitored because of their condition. All property owners were given the arborist's report so the owners could see what was recommended for the property in the alley they would be gaining.

The idea of a "quit-claim" deed was presented. If a homeowner did not necessarily want the 5 feet from the alley and the adjacent homeowner would agree that he would want it, a quit-claim deed could be filed at the Courthouse giving the adjacent homeowner all 10 feet of the alley. This would be a process the 2 homeowners would have to initiate after signing the consent form to close the alley.

Signed and notarized consent forms will be collected by the City Clerk, Joe Duane. Forms can be dropped off at the clerk's house, or mailed to 3900 Brookfield Ave, Louisville, KY 40207, or sent to the City of Bellewood post office box at P.O. Box 8095, Louisville, KY 40257.

A question and answer period followed the presentation and the meeting ended at 9:00 PM.