

Kumar Neppalli

From: Pam Bailey [pamballey@nc.rr.com]
Sent: Wednesday, October 31, 2007 4:31 PM
To: Kumar Neppalli
Subject: Re: Draft of petition

Thanks for checking with David Bonk. I hope our petition will spur a re-consideration of the sidewalks. They are very much needed, and now is the opportune time to plan for them. Perhaps I (or someone else from our HOA) should schedule a meeting with him, too.

I have pasted a copy of the petition below. Thanks for taking a look at it.

TO: Chapel Hill Town Council
FR: The Oaks I Homeowners Association
DATE: November 1, 2007
RE: Neighborhood Concerns

The residents of The Oaks I have some concerns that require the attention of the Town Council. Specifically, the concerns are as follows: (a) the intersection of Cleland Drive and Fordham Blvd; (b) speeding traffic on Cleland Drive, (c) the need for sidewalks and possibly a bike lane along Cleland and a portion of Burning Tree; and (d) underground wiring along Cleland.

Vice President Pam Bailey met with Kumar Neppalli on October 30 to discuss these issues on behalf of the Association. In response, Mr. Neppalli recommended the submission of this petition requesting that the Town Council conduct a study of our concerns and provide a detailed response to each. Further delineation of the issues and background information is provided below.

Questions and comments can be submitted to Pam Bailey at 933-0383, pamballey@nc.rr.com or mailed to 992 Cleland Drive. Thank you.

Background and Issues

In January of 2008, OWASA will begin work on the sewer and water system along Cleland Drive, which will require the tearing up of the street. Construction is projected to last from 9-12 months, during which time the street will be closed to traffic. While residents of The Oaks do not look forward to the inconvenience that this work will cause, we realize the necessity of the work. We also see it as an opportune time to make some much needed improvements along Cleland.

In addition to the reconstruction of the street that will be necessitated by the OWASA work, several other factors should be considered when reviewing our petition:

1. A wetland park is planned for the land along Cleland that is currently in the floodplain. While the Association supports this effort, we recognize that the park will bring increased vehicular and foot traffic to Cleland.
2. Cleland Drive completes a circuit heavily used by walkers, joggers, bikers, parents with strollers and others. It connects a network of sidewalks in The Oaks II and Meadowmont with a greenway trail near the soccer fields in one direction, and with an access road in the other direction. Cleland is a major pedestrian route, not only for residents of The Oaks, but for all of this side of Chapel Hill. UNC students run a route that comes from campus, through Finley Golf Course, down Cleland, to the left on the access road and back to campus.
3. Traffic along Cleland is affected by the presence of the soccer fields, bringing an influx of non-local traffic to Cleland at specific times of the year and day.
4. The development of Meadowmont has increased the amount of foot traffic along Cleland.
5. Residents of The Oaks I responded to a poll addressing each of the issues previously listed. About 40 people participated in the poll. The results are discussed as they pertain to each issue below.

Intersection of Cleland Drive and Fordham Boulevard

Earlier this year, the NCDOT studied this intersection to assess the need for a stoplight. It was determined that a stoplight was not needed. In a recent neighborhood poll, 75% of those voting favored a stoplight at this intersection. We request that the Town Council revisit this issue and also consider alternate solutions such as (a) allowing only right turns onto Fordham from Cleland and (b) creating separate a left-hand turn lane for drivers.

Speeding Traffic on Cleland Drive

Cleland Drive receives heavy traffic at certain times of the day, and serves as a through street for much traffic. Cars routinely speed on Cleland, endangering the safety of the many pedestrians who use the street. Of particular concern are speeding trucks, and even school buses. The neighborhood poll indicated that about 66% of the voters favored traffic-calming devices. Clearly, no one wants the inconvenience or unsightliness of devices such as speed bumps or speed tables. We request that the Town Council consider closer monitoring by police, especially at particular times of day when the road is heavily used. In addition, we request that the possibility of installing landscaped medians to slow traffic along Cleland. Doing so at the time the road is repaved after the OWASA work in completed would make sense.

Sidewalk on Cleland Drive and a Portion of Burning Tree

In a 1:12 ratio, those voting in the neighborhood poll requested a sidewalk along Cleland Drive and a portion of Burning Tree. The need for this sidewalk has been laid out in the discussions above, and is clearly the issue about which residents are most adamant.

A blind curve on the portion of Burning Tree between Cleland Drive and Pinehurst endangers the safety of all who travel there. Drivers cannot see walkers, and walkers cannot see drivers coming either toward them or behind them. Children who live in Oaks I and walk or ride their bikes to Rashkis School must encounter this curve. It is terribly dangerous, and a sidewalk should be installed without delay.

Underground Wiring along Cleland

All of the wiring serving Oaks I, II and III is underground with the exception of a small portion along Cleland Drive, which also serves Rogerson and Oakwood Drives. It has long been a desire of Oaks I residents for this wiring to be put underground. We understand that underground wiring is a goal for the town of Chapel Hill as well. We also understand that funds for this project are limited. The residents of Cleland Drive are willing to contribute a modest amount to this project to get it started. It seems opportune to accomplish this task while the road is dug up and before sidewalks are in place. We request that the Town Council work with OWASA, Duke Energy and the Oaks I Homeowners Association to complete this task coincident with the water and sewer repairs.

On Oct 31, 2007, at 4:14 PM, Kumar Neppalli wrote:

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> Pam,
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> I cannot see the petition in the attachments that you sent. Can you
> please resend me the draft petition. I spoke with david Bonk and
> there no plans for sidewalks and bike lanes on Burning Tree Dr and
> Cleland Dr. Thanks.
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> Kumar
> 969-5093
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> From: Pam Bailey [mailto:pambailey@nc.rr.com]
> Sent: Wednesday, October 31, 2007 3:14 PM
> To: Kumar Neppalli
> Subject: Draft of petition
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> Thank you for taking the time to meet with me yesterday and for
> following up with phone calls to other parties who will have an
> interest in our concerns. I have drafted a petition to the town
> council and have sent it to the members of our HOA for their in put
> before sending it. I have attached it below for your suggestions
> before sending the official copy. If you have the opportunity, will
> you please look it over and let me know if you have any suggestions.
> Thanks again.
>
> Pam Bailey
> 919-933-0383