

**VILLAGE OF CHAGRIN FALLS
STREETS AND SIDEWALKS COMMITTEE
March 6, 2014**

Members present: Evans, Lutz, Subel
Also present: Himes, Brosius

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Chairman Janis Evans.

SIDEWALK CAFÉ REGULATIONS

Mr. Himes said currently the regulations allow restaurants to use the public sidewalk in front of their restaurant and then also with the permission of adjacent property owners they can be in front of the adjacent store fronts. The permit allows tables and they have to maintain a clear, unobstructed pathway for pedestrians of five feet wide. We have had some complaints about obstruction of the sidewalk, particularly when people stack an extra table out, pull a chair around to the end of the tables, or they have a stroller or a dog. Occasionally it can get pretty tight, particularly in front of Yours Truly where they have two tree boxes kind of bookends on the store front.

Mrs. Evans said she has had several complaints as well and people are terribly disrespectful. She suggests that in the ordinance they change the five feet clear of unobstructed passage way between any tables, materials, equipment, street trees, bike racks, and lamp posts to seven feet. People need to be able to walk on the sidewalks.

Mr. Subel said people are inconsiderate, especially people with dogs. He asked the police chief if they can enforce the rules about obstructing the sidewalks?

Mr. Himes said going to seven feet clear would limit them to probably a two-top table up against the building because all of our sidewalks are about ten feet wide.

Mrs. Lutz said we instituted sidewalk dining to enhance the village. It is not enhancing the village if it blocks the sidewalks and we get complaints about it.

Mrs. Evans said it is important that we pass this and get it in place before the season starts. There is another part of this legislation that is under conditions of permit that says that the sidewalk cafes can only be occupied during the hours of operation. She said she is wondering if that should be removed because people do sit outside at night. Mr. Subel said he thinks that is a good rule to have. Mrs. Evans asked, what do we do about the Popcorn Shop? They have a wider portion of sidewalk there and they have a table that sits out in the middle of the sidewalk that people walk around because they have so many benches and other things there. Mr. Himes said we could reword the ordinance so that rather than seven feet clear they are only allowed three feet from the face of the building.

Mrs. Lutz said they have to make some changes in order to protect the success of the sidewalk dining.

Dick Humphry, from Yours Truly, said if we are faced up against an ultimatum that we will lose the outdoor seating if it isn't enforced, we will enforce it. He also said that they would be willing to absorb the initial cost of covering the dugout base of the trees with steel grates to provide additional walking space.

Moved by Mrs. Lutz, seconded by Mrs. Evans to recommend this to Council to have the tables no further than 3 feet from the building instead of 5 feet from the building. Carried. Ayes: Evans, Lutz, Subel. Nays: None.

CONSTRUCTION DUMPSTERS

Mr. Himes said the only place we have problems is with dumpsters in the public right-of-way in the commercial district. We have no regulation on that right now so it is basically by approval through the police department; they ask if they can use the parking spaces. He said it is my opinion that we should have some regulation that controls mainly the duration and have a permit system to control the placement, safety, and sanitary issues. Mr. Himes said he would prefer that the permits run through the building department and then have the police sign off on the location of the dumpsters. A suggestion is to allow for a two-week duration initially with maybe one renewal allowable so that the contractors will use the dumpster time efficiently because right now they will park them there and just leave them there even after the demolition is gone. Mr. Himes he will have some legislation prepared.

AT&T EASEMENT REQUEST

Mr. Himes said AT&T is rolling out the U-Verse product to customers in Chagrin Falls. To do that they have to add an additional junction box next to some of the junction boxes that they already have. Pretty close to the intersection of Vincent Street there is an existing box behind the guard rail on Bell Street and they need to put in another box right next to that one. To do that they need an easement and since that property is now village property the easement has to be granted by the village.

Mrs. Evans asked, do they pay us for this? Mr. Himes said we can ask them to. They have offered up to \$1,000 for an easement. Mrs. Evans said I think we should ask them. Mr. Himes said they will landscape also. There will be legislation for the next Council meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Janis Evans, Chairman
lgb