

CCNA

City Coalition of Neighborhood Associations

THE PURPOSE OF THE ORGANIZATION IS TO PRESERVE, PROTECT AND ENHANCE CITY RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOODS AND TO ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF THE NEIGHBORHOODS AND STAND IN SUPPORT OF THOSE NEEDS

Wider Sidewalks & Canopy Trees Downtown

Background

Sidewalks play a vital role in city life. They are the conduits for pedestrian movement, they enhance connectivity and promote walking. As public spaces, sidewalks serve as the front steps to the city, activating streets socially and economically.

Minimum and Maximum setback footage should be increased for the Downtown Zones. Sidewalk width, especially on arterial streets should be reviewed for the entire city.

CCNA Executive Committee recommends to the City an increase to front setbacks to increase wider sidewalks to allow for a Pedestrian Zone, and more Street Tree's.

The City Coalition of Neighborhood Associations represents all city neighborhoods. Not only would increase setbacks and wider sidewalks benefit the downtown zone. Every neighborhood on the gateway roads would also benefit with Pedestrian Zones and Street Tree enhancement.

Recommendation

Florida law and property rights prevents the city from increasing the front setback to allow for wider sidewalks and street canopy trees unless the owner is compensated (made whole).

Therefore CCNA supports an initiative of 1- 2 story height increase to compensate the owner for an increase in front setback to allow for wider sidewalk and street canopy trees.

1) What is a pedestrian through zone?

This is the primary, accessible pathway that runs parallel to the street. The through zone ensures that pedestrians have a safe and adequate place to walk and should be 5–7 feet wide in residential settings and 8–12 feet wide in downtown or commercial areas. Another critical point is: Walkways must be clear of fixed objects in coordination with ADA accessibility guidelines.¹

2) Street trees enhance city streets both functionally and aesthetically. Trees provide shade to businesses, and pedestrians. With our hot Sarasota sun this is

very important. Aesthetically, street trees frame the street and the sidewalk as discrete public realms, enriching each with a sense of rhythm and human scale.²