



City of Norman, OK

Municipal Building
Council Chambers
201 West Gray
Norman, OK 73069

Master

File Number: R-1617-19

File ID: R-1617-19

Type: Resolution

Status: Consent Item

Version: 1

Reference:

In Control: City Council

Department: Public Works
Department

Cost:

File Created: 08/02/2016

File Name: Removal of Pedestrian Bridge

Final Action:

Title: RESOLUTION R-1617-19: A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORMAN, OKLAHOMA, AUTHORIZING AND CONSENTING TO THE REMOVAL OF A PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE CONNECTING NORMAN NORTH HIGH SCHOOL AND CRYSTAL HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD.

Notes: ACTION NEEDED: Motion to adopt or reject Resolution R-1617-19.

ACTION TAKEN: _____

Agenda Date: 08/09/2016

Agenda Number:

Attachments: R-1617-19, Letter of Request NPS, Location map, Aerial Map of Easement to be closed, Photograph of Bridge, E-7980-3, Pert Excerpts Council Minutes Bridge

Project Manager: Ken Danner, Subdivision Development Manager

Entered by: cydney.karstens@normanok.gov

Effective Date:

History of Legislative File

Ver- sion:	Acting Body:	Date:	Action:	Sent To:	Due Date:	Return Date:	Result:

Text of Legislative File R-1617-19

Body

BACKGROUND: The final plat for Crystal Heights 8th Addition was filed of record October 17, 1979. It was determined the Crystal Heights neighborhood did not have a direct access to Longfellow Middle School located to the west of the neighborhood. The developer was notified by City staff of the need for a pedestrian and bikeway easement. The developer/owner donated an easement at the west end of Falcon Court on November 8, 1979. City Council accepted the easement November 20, 1979. The public sidewalk located between Lots 16 and 17, Block 1 of Crystal Heights Eighth Addition was installed by the City in 1980. With that installation a pedestrian structure (bridge) was built across a drainage channel for access to the school property. With the bridge structure the pedestrian access was completed to Longfellow Middle School. There have been several changes to the area since that time. Longfellow Middle School was relocated. In its place, Norman North High School was established in 1997.

DISCUSSION: Dr. Nick Migliorino, Assistant Superintendent of Administrative Services & Chief Technology Officer with the Norman Public School District, has requested the removal of the pedestrian bridge connecting

Norman North High School with the Crystal Heights Neighborhood. There have been major changes in the area since the conversion between a middle school and high school. The area of the pedestrian access has become a location for loitering and misconduct by juveniles. Ms. Jeanne Snider, Assistant City Attorney, has worked for years with the Norman Police Department and Norman Public Schools (NPS) to address these behavior issues.

In 2015, NPS removed the access gate at the bridge to Norman North High School for better security of the school and to abate the issues noted above. This was completed by removing the gate and placing a fence across the access. As there is currently no access to the high school, there is not a need for the pedestrian bridge and the sidewalk that currently links Falcon Court to the high school. The fence is becoming damaged due to people jumping over the fence to gain access to the high school property. NPS has agreed to remove the bridge structure and the sidewalk at their cost to alleviate the issues. NPS has agreed to provide bus transportation to students living in the portion of the neighborhood that has access the high school through this easement.

Once the bridge and sidewalk are removed it will be necessary for the public pedestrian easement to be closed and vacated through the statutory procedures. These procedures include a formal request from property owners to remove the easement. The request for closure and vacation is then considered by the Planning Commission and City Council. If Council approves the closure of the easement, the easement is then officially vacated through Cleveland County District Court action. If the attached resolution is approved by Council, staff will initiate the formal easement vacation process in Fall 2016.

NPS has blocked access within their property to the pedestrian bridge and sidewalk and does provide bus transportation for the students in the area that are unable to drive to the high school. Staff recommends approval of Resolution No. R-1617-19 and the removal of the pedestrian bridge. If approved, NPS officials will remove the bridge and sidewalk prior to August 18, 2016 when the Fall semester resumes.

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends that City Council approve Resolution No. R-1617-19.