



January 12, 2018

RE: Agenda Items PW010918-11

Dear Mr. Dale Tech and Rapid City Council Members,

We are writing you today as members of Live Well Black Hills: a coalition of private and nonprofit community members who work to make the Black Hills a healthier, safer, and more livable place. We are asking you today to disapprove Agenda Item PW10918-11 which would allow the waiving of sidewalk installation requirements for 3535 Galt Ct, Rapid City, SD 57701.

Building sidewalks is an important step to creating greater commerce and economic benefits in communities. Sidewalks create a community that is more accessible for residents of all income levels, providing an important mode of access to businesses and schools. Furthermore, according to the nonprofit organization CEO's for Cities, walkable neighborhoods tend to have higher property values than similar, less-walkable neighborhoods.

Building sidewalks also creates environmental and health benefits. Per the University of Delaware's Institute of Public Administration, greater access to sidewalks can lead to less automobile use. This means less pollution in the air and a decreased risk of being involved in a car accident. Additionally, they provide a safe place for physical activity, both in transportation and recreation.

Under its most recent *Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan (2011)*, the City of Rapid City highlighted its goals of promoting walking in the Rapid City area as a viable mode of transportation. In order to do so, the city must promote the building of sidewalks in both areas currently lacking and in areas of future growth. We see where this area is close to soccer fields, Jump Craze, and numerous hotels. It is also near Mall Drive which has a well-developed sidewalk already. It makes sense to continue to make this whole area more conducive to pedestrian traffic. This will support not only public health but also promote economic development.

We ask City Council members to disapprove Agenda Item PW10918-11. The walkability of a community is crucial to its growth, access, and overall livability.

Sincerely,

Live Well Black Hills  
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