

Dear Variance Review Committee,

Thank you for your time in reviewing my request for a small parking area on my property at 2413 Gilson St., I appreciate your time and consideration.

Comments:

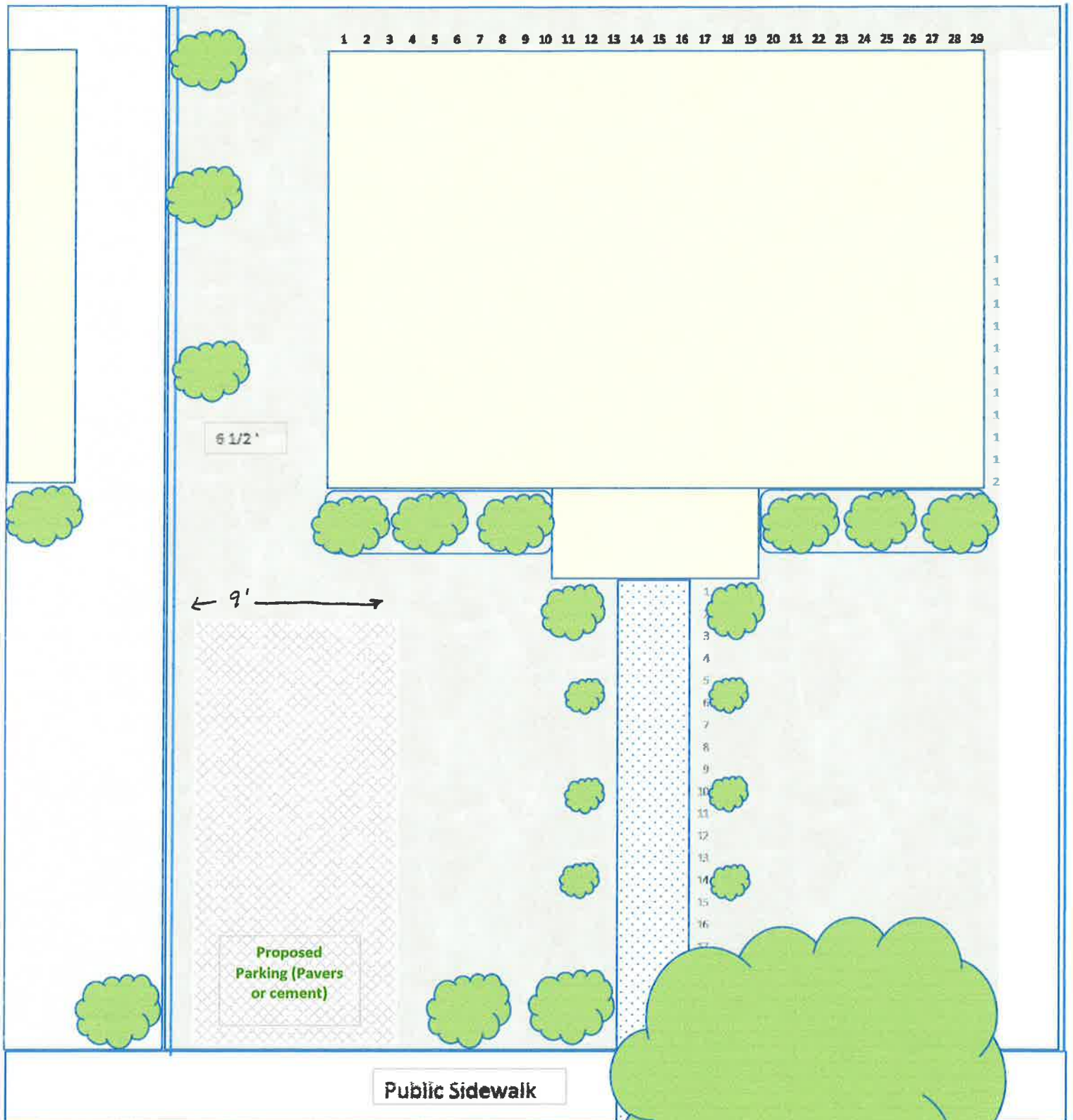
- Prior to the last meeting, there was poor communications on my part, and an apparent lack of understanding of my intentions by my neighbor. When the meeting notices were mailed, I was in Florida for two weeks for son's wedding. Just before I left, I had a contractor out to provide a quote on installing the driveway. During this time he saw that my side yard walkway was too low and slanting toward the house. We talked about several options including putting the driveway on the west side of my lot. This was not my intention, because I agree with others it would not look good.
- My neighbor to the west, Randy, thought my plan was revised to butt the driveway next to his driveway. Because I returned from Florida the evening before the meeting, I had not talked to him before meeting at the last Committee review session. Randy said there was no objection from him or the neighbors he talked to about putting the driveway on the east side. I do not believe this point was made clear in the under oath comment time. He told me this was submitted in writing to the committee, however, I did not receive a copy of this letter.

Discussion Points:

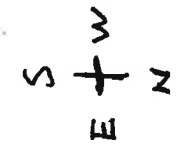
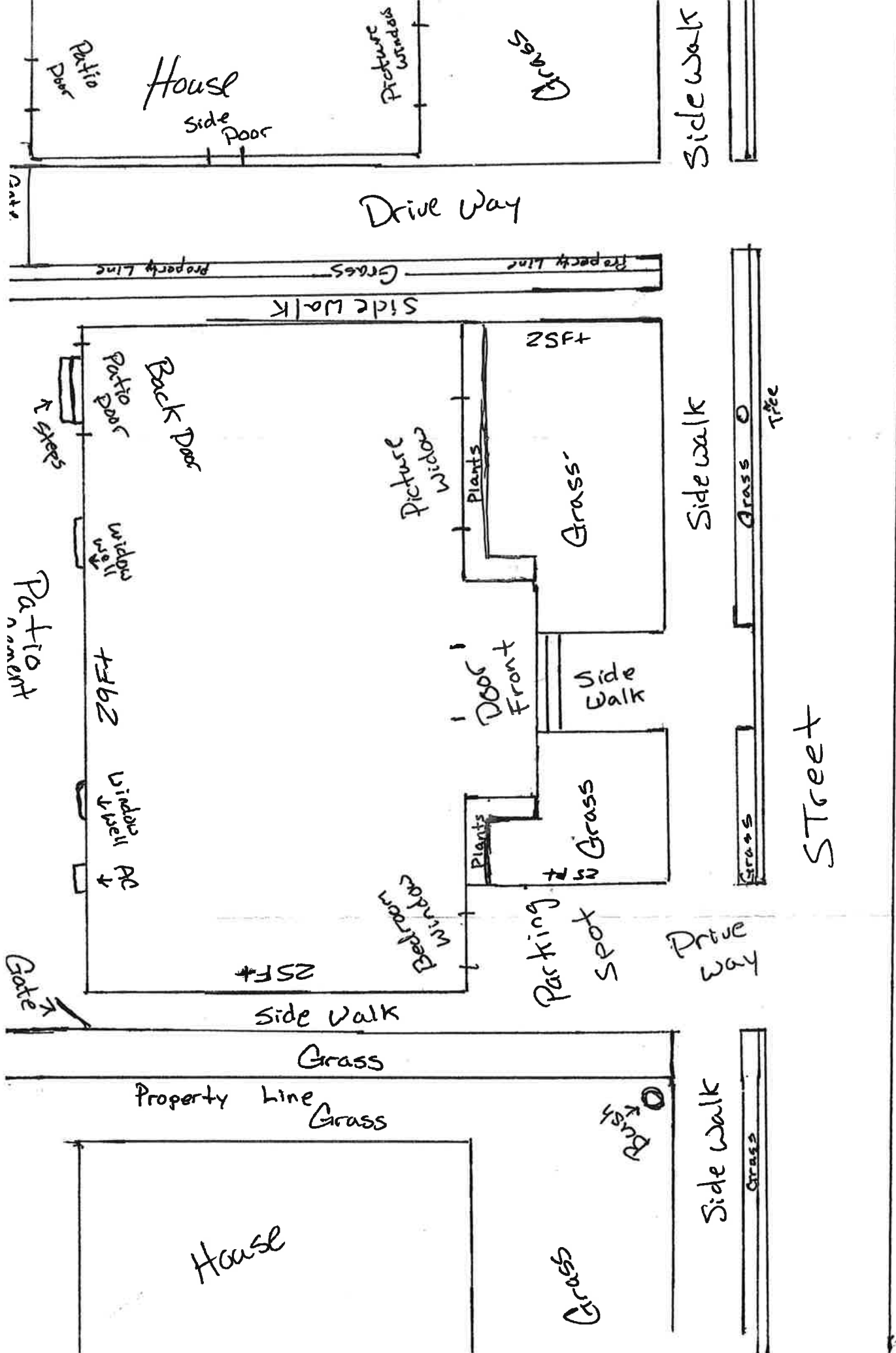
- Grew up in this neighborhood in house my Grandfather built. I was raised by my Grandparents and when my Grandfather passed away in 1971, my Grandmother and I had to move a few blocks away to a smaller, more affordable house on Gilson St. It was inconvenient not having off-street parking, but, at the time it was a house in a safe area that we could afford.
- When I married, my wife and I bought a house around the corner on Ashland Ave and I cared for my Grandmother who lived in this house until age 98. For many years I helped some of the other elderly who lived nearby with snow shoveling and rides to the store. I've always tried to be a great neighbor.
- I have been a Racine taxpayer for most of my 66 years, and just retired from Fischer USA after a long 43 year career.
- I think what I am asking the city of Racine for is a very minor consideration compared to the level of taxes and other contributions I have made to this city over the years.
- How many other homes in this neighborhood, or city of Racine, that have the same situation (no driveway to garage option, no shared driveway, or do not already have a Grandfathered parking

pad? I assume only a couple, if any. To think by allowing this variance the neighborhood would suddenly look like a parking lot does not seem like it should be a concern. I would guess that if anyone on the committee, or neighbor, were in my predicament, they would also be asking for this small variance.

- My retirement plan included updating the outside of the house and yard. I would like to install new windows, siding, and landscaping, however, I need to re-evaluate this plan if off-street parking is not allowed.
- On-street parking is a real hardship. Alternate side parking requires constant monitoring of odd and even days to avoid tickets. Neighbors frequently park in front of your house, sometimes requiring parking several houses away. There is no way to avoid interfering with snow plowing in the winter, which is not only a hardship, but, also a safety issue when the plows cannot clear snow to the curb.
- My Grandmother was handicapped and the reason I have a wheelchair ramp. My sister, who is in her 60's and has had numerous leg and hip issues (both knees and hip replace and torn Achilles) stayed here earlier this year while confined to a wheelchair. She is preparing her Chicago house for sale and will move to Racine as soon as it sells. Her plan is to move into my house on Gilson St. and although she is not considered handicapped, off-street parking would make it easier for her during the time she lives there.



- Note:
- MAX IN FRONT OF HOUSE WOULD BE 3'.
 - CITY CAN SPECIFY PAVERS IF CEMENT IS NOT ACCEPTABLE.
 - ADDITIONAL SHRUBS ALONG FRONT DOOR SIDEWALK.



I have seen the proposed driveway plan of my neighbor, Rick Mauldin, for 2413 Gilson St., Racine, WI, and approve of it as shown in the drawing:

Signature

Jim Schrader

D. M. 200

[Signature]

OutgR

Walt Burke