

ITEM 12

MANAGER'S REPORT NO. 19

COUNCIL MEETING Mar. 12/73

12. Re: Walkway Between Paulus Crescent and Cliff Avenue

Mrs. R. McDonald of 2080 Cliff Avenue on February 26, 1973, appeared before Council to request closure of the subject walkway (see attached sketch).

The walkway in question was created by subdivision in 1959 to provide a safe pedestrian route from the developing residential area on Paulus Crescent and Golden and Adair Streets to Cliff Avenue, especially for the children attending the Sperling Avenue School. Subsequent subdivisions have continued to increase the number of homes in the area. The need for the walkway therefore, has steadily increased.

In 1969, when the owners adjacent to the walkway complained of the misuse of the facility and requested that it be closed, a thorough investigation was made including a survey of the families in the area. As a result, the decision was made to retain the walkway and to discourage vehicular traffic by placing barriers at the entrances. This was done and it was further suggested that the owners could provide better protection for their properties by erecting fences.

The Director of Planning and the Engineer, during the considerable investigation and discussion that have been given to this matter since 1969, have consistently supported the recommendation that the walkway be retained. Investigations that were made by the Engineer and the Director of Planning following Mrs. McDonald's appearance before Council on February 26, 1973, disclose that the walkway continues to provide a necessary pedestrian access, and should not be closed as requested by the petitioners.

The Engineer inspected the area on March 7, 1973, and advises as follows:

"Reports and letters have been produced by the Planning, Police and Engineering Departments on the subject walkway, all of which have fairly well refuted arguments put forward in favour of the closure of the walkway. The most significant of such reports was the one resulting from a poll of the neighbourhood taken in 1969, at the direction of Council, in order to determine public reaction to the proposed closure. Of the 29 property owners polled, only 11 responded, but each and everyone of these 11 indicated objection to the proposed closure. (Copies of the letters are on file in the Engineering Department office for those who wish to review them)

The northerly completion of Sherlock Avenue, in our opinion, does not produce an acceptable alternative to the retention of the existing walkway.

We once again viewed the walkway on March 7, 1973, and would report that its present condition is much the same as it was in 1969 with the only difference being that the barricades have been installed and considerable growth of property owners' plantings is apparent. It was also noted there was an absence of any effort by the property owners to fence their properties against trespass.

It is recalled that Council, when considering the matter in December, 1969, took into account their feeling that the walkway was a generally safer method of getting school children through from one street to the other than encouraging the children to use both Paulus Crescent and the lane which is located some 400 feet to the south; we were and still are in agreement with that consideration. It is perhaps significant to note that the portion of Paulus Crescent extending south from the walkway to the lane was just recently defeated in Stage III of the Local Improvement Program; this means that the subject street will still remain in an interim standard for some time to come.

The barricades at the ends of the walkway were constructed in such a way that school children using their bicycles to go to and from school would be able to pass the bicycles through the barricade rather than

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attempting to wrestle them over a lower barricade. The barricade has been effective in terms of preventing general vehicular traffic from using the walkway.

It is therefore recommended that Council uphold its resolution of December 22, 1969, as embodied in the Municipal Clerk's memo of December 29, 1969, inasmuch as there is no new evidence to warrant closure of the walkway."

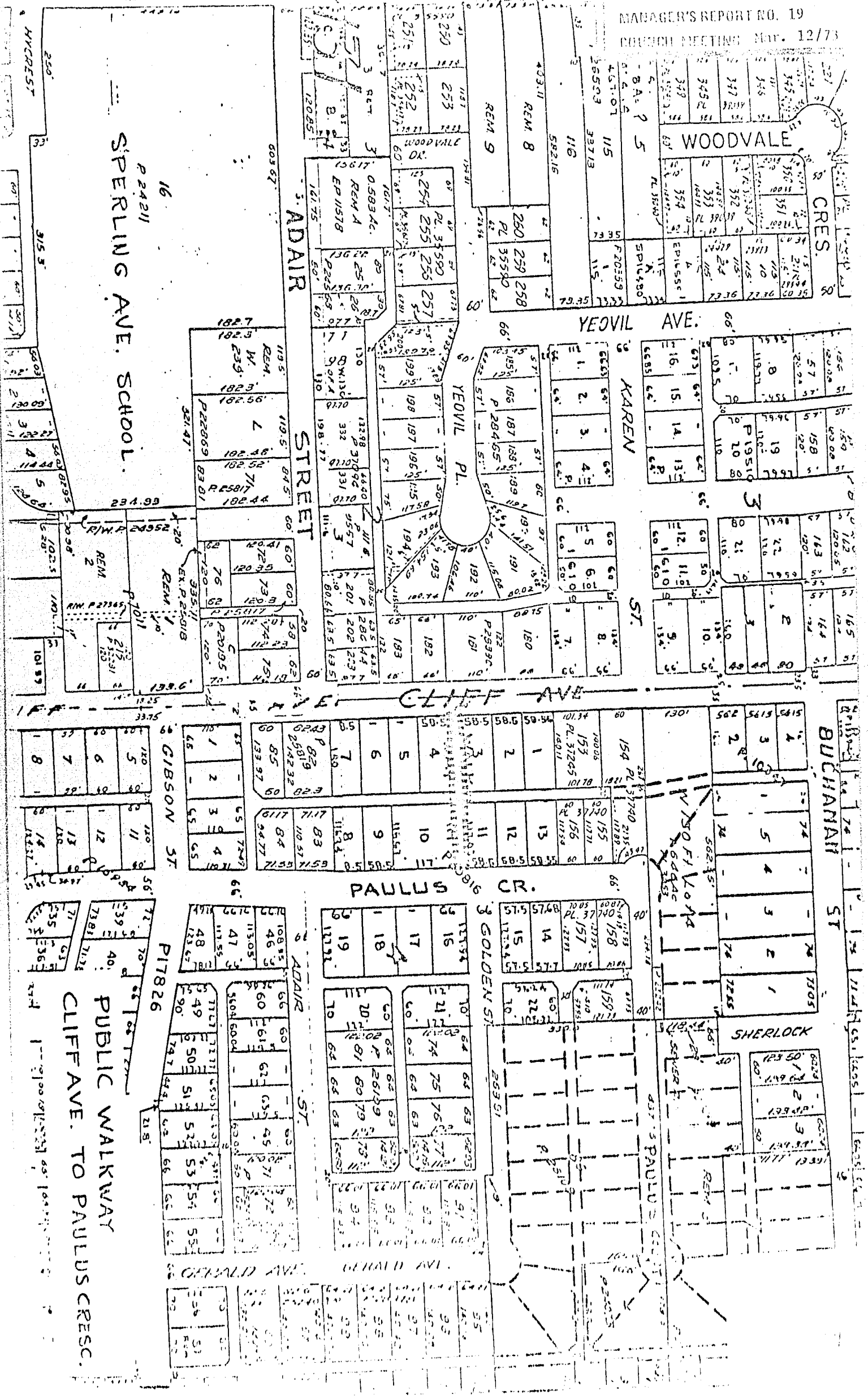
The Director of Planning inspected the walkway and advises that the walkway should be retained because it continues to afford access to children and other pedestrians who reside in the area. He further advises that it is the policy of the Planning Department to include pedestrian walkways in subdivisions wherever a safer and more direct route is needed than is provided by the road system, and that there are many more requests for the provision of walkways than there are complaints against them.

According to a letter dated February 24, 1972, from the Officer in Charge of the Burnaby Detachment of the R.C.M.P., this walkway does not present any more problems than normally encountered on streets and lanes throughout Burnaby. In an earlier letter, the R.C.M.P. reported after a series of patrols, that there was no evidence of vandalism.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

THAT the subject walkway be retained; and

THAT a copy of this report be sent to Mrs. McDonald.



16
 P 24211
 SPERLING AVE. SCHOOL.

PUBLIC WALKWAY
 CLIFF AVE. TO PAULUS CRESC.

WOODVALE

CRES.

YEOVIL AVE.

KAREN

YEOVIL PL.

STREET

CLIFF AVE.

BUCHANAN ST.

PAULUS CR.

GOLDEN ST.

SHERLOCK

PIT826

ADAIR ST.

GERALD AVE.