

Faulkner County Historical Society .
P.O. Box 731
Conway, AR 72033

June 29, 2010

Honorable Tab Townsell, Mavor
.Office of the Mayor
'Conway City Hall
Conway, AR 72032'

Dr. Allen Meadors. President'
Office of tile president
university of Central Arkansas
Conway, AR 72034

Re: NYASidewalk

Dear Sirs:

'Iam writing to you on behalf of the board of the Faulkner County Historical Society regarding our position on the NVA sidewalk along Donaghey Avenue. As you know a group of the board members along with the city attorney. Mike Murphy, came out this past Mondav, walked over the area and looked at the sidewalk. We discussed with PresIdent Mead9rs, and his staff possible solutions to the issues which have been raised regarding the sidewa lk. After careful . consideration arld much discussion among the members of the Qoard it is our Qplnion that every effort should be made to save this piece of UCAand Conway history. Mos.t will ag~e that the sidewalk ls in reasonably good conditron. There are some areas of concern particularly in and around the portion which has been raised by tree roots, but nothing which would appear to require its removal and destruction., Mr.'Lawrence, of UCA Physical Plant. Indicated there were ~ome issues with drainage whitt. surely' can be addressed ll some fashion which would not result In the destruction of the sidewalk.

As you know this sidewalk was constructed by the National Youth Administration, a part of the Work Progress Administration during the Great Depression. The NVAynssa national program created to serve needy high school and college youths thru work. study projects at their school. As part of the New Deal, this in our opinipn has a significant meaning for UCA which was tne' bflneficiary of a great many WPA projects. Removal of this emblem of this nation's effort to lift itself from catastropliic economic tmes'would be a significant loss.

Therefore, our Board suggests repairs be made on the sidewalk. There is no reason it could not be leveled arid repaired and If It is extended south towards Robins Street, the imprnted concrete could be 'used for that section. A bOfer of pavers or stamped concrete could be used to blend the section with any extension. There must be any number of ways that this sidewalk can be saved and made compliant with the Americans with Disabflities Act. We would suggest that all

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avenue~ b~explored for funding for this project thru the Arkansas Historic Pre\$ervatton Progrl1m or pDssiblya grant fr~m the Arkansas Natural and Cultural Resource Council.

Thank you for your interest In this pt'e~eof conJav and UCA history and for allowing our organization's InPut into your decision.

, Sincerely,

Charles E. Clawson, P.resident
Faulkner CO,unty Historical Soc;ie~y