

7:00 p.m.

MINUTES- DRAFT

June 9, 2021

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1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 7:07pm by Susan Arlen.

2. ROLL CALL

**Present**

- a. Susan Arlin
- b. Sue Lover
- c. Bill Gesaman
- d. Joe VanDerZanden
- e. Maria Taylor
- f. Chris Weber
- g. Kevin Christiansen
- h. Brent Bartman

**Absent**

- i. Tim Prince

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Sue Lover moved, and was supported by Maria. Unanimously approved by the committee.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. Meeting Minutes, May 12, 2021
- b. Chris W. pointed out one correction, Brent updated the May Minutes  
Bill G. Moved to approve, Sue Lover supported.

5. OLD BUSINESS

a. 10 MILE SIDEWALK

- i. Kevin Showed the updated drawing of the sidewalk that will be poured to connect the new Liberty Hill street project to Raphael st.  
We will see progress soon.

b. FEEDBACK ON FIELD TRIP TO CHATHAM HILLS DRAKE PARK CONNECTION

- i. General discussion about project scope and our ability to execute on this and other projects. Concern that it would be the only activity for the Pathways committee. If not chosen by Saferoutes, then effort ends and we may not make progress.
- ii. Susan
  1. Pros- path would provide accessibility, and serve to connect a large area of Farmington to the school and park and potentially downtown.
  2. Cons - upsetting the homeowners who would border the stream. Another issue is accessibility due to steepness of the hill.

3. There may be other projects that would be better for us to pursue.
- iii. Chris W. Agreed with general sentiment that it is possible. Concerned that it is a major project with a large time commitment.
  - iv. Kevin C. - recognizes there are a lot of moving parts and this could be difficult, but pointed out the end result is still worthwhile. He suggested for the City to ask their Engineer to visit the site and help determine feasibility. In relation to trying to do this without Saferoutes, we should consider that there are major costs involved, which Saferoutes could help with. Their organization can help navigate some of the pitfalls with such a big project.
    1. 'What are the Pathways Committee's priorities?' was touched on. See "Other Responsibilities" in New Business section below for more discussion on priorities.
  - v. Susan asked about the hill, and ADA compliance. Can we engage with Saferoutes if the hill is so steep that it might impact usability?
  - vi. Maria thought more research, and sending the city engineer to look at the area is a good idea before we make a decision.
  - vii. General discussion about timing of Engineer visit and presentation to Pathways committee
  - viii. Decision was made to ask the City Engineer (Chris W.) to visit the area soon and report to Pathways Committee in July. Susan and Sue will go to Longacre next week and ask how many students come from Chattham hills sub and the adjacent apartments. (Will this serve a large or small number of students?)
- c. FEEDBACK ON SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL VIDEO
- i. Discussion tabled until July after Engineer's assessment and update on feasibility
- d. M-5 CONNECTION UPDATE
- i. Bill G. Spoke with Karen M. at Farmington Hills. She agrees that there is a good opportunity to improve that connection. Farmington Hills will contact MDOT, whom she believes has jurisdiction, and also work to add the project to the capital improvement plans in November 2021. Design plan, if approved, would be added to their 5yr plan. Budget decisions are made in February.
  - ii. Susan said that we may need to work to drum up support to encourage Farminton Hills Government to act on this request.
  - iii. General discussion on community mobilization: What is the best way to gauge support? Survey, door-to-door, other?
    1. Chris said the fact that Karen is interested is a good sign. Advised us to wait until we see her progress in Oct/Nov before beginning any advocacy action. Bill will follow-up with her then.
    2. Maria said a good way to advocate would be an email campaign from residents to Farmington Hills city council and FH Mayor, to drive demand.
  - iv. Joe asked if FPublic Safety has input on issues near this bridge or any other areas of concern that could help this effort or lead us to future projects.

- e. FARMINGTON BRIDGE UPDATE
  - i. Sue L. No update this month, she intends to have something for the July meeting.
- f. COUNCIL PRESENTATION
  - i. Susan will send the rough list of the topics we've discussed thus far to all committee members.
  - ii. Chris suggested presenting at the 10/4 meeting after Maria mentioned the 11/1 meeting will be canceled, as it is the day before an election.
  - iii. Maria recommended contacting Melissa at City of Farmington before the last week of September to get on the agenda.

## 6. NEW BUSINESS

- a. ANY NEW TARGET AREAS?
  - i. Tim P. (by email) mentioned how narrow the sidewalk is in downtown Farmington, particularly by Ace HW, and the new Dearborn music (Dress Barn) store. Suggested possibly adding bike lanes to connect the existing Power/Shiawassee bike lane to downtown by way of Grand Rv.
  - ii. Susan A. - Downtown Farmington Brickwork areas in the winter needs improvement, often these sidewalks are very slick with ice.
- b. OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES
  - i. Chris discussed other responsibilities of the Pathways Committee as listed in the city bylaws for Pathways Committee.
    - i. [Link to Bylaws](#)
    - ii. Kevin can help identify areas of opportunity and deficiencies and suggested creating a Pathways Committee Master Plan along with some steps we can take to move forward.
      - 1. Committee could review Livonia, Novi and Farmington Hills Pathways Plans
        - a. [Livonia Government site w/Master Plan](#)
          - i. [Bike Walk Livonia](#)
        - b. [Walkable Novi w/Master Plan](#)
        - c. [Farmington Hills Gov. site w/ Master plan](#)
        - d. [Northville Gov site w/Master plan](#)
      - 2. Recommended a 5yr plan with 1yr action plan
        - a. Suggested that an Inventory of city pathways and their condition is a good starting point.
      - 3. City already has some plans: Gr. Rv corridor plan, City Master plan, Recreation plan.
    - iii. Maria T. asked how we would start building a Pathways Master Plan.
      - 1. KC said, write down what you want to do. Review City Master plan, create a narrative of the story we want to tell (what we want to accomplish.)
      - 2. Create scope of plan, and possibly solicit for a consultant through the city to bring someone onboard.

- iv. Bill G.- Admitted he was new to this (like the rest of us), but he likes to work by setting a long term 3-5 yr plan and then break it down year-by-year, and even quarter-by-quarter.
  - 1. Can we talk to existing groups like the run club, or the Farmers Market walking group to see how they plan and use the city. Aim would be to promote these uses to the greater community.
  - 2. Susan - echoed Bill, and has been grappling with 'what are we trying to do?' as a team.
  - 3. Bill said maybe part of our goal is encouraging use of existing paths.
  - 4. Susan - we could create recommended safe paths for other run clubs or the general public to use.
  - 5. What plans to review: City Master Plan, and sub-plans within it (6-7 other reports), see Kevin C's comments above as well.
- v. Susan - Proposed that our big picture could be
  - 1. New Pathways
  - 2. Existing Pathways
    - a. Improve Pathways
    - b. Recommendations (increase activity)
- vi. Chris - Consultant can help solve problems we identify, that is their value to this group...navigating bureaucracy.
- vii. Kevin suggested that our plan could look similar to the Master Plan:
  - 1. Overview
  - 2. Pathways responsibilities
  - 3. Existing Conditions
  - 4. Recommendations

#### c. NEXT STEPS

- i. Committee agreed to these next steps:
  - i. Engage City Engineer to assess Chatham to Drake Park connection for Saferoutes
  - ii. Chris will notify that Pathways presentation to council will be in October
  - iii. Chris will ask FH PS about and reports around M5 connector

#### 7. PUBLIC COMMENT

- a. No public comment

#### 8. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENT

- a. Chris agreed with Susan and encouraged the group: 'If we can work on projects we have interest in and have time to do, then we will be a success.'

#### 9. ADJOURNMENT

- a. Maria moved to adjourn, supported by Sue L.
- b. Unanimously approved, meeting adjourned at 8:35pm

Next meeting: July 14, 2021