



FARMINGTON PATHWAYS COMMITTEE

7:00 p.m.

MINUTES

July 13, 2022

1. CALL TO ORDER 7:03 pm by Susan Arlin

2. ROLL CALL

Present:

Susan Arlin

Tim Prince

Chris Weber

Bill Gesaman

Kevin Christiansen

Joe VanDerZanden

Sue Lover

Maria Taylor

Absent:

Brent Bartman

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA – Sue moved to approve the agenda and Bill seconded

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Maria moved to approve the minutes from the May meeting and it was seconded Sue Lover- The minutes were unanimously approval with now changes. The June 2022 meeting had been canceled last month.

a. MEETING MINUTES, MAY 11, 2022

5. OLD BUSINESS

2022 WORK PLAN – The committee identified the following 4 projects out of all the currently identified projects to focus on through the end of 2022:

-Gill Rd crosswalks at Grand River and Freedom

-Cross walk at the Krazy Krab on Grand River

-Community Input on existing and additional projects

-Safe Routes to Schools – is to be presented at next City Council Meeting 7/18, reception will likely determine if this project or a portion of this project can be a current priority or not

Kevin recommended focusing on getting priority projects included in the Capital Improvement plan to make them official priority improvements for the city.

Issue of how best to keep track of and check in on ongoing projects was discussed with the plan of project leads writing up “one page” overviews describing the project, setting measurable goals with projected timeframes, and listing progress and steps so far to be maintained by project leads and stored where accessible to committee members such as on Google Drive so projects can be passed on to future committee members. Bill agreed to write up an example as a template with committee members creating overviews on all projects for the next meeting.

Planned format of project leads giving updates on projects not on the agenda only when there is something to report to avoid checking on every project regularly to better focus on priority projects.

Plan was made for Susan Arlin to write and submit a memo to City Council with attached meeting minutes identifying Pathways Committee’s 4 priority items and have added to City Council agenda as an informational item to be discussed at future City Council meeting.

Maria moved and Bill supported to have these 4 priorities of the Gill Rd. crosswalks, the Crazy Krab Crosswalk, obtaining community input on Pathways Projects, and Safe Routes to School as the Pathways Committee’s 4 priorities at this time.

The motion was unanimously approved by those present: Maria Taylor, Bill Gesaman, Susan Arlin, Chris Weber, Tim Prince, Kevin Christiansen, Joe VanDerZanden, and Sue Lover.

Not present: Brent Bartman

Other project discussed for inclusion as priorities:

Bike markings on Shiawassee – It was determined that this project would have several steps and primary hindrance is the likely necessity of some road repair before moving forward with this project so deemed not appropriate as a short term priority at this time.

a. 9 MILE PATHWAY UPDATE

Chris – Gave an update of progress, that the coalition of cities participating in this project and Oakland Parks and Recreation secured 45K from SEMCOG for the project with Oakland Parks and Rec putting in 55K – all going to the assessment/study stage. OHM will design the project and ongoing meetings about the project will continue.

Communities are signing a memo to participate and help – The first step is a study of existing conditions of the path or possible path options – Woodward to 275 – status and determining where the route should go.

The project can be segmented/phases as some cities may be ready to begin work at different times than others. It was identified that there is not much for this committee to do about this project until the report is out, and planned to keep on top of being sure who is doing the report and when coming out so this committee is ready to check it out and make suggestions when it is ready.

Chris reported that at the recent 9 Mile Pathway meeting there was some spirited debate about whether or not to allow motorized bikes and scooters on the trail and if some sections may have different rules about things like this than others.

b. SHIAWASSEE ROAD CAR COUNTER UPDATE

Discussed tracking so far of use of parking space use on Shiawassee Road as the parking spots would need to be removed for a bike lane to go in. It was identified that the phone app method of counting cars that Brent had shared only works on iphones and only Chris and Susan of those present had been able to use it, and Brent was not present. Susan identified there seems to be four cars that are generally if not permanently parked there, one is damaged and seems to never move. Chris agreed to seeing a small number of spots used and generally by the same cars. Continued counting was discussed with efforts by others of the committee to count parked cars when traveling Shiawassee.

Discussed finding and exploring resources, such as MDOT, SEMCOG, and Michigan Bike Coalition, to help with increasing knowledge and community education about bikes to encourage people to use existing and future bike lanes and drivers to be aware. Planned to look into how local bike routes in other communities were established to better prepare this committee to effectively establish bike routes and explore if it might be best to enlist a professional service we pay for to establish bike routes.

- c. 2022/23 SIDEWALK PROGRAM UPDATE – Chris reported that the program is supposed to begin work in August of replacing identified broken sections of sidewalk and tripping hazards. Joe identified that there are additional sections of sidewalk marked for replacement outside of the originally identified area of the Belaire neighborhood. It was identified that additional work was prompted by high rates of complaints about other areas and funding was located and secured to expand the project. Joe identified that marked sections of sidewalk seemed to not include areas of low elevation leading to flooding and ice in the Winter.

d. SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL UPDATE

Sue led discussion on the current status of Safe Routes to School. The next step being presenting to City Council at the upcoming special meeting at 6 pm the upcoming Monday and determine what if any portion of this project to pursue at this time and if to apply for a grant or not. It was verified there is money available in the budget to hire a grant writer if needed. Two possible approaches identified if City Council green lights moving forward with the project – either repair smaller issues like where there are no sidewalks in the neighborhood on routes to Longacre Elementary School, or can target establishing the new pathway. Chris shared that city engineers determined estimates for sidewalk costs as follows: For Whitaker Wt. (both sides) and North side of Arundel would cost \$500,000. The Safe Routes grant would cover about \$220,000 and the rest

would need to be covered by the city. This is not including other areas that also have no sidewalks.

Sue shared that parents were most concerned about these areas without sidewalks because cars park there up against the grass and make it dangerous for children to walk as they end up walking in the street.

Kevin shared that the next step if the city okays pursuing the project would be to reach out to the neighborhood to see if residents want sidewalks, if they are willing to keep the sidewalks clear in the Winter, and the possibility of using a special assessment to cover some of the costs if residents are willing.

An additional safety concern discussed in the area was the need for stop signs on Gill at Arundel. It was identified that there are many walkers in the area and people drive too quickly. Crossing guards help for school but it is unsafe after they leave. It was shared that when police have monitored speed there in the past they reported little speeding but residents notice that speed decreased when police were monitoring and then increased again once they left.

6. NEW BUSINESS

a. ANY NEW TARGET AREAS?

Tim suggested putting in bike lanes on Grand River considering safety of crossing the bridge over the river and questions of a road diet were discussed. It was identified that this project is already included in the Grand River corridor planning jointly between Farmington and Farmington Hills. That was noted as a possible priority project in the near future.

Tim also identified the issue of hanging branches and overgrown bushes interfering with use of sidewalks and the opportunity for the Pathways Committee to keep an eye out to identify these issues and bring to the attention of the city to correct. Kevin identified that residents can report such issues already through the city's website using the "Contact us" button on the website. It was identified that committee members can be proactive in identifying and reporting these kind of impediments to sidewalk and pathway use.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT - none

8. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENT - None

9. ADJOURNMENT Maria moved, seconded by Bill 8:47 pm

Next meeting: August 10, 2022