



FARMINGTON PATHWAYS COMMITTEE

7:00 p.m.

MINUTES DRAFT

JULY 10, 2024

1. CALL TO ORDER 7:04 pm
2. ROLL CALL

Present: Tim Prince, Chris Weber, Joe VanDerZanden, Sue Lover, Maria Taylor, Bill Gessaman, Heather Davies

Absent: Jamie Palmisano

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion to approve by Bill and supported by Maria, approved unanimously.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. MEETING MINUTES, JUNE 12, 2024

Motion to approve by Sue and supported by Heather, approved unanimously.

5. OLD BUSINESS

- a. 9 MILE PATHWAY UPDATE

- i. Next Meeting of Nine Mile Task Force 7/30/24

Chris shared he expects the meeting will primarily be discussion of development of branding for the pathway. Reviewed the planned routes through Farmington and restated FH's plans to start a leg and Farmington looking to continue from Drake to Farmington Rd to update all present committee members. Discussed crowd funding options, grant opportunities, and granting agencies for Farmington to seek funding for sections of the planned pathway within Farmington and likely planning to join with other participating cities to seek joint funding, and perhaps establishing a central person to manage funding applications. The Ralph C. Wilson Foundation has already been identified as a possible funding source and is known to be seeking to fund larger projects, requiring communities to join together in seeking funding.

- b. TREE TRIMMING ON SIDEWALKS

The previously identified areas have now mostly been addressed, including trimming of trees and/or bushes on Shiawassee St., Farmington Rd. and Grand River.

The committee will follow up with public works department on outstanding areas.

- c. 24/25 SIDEWALK PROGRAM UPDATE

This year's sidewalk program is scheduled for review for approval at next Monday's City Council Meeting and work should be starting by the end of the month.

Discussed again humps in the sidewalk bricks on Grand River and that public works monitors and repairs as needed. Heather identified a hole in the street on Grand River within the crosswalk at Farmington Rd.,

between Mason's Corner and Kitchen Master. As Grand River is a state road, MDOT is responsible for this repair.

6. NEW BUSINESS

a. HOWELL CROSSWALK DISCUSSION

Heather presented on the recently added crosswalks in downtown Howell, MDOT criteria and processes for identifying need and adding crosswalks, and the processes Howell took to identify and add these crosswalks. Discussed as an example to inform the work of the Farmington Pathways Committee and options for Farmington.

Pertinent MDOT rules and criteria:

Pedestrian count of average of 20 pedestrians per hour (during certain hours).

There cannot be a crosswalk within 300 ft. of a signalized crossing with some exceptions. One exception being a doubled pedestrian count threshold of 40 per hour.

Existing Non-Motorized Plan including a community needs assessment and supporting data of the need.

A minimum of 1,500 vehicles daily, which Farmington does meet this threshold on Grand River.

Pedestrian volume has a certain threshold, which would require a study if the city does not already have this data. Children and elderly people count as 2 in the pedestrian count for meet needs to add a crosswalk.

Planned for Pathways Committee Members to thoroughly read materials provided by Heather - MDOT crosswalk criteria, planning and design tools, and U.S. DOT Walkable Community Checklist – to prepare to further discuss at August meeting.

Discussed possible locations for additional crosswalks. Planned for Pathways Committee members to take a walk on Grand River following the August meeting to check distances, needs and possible sites to add beneficial crosswalks and likely need to take more than one walk to cover all of Grand River.

Planned for an earlier than usual 6 pm August meeting to have a short meeting before adjourning and walking Grand River to assess crosswalk needs.

b. ANY NEW TARGET AREAS?

-Discussed frequent pedestrian crossings of Farmington Rd. downtown outside of existing crosswalks on Farmer's Market days. Discussed the idea of signage directing pedestrians to the crosswalk in front of CVS and the possibility of adding another crosswalk on Farmington Rd in the area of Castle Dental, and the possibility of including a crosswalk in the development plans for the Castle Dental building.

-Bill shared details of a painted pathway in a parking lot in Mackinaw City as an example for improving walking in through the Fresh Thyme parking lot to the Farmer's Market and importance of improving for safety.

-Discussed reports of pedestrians tripping on curbs south of the Riley Park Pavilion on Market Days due to not seeing the curbs.

c. ANY NEW CITY CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS?

-Chris shared that the city will be issuing an RFP in the next few weeks to update the City's Master Plans, Parks and Recreation Master Plan, and Downtown master Plan. A steering committee will be created, consisting

of approximately 7 people, and would be beneficial to include someone from the Pathways Committee. Tim expressed interest in participating.

- Bill shared a park/projects budget contest idea like he saw Livonia use to survey residents for designing a Livonia Park. Planned to make a list of projects and ideas at next month's Pathways Meeting to give to the consultants for the Master Plans to address.
- Pavement markings on Grand River – Followed up with MDOT earlier that day and they again said they are aware and will address with no specific time frame given.
- Castle Dental proposed redevelopment plan – Library Lofts. Reviewed the current project proposal. The building has been purchased by a group of 3 people planning to redevelop the property. The current plan is a 4-story building with commercial on the first floor and floors 2-4 residential. The development group is having ongoing meetings with the city planning commission and will need to revise plans to better address parking needs as well as working out design and details with the city and will need to work out current zoning issues. Discussed the opportunity to make public benefit requests such as including adding and funding the additional of a crosswalk in the development plans.
- Warner Mansion conceptual plans – Reviewed the plans for fixing and improving the Warner Mansion and grounds, including a new event space building, new parking lot, possible outdoor event space and developing park space on the grounds including a walking path. A one-million-dollar grant has been obtained while current plans would require approximately \$3.5.
- Hillside towns – Updated information from a meeting held the day before: Demolition is to start by 8/1 and lasting approximately 2 months. The two houses across from the Maxwell Training Center are to be torn down in October. Street work will likely begin in 2025. Consumers Energy wants new gas lines to be installed during the road work.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

8. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENT

None

9. ADJOURNMENT 9:01 pm

Next meeting: AUGUST 14, 2024 at 6:00 pm
(Special earlier time before planned informal Grand River walking assessment)