



FARMINGTON PATHWAYS COMMITTEE

7:00 p.m.

MINUTES

FEBRUARY 8, 2023

1. CALL TO ORDER 7:01 by Tim

2. ROLL CALL

Present:

Tim Prince

Sue Lover

Kevin Christiansen

Joe VanDerZanden

Brent Bartman

Maria Taylor

Chris Weber

Bill Gesaman

Kevin Parkins

Absent:

None

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA Brent moved to approve and was supported by Bill

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. MEETING MINUTES, JANUARY 9, 2023 Sue moved to approve, supported by Maria

5. INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBER – KEVIN PARKINS

Pathways members and Kevin introduced themselves and became acquainted.

6. OLD BUSINESS

a. CITY COUNCIL PRESENTATION

Brent and Tim discussed topics to cover in presentation to City Council on Tuesday 2/21/23:

-Update that Safe Routes to School pathway focus will be moving on from Chatham Hills to Longacre, Arundel and Wesley sidewalks

-M5 pedestrian bridge updates and more to come adding sidewalks

-9 Mile Non-motorized pathway– that is planning/in progress, considering two paths through Farmington, may get both developed

-Krazy Crab – pathways committee recommended crosswalk across Grand River be added by Sidecar Slider bar rather than School Street

Flanders park paved pathway –completed last year, continuing in FH is recommended but nothing has changed this year

McGee Hill – report/project plan from Eastern Mi class– still identified in the capitol improvement program as a possible future project

Gill Rd. crosswalks, using facebook to connect to community

Maxfield Project- - ongoing project, highlight Pathways Committee's input and suggestions to accentuate connectivity and walkability to downtown and connect to Shiawassee Park

Identified deteriorated sidewalk – aided the sidewalk project in identifying sidewalk issues and areas to repair

Shiawassee car counting – committee studied Shiawassee on street parking use for the city

b. 9 MILE PATHWAY UPDATE

Chris shared about meeting last month including proposed paths through Farmington - two routes being considered and believe will recommend developing both. Committee recommend continuing downtown rather than turning at Mayfield and avoiding downtown, or have signs directing to downtown, 3 theme options – Classic, Modern & Sleek, and Colorful & Artistic being considered

Recommendations being sought of where to locate and type of amenities

c. SEMCOG PBSAT – Sue joined this meeting by phone with the pedestrian and bicycle safety team. Learned they record data throughout Michigan on pedestrian and bicycle crashes, wheelchair, skate board, horse and buggy – if occurs in a bike lane, factors of the accident

Meeting occurs every quarter

d. SEMCOG BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN MOBILITY

Bill shared he has emailed them twice about them joining a Pathways Committee meeting after they'd shown interest, have yet to hear back from them about scheduling

e. CROSSWALK AT CRAZY KRAB ON GRAND RIVER UPDATE

Kevin – OHM is moving forward with talking to MDOT about making the crosswalk location at Slider Bar work rather than the School Street location

f. SHIAWASSEE ROAD CAR COUNTER UPDATE

Brent shared the data – about 12% of spaces ever used – Capital improvement plan includes getting a study about where to put in bike routes, can provide the data to that study.

g. GRAND RIVER SIDEWALK BY NAILBYTES

Kevin – spoke with public works superintendent – no plans to do this yet, likely to be included in sidewalk project in '24. If there is leftover money could do it, but unlikely. DPW may well repair it if seen as a hazard. Will continue to address tripping hazard concern.

h. FARMINGTON HILLS ATTENDANCE AT FUTURE MEETING

Chris shared he is in dialogue with Charmaine Kettler- Schmult, Director of Planning and Community Development for Farmington Hills. She wants to attend and update us on their Transportation Master Plan and get info from us. Conflict with scheduled FH meetings to do ongoing so looking at just one visit.

i. SHIAWASSEE CROSSING BY FARMINGTON HIGH SCHOOL

Have recommended looking at adding a crosswalk to improve pedestrian safety before and after school crossing Shiawassee Rd.

7. NEW BUSINESS

a. 2023 WORK PLAN

Planned to talk about priorities for the new year at next meeting, committee members tot hink about ideas for the next meeting

b. ANY NEW CITY CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS?

Kevin shared that there are consideration for redevelopment of the legion hall into residential – 32 units apartments/condo proposed

Interest shown in several vacant spaces in Farmington:
Kyma moving toward opening and looking to do a drive thru – La Marsa ownership group
Drakeshire plaza getting new tenants – food/beverage where Biggby was
Freedom plaza – Shell planning for rebuild
Castle Dental proposal for sale
Cosmotology chairs being offered at Fitness 19
Savvy Sliders progressing to open in Spring
Spark grant approval information upcoming for hill path to Shiawassee Park

c. ANY NEW TARGET AREAS?

- i. Snow removal of Grand River Bridge – a walker noticed in the road on Grand River on the bridge over the river due to ice and snow on the sidewalk, identified safety concern.
Maria shared someone told her about a similar issue on Power by businesses where snow and ice are not being removed, likely usually business responsibility but properties are currently vacant.
Bill – identified that on the Farmington/FH border where Flanders Elementary School was many children cross at Farmington Rd. at Flanders to go to Gill Elementary school. Questioned the safety, if could get a crosswalk, crossing guard or even a pedestrian bridge to increase safety. Brought up bringing this up when FH representative joins for a meeting, Chris said he would contact Adam Janks at Safe Routes to school about the possibility of a project in this area.

New Kevin P identified that at 10 Mile Rd. and Farmington Rd the paint has deteriorated and the crosswalks are not visible crossing both of those roads at the intersection.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT

Patrick Thomas – Shared that he bikes 9 mile and Freedom Rd. going west regularly. Suggests for 9 mile pathway getting close to interests is always good, people will branch off, interested to see progress and what will be done. – When asked for his preference he shared preferring style #2 for the pathway – shared he likes classic (#1) but doesn't see it clearly connecting aspects of the pathway together to clearly identify the path. For biking he shared his focus on safety to have separation from traffic and also enabling being able to maintain a decent speed, not having jogs and sharp turns in a path to allow for unimpeded flow.

9. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENT

Sue – asked for an update on the Safe Routes to School project. Chris shared next step is to reach out to residents on Arundel and Wesley streets and see if they are interested in sidewalks, will likely send out a letter to residents, Sue suggested a meeting with residents. People that came to the first meeting did say they wanted sidewalks. Sue planning to contact school principal and give an update.

- Planned social media posts including the upcoming presentation at the City Council meeting, and the 9 Mile Pathway Project. Sue will write the posts and Maria will do graphics. Will including asking for feedback and bring up that the 9 Mile Pathway Project needs a name and welcome suggestions.

Maria – shared that residents on Whitaker St. were asking about adding sidewalks, discussed the option of putting sidewalks throughout the neighborhood.

Issues of ice and snow being removed from residential sidewalks was again brought up and it was mentioned that the city does have an ordinance that can assess a fine to residents that if there is 2 inches or more it must be cleared.

10. ADJOURNMENT – meeting adjourned at 8:32 – movement by Brent and supported by Maria

Next meeting: MARCH 8, 2023