



## FARMINGTON PATHWAYS COMMITTEE

7:00 p.m.

Minutes

MAY 8, 2024

---

1. CALL TO ORDER 7:18 pm  
This meeting took place at Hawthorne Ridge Bike Park on Hines Drive in Westland.
2. ROLL CALL  
  
Present: Tim Prince, Chris Weber, Joe VanDerZanden, Sue Lover, Heather Davies, Jamie Palmisano  
  
Absent: Bill Gessaman, Maria Taylor
3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA  
Motion to approve by Sue and supported by Jamie, approved unanimously.
4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
  - a. MEETING MINUTES, APRIL 10, 2024  
Motion to approve by Sue and supported by Heather, approved unanimously.
5. OLD BUSINESS
  - a. REVIEW OF HAWTHORNE RIDGE PUMP TRACK AND SKILLS PARK  
Noted that the pump track was busy and popular while the skills track was mostly ignored. Discussed possibility of making a second track or portion more accessible to younger children, but there was one skilled 4 year old child using the pump track. Also discussed making accessible to children with accessibility challenges, such as wheelchairs.
  - b. TEMPORARY PUMP TRACK  
Quotes from American Ramp Company for a temporary/portable pump track: \$46,000 to buy, \$12,500 to rent – discussed if worth renting, possibility of getting some of the cost of rental credited toward purchase of a permanent pump track was “maybe.” Further discussed the possibility of renting for the Cares Duck Days duck race event or Founder’s Festival, and possibility of obtaining funds through corporate sponsors. Also discussed the possibility of having pump track information and videos to show visitors at either or both events to build and gauge interest in residents and visitors for a pump track. Planned to revisit this at the next meeting.
  - c. PROSPECT AND RAPHAEL SIDEWALK UPDATE  
Prospect street sidewalks to be looked at for sidewalk program. Last month the Pathways Committee questioned how it was marked on the map, extending beyond the existing sidewalk while there were no significant previously noted issues in the existing sidewalk. Public Works reports that despite being highlighted on the map no planned work to be done on Raphael sidewalks for this year.
  - d. SHARED STREETS AND SPACES GRANT  
Heather attended one of the information meetings and shared that the grant is seeking short term projects with long lasting impact with grants of up to \$200,000 available. Applications are due in the first week of June and consists of 8 questions to answer. The committee had previously discussed the Masonic Plaza Park and Art Walk projects as possibilities to apply for the grant and

decided at the meeting that the Masonic Plaza project was the best choice as it is planned and ready to begin work this year. Heather agreed to work on the application and discussed some committee members meeting with her to help. Chris shared that DDA Director Kate Knight has grant writing experience and can help with final draft once she returns from vacation.

e. SIDEWALK ADDITION NEAR LONGACRE UPDATE

Chris gave an update on the missing sidewalk flag on the path between Oakland Street and the Drakeshire Apartments, a path used by students to reach Longacre Elementary school. He reports he has learned the space with the missing flag is partially owned by each of two homes, requiring that the city obtain a permanent easement from each to add concrete in this spot, as well as a temporary easement to complete the work, including grinding out some roots.

6. NEW BUSINESS

a. ANY NEW TARGET AREAS?

Jamie shared that she was asked by residents to share suggestions of adding bike lanes on city streets, including Grand River, and a suggestion that Grand River be redone and “beautified.”

It was noted that there are some trees in need of trimming on Grand River near Silver Dairy as foliage hangs low, impeding the sidewalk.

Also, there are some similarly low hanging trees along Orchard Street behind Fresh Thyme and bushes growing out over the sidewalk.

b. ANY NEW CITY CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS?

DTE did some work in front of Nail Bytes on Grand River necessitating tearing up the sidewalk. This area had been noted for the sidewalk program but is now being replaced by DTE.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

8. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENT

-Discussed uneven bricks in sidewalk downtown on Grand River. Chris shared that they do require maintenance and the city does level them out as needed.

-Discussed looking at downtown Howell in the near future for examples of updated walkable downtown with plentiful crosswalks.

-Maxfield Training Center project to be closed on in the next month preceding the start of work.

-There was a complaint of recent sidewalk work completed in the Bel-Air neighborhood already showing chipping and pitting. Chris identified that a poor concrete mix used by MDOT contractors last year has been in the news, likely causing this issue. Poor quality concrete may lead to earlier replacement than usual but for now the sidewalks are completed and improved from previous condition.

-Heather asked about the possibility of learning the plans of other city committees to inform Pathways Committee’s work. Chris suggested looking at completed parking study and walking study, and providing a list of materials that can be reviewed.

9. ADJOURNMENT

7:50 pm

Next meeting: JUNE 12, 2024