



## FARMINGTON PATHWAYS COMMITTEE

7:00 p.m.

Minutes

JANUARY 10, 2024

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1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 7:02 pm

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Tim Prince, Maria Taylor, Chris Weber, Kevin Christiansen, Sue Lover, Joe VanDerZanden

Absent: Bill Gessaman

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion to approve by Sue and supported by Maria, approved unanimously

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MEETING MINUTES, DECEMBER 13, 2023

Motion to approve by Sue and supported Maria, approved unanimously

5. ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (Majority Vote)

- a. Chairperson – Run meetings, establish subcommittees, prepare Annual Report
- b. Vice-Chairperson – Run meetings in Chairperson’s absence.
- c. Secretary – Take and prepare minutes, prepare correspondence.

Election tabled until next meeting as committee is currently short two members with one prospective member awaiting City Council approval.

Moved by Sue and supported by Joe, approved unanimously.

6. OLD BUSINESS

- a. PATHWAYS PRESENTATION TO COUNCIL February 20  
Tim – Discussed and began planning with committee which projects and accomplishments to include in presentation to City Council. Tim stated he would follow up on presentation with Bill and update/further discuss at February Pathways meeting.
- b. SPEED LIMITS ON GRAND RIVER UPDATE  
Chris – Shared that as Grand River is a state road the process to change speed limits if desired would require the State Police conducting a traffic study (which would not cost the city) where the findings of the current speed of traffic would set any changes in speed limit and could result in raising speed limits with the city having no ability to decide at that point how or if to change speed limits. Discussed plan for the city to conduct its own traffic study following the end of Winter and plan how to proceed based on results.
- c. 9 MILE PATHWAY UPDATE

Chris – Reported that recent meeting occurred with no significant news or changes, planning another meeting for late January or early February – still working on branding and funding.

- d. **SIDEWALK ISSUES NEAR WARNER MANSION PARKING LOT UPDATE**  
Triggered by a citizen complaint, Maria took pictures of the reported broken sidewalk and found some additional flags with issues. Chris provided the pictures to the public works superintendent and the issue is being worked on now with plans for a cold patch when weather permitting and will await permanent fix/replacement as part of future sidewalk projects.
- e. **NEW PATHWAYS COMMITTEE MEMBER RECRUITMENT**  
2 current openings to be filled. There is one current applicant awaiting interview by city council. Discussed how to put the word out to attract additional applicants including reaching out to past applicants for interest and social media posts.
- f. **PAINTING OF LINES ON GRAND RIVER UPDATE**  
Missing lane line on Grand River east of School Steet following a past construction project - Chris talked to Chuck, who talked to the state about it, and is now a known issue that the state is planning to correct.

## 7. NEW BUSINESS

- a. **UPDATING OF PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN**  
Kevin Shared that the city will be beginning the process of updating the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, which is required by the state to be updated every 5 years to be eligible for state grants and that most other funding sources also want to see such up to date proof of plans and city involvement to be considered for grants. Reviewed the 6 current parks, improvements made that will need to be updated, new parks to add including the Dinan pocket park, the 9/11 memorial is not yet incorporated, and importance and value of including future upcoming projects and ideas to support developing and realizing projects, including the upcoming Art Park as part of the Maxfield condo project and connecting pathways and Mason's corner pocket park. Also discussed other ideas the Pathways Committee could seek to include in the master plan such as a possible bike park to add to the Shiawassee Park update, the proposed Rouge River Nature Trail and pathway and connectivity projects such as including updates/renovation to McGee hill and the bridge there.

Kevin shared the city will be putting together a proposal in the next month or so to get bids for updating the plan. The city will likely create a recreation steering committee which would likely involve members from other interested boards and committees. He suggested that the Pathways Committee will want to have input in such a committee's plans and may want to get a Pathways Committee member on such a steering committee.

- b. **ANY NEW CITY CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS?**

Kevin shared that the Maxfield project is approved and moving forward to start this spring. Legion property has a brownfield process going on which the developer is looking to expedite, likely a 2 to 3 year site redevelopment and building process. Ongoing interest in some other projects but nothing else ready to move forward.

The DDA has secured a grant to develop a park on Mason's Corner and will need to also seek additional funding. Reviewed current pictures of the planned park which is planned to be complete in about 1 year.

- c. **ANY NEW TARGET AREAS?**  
None

8. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

9. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENT

Mentioned that Birmingham advertises itself as “a walkable city.” Questioned the process for such designations and the idea of researching such available endorsements.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm

Next meeting: FEBRUARY 14, 2024