



FARMINGTON PATHWAYS COMMITTEE

7:00 p.m.

MINUTES

MARCH 8, 2023

1. CALL TO ORDER 7:00 pm 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 Sue moved to approve and Maria supported

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. MEETING MINUTES, FEBRUARY 8, 2023 Brent moved to approve and Bill supported

5. OLD BUSINESS

a. 10 MILE CROSSWALK PAINTING AND TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT RESULTS
Chris – Reported that Farmington will repaint their crosswalk at that intersection across Farmington Rd. and Farmington Hills said they will also paint their crosswalk across 10 mile this year.

Farmington Public Safety Dept. said has written 7 tickets for running the stop at this intersection in the past month, just from covering that intersection 15 minutes per day, will refocus there.

b. FARMINGTON ROAD CROSSING AT COLFAX -

Sue spoke with Adam at Safe Routes to School about improving the safety of this crossing and possible pedestrian bridge. He said it would be very expensive and people tend not to use them, so they don't encourage it. He recommended a highly visible crosswalk with a stop light/beacon for when pedestrians are present, such as including corner guards, a pedestrian island, and a HAWK signal – pedestrian activated beacon. He said could pursue HSIP Highway Safety Improvement Grant, felt that this was a dangerous crossing and a good project to pursue.

Pathways Committee discussed further steps to take including the usual Safe Routes process – checking with the schools if many students are walking to school, obtain address list from the school to give to Safe Routes to develop a map and do a walking audit. Gill Elementary School children appear to be bussed while Power Middle School children do walk.

Also discussed talking to the engineers at OHM to address this crossing with the road commission.

Because the intersection is on the Farmington/ Farmington Hills border maintenance would be a shared project.

c. SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL UPDATE

Chris – Reports he has a letter ready to go out to residents checking interest in adding sidewalks to the neighborhood.

Available grant is \$300K with next deadline in June for work in 2025. Adam thought it was a good project.

d. 9 MILE PATHWAY UPDATE

Chris – March 23 meeting coming up, is trying to get an earlier meeting within Farmington but not sure – will have an update for next Pathways Meeting.

e. SEMCOG BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN MOBILITY UPDATE

May 31 10 am meeting – planned to share with them the top priorities the committee has been working on, discussed planning the agenda and hoped for outcome goals for the meeting – Chris suggested working from the Pathways Committee Work Plan to inform what to share and address in that meeting.

f. CROSSWALK AT KRAZY KRAB ON GRAND RIVER UPDATE

Kevin Christiansen shared that OHM recently addressed with MDOT, they're supportive of committee's recommendation to place the crosswalk between Village Commons to Farmington West Apartments. Will require a traffic count, likely in the next 30 – 60 days, also a pedestrian count, which is best done in warmer weather. Current concerns are the distance to cross, amount of traffic and turn ins to parking lots, could be reason to add a pedestrian island. Speed of traffic is another concern, currently 35 mph, to consider dropping speed to 25 mph either at that crosswalk or at Mayfield.

g. SOCIAL MEDIA UPDATE

Sue – Posted on Facebook about the 9 Mile Pathway – had a good reception already with a significant online engagement and positive feedback.

h. WORK PLAN

Reviewed last year's Work Plan and accomplishments.

Reviewed projects and ideas that could go on this year's work plan, including:
Community Survey

Walkability Master Plan – Discussed considering a professional study for walkability/complete streets, consideration with city council and possibility of joining with Farmington Hills for a combined study. Farmington Hills is planning a meeting in April already to work on this for their city. It was pointed out that Walkability Master Plan is already in the Capital Improvement Plan.

Whittaker subdivision sidewalks
McGee Hill bridge issues.

It was planned that at the next meeting Bill will lead a walk through of last year's Work Plan to review and update to create 2023 Work Plan.

6. NEW BUSINESS

a. ANY NEW CITY CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS?

Kevin Christiansen – Farm Rd closed again March through April/May for sidewalk and finish work.

- Pocket Park – Millennium Park received full funding to begin the project.

Grant and donations added up to \$180k – whole project about estimated at \$300K. Donations are still open. The rest of the funding will come from the city/DDA.

-Masonic corner – The current set up with gravel and picnic tables is temporary. Planning for this corner is still to come with funding, design and engineering in the future. The coffee shop going into the Masonic Temple is still progressing.

-Maxfield Training Center – ongoing project.

-Detroit Eatz site – new owner considering making a Big Boy drive thru/small dining room location similar to the one in Southfield on Telegraph Rd.

-Legion hall – a concept has been put before the DDA and Planning Commission for condo units by the owner of the Orchards Phase 2. Project seems to be moving forward.

-Paramount Healthcare, NBD Bank – interest in making into a drive-thru coffee shop, possibly a Bigby

-Kyma Grill is getting close to opening, possibly in a week.

-Shell gas station has special land use approval to start reconstruction of retaining walls, which are starting to list. Plans for removing the car wash, pushing back and expanding the building to include a chicken restaurant and more gas pumps.

-Castle Dental is still seeking interest for tenants for new mixed use building with businesses on the 1st floor, residential 2nd and 3rd floor.

b. ANY NEW TARGET AREAS?

Chris – discussed M5

7. PUBLIC COMMENT - None

8. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENT

Sue – Thanks to Tim and Brent for presenting to City Council.

Kevin Christiansen shared about recent State of the City presentation at the Hawk, including the Farmington and Farmington Hills mayors and the president of Corewell Health. The mayor mentioned the Pathways Committee in a presentation to local businesses at the meeting. Some video from the presentation is expected to soon be posted on the city website.

9. ADJOURNMENT Sue moved to adjourn and Maria supported at 8:44 pm.

Next meeting: APRIL 12, 2023