



## FARMINGTON PATHWAYS COMMITTEE

7:00 p.m.

MINUTES

FEBRUARY 14, 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, Bill Gessaman, Joe VanDerZanden

Absent: Kevin Christiansen, Sue Lover

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. MEETING MINUTES, JANUARY 10, 2024

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

5. OLD BUSINESS

a. PATHWAYS PRESENTATION TO COUNCIL

Discussed and planned what projects Tim will include in upcoming presentation to City Council, including accomplishments and activities in 2023 and current ideas and focus.

b. NEW PATHWAYS COMMITTEE MEMBER RECRUITMENT

City Council is interviewing 2 more candidates next meeting, will have 4 total applicants to choose from for 2 vacant positions.

Pathways Committee agreed to further delay electing new officers until next meeting to have new members in place.

c. SHIAWASSEE BIKE PARK/PUMP TRACK

Chris will contact vendor to arrange to present at April meeting.

6. NEW BUSINESS

a. ANY NEW TARGET AREAS?

i. Freedom Road Sidewalk – Halstead to Tree Hill

A resident had a comment/issue – the sidewalk running south from Grand River along Halstead toward Freedom Rd. dead ends and is downhill from Freedom Rd for anyone continuing to the shoulder they would have to travel uphill over grass. Pathways Committee discussed options to improve. Chris planned to talk to city engineers about exploring adding a connection between the sidewalk and Freedom Rd.

ii. Farmington Road RFB and Speeding

Report of another person asking why the rapid flashing beacon was removed from the Farmington Rd. crossing by CVS and complaint of drivers speeding through that area. This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> or

4<sup>th</sup> mention of wanting the RFB to return to that location. The beacon was removed due to the streetscape and median island addressing slowing down traffic, crosswalk and signage seeming adequate and making the RFB unnecessary. Committee members feel they have observed slower traffic since completion of the streetscape project and that RFB could be of more use in other locations such as crossing on Grand River at Warner St. and/or at Liberty St.

Planned to ask Farmington Public Safety to have a traffic detail monitor traffic speed on Farmington Rd. near the crossing at CVS to report back findings at next meeting.

iii. Snow on sidewalks and walk signals/crossings

- Joe brought concerns about difficulty using sidewalks and crossing streets when snow is not removed from sidewalks and questioned the need for pushing a button to get a walk signal when snow is sometimes in the way of reaching the button rather than having walk signals automatically lit whenever traffic is stopped.

- Identified no walk signal present on Drake Rd. crossing at Freedom Rd., discussed obstacle of cost to add a signal and possible limited foot traffic.

- Lack of snow removal from sidewalk by businesses on the south side of Grand River between Lakeway St. and Orchard Lake Rd. making the sidewalk unusable at times while there is no crosswalk at Lakeway nor any crosswalks between Power Rd. and Orchard Lake Rd. Identified speed and lack of visibility of traffic downhill looking west on Grand River making adding a crossing likely unsafe. Discussed possibility of adding a safe crossing to Grand River at or near Lakeway in the future as part of the Grand River Corridor Development project.

Bill asked when resurfacing for the parking lot at Fresh Thyme is due to happen as the lot is deteriorating and referring back to past discussions of the library's story time path idea and creating a protected path through the parking lot for pedestrians. Chris explained that the city has approached the owners with a price for resurfacing and no progress has been made on scheduling the work. Concerns of safety of marking pathways without constructing more protection for pedestrians make it unlikely anything temporary will be done and will await the resurfacing project.

Maria shared that she received a complaint about brush on Power Rd. overhanging the sidewalk impeding foot traffic and requiring trimming. Joe agreed to check this area for the issue and report back findings.

b. ANY NEW CITY CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS?

i. Gill Road Design

Gill Rd. is scheduled to be redone in 2025 creating an opportunity for comments and suggestions for redesign. Discussed known resident comments and suggestions including bike lines, narrowing the road to slow down traffic (also identified this can include bike lanes), requests for more on street parking and other suggestions to limit on street parking or make safer as parked cars have been hit by traffic before. Also recommendations for narrowing the wide part near Freedom while others have pointed

out that school buses park there and parents drop their children off there so they want to see it preserved. Committee Members showed the most interest in adding bike lanes and slowing traffic. Planned to return to this topic in future meetings regarding making suggestions for the project.

Discussed a movement to change the methodology for changing existing speed limits from the current 85<sup>th</sup> percentile of drivers in a speed limit study to the 60<sup>th</sup> percentile, making it easier for communities to choose to lower speed limits. Maria volunteered to send a letter to state representatives supporting this resolution.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

8. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENT

Tim suggested a need for easier pedestrian access to the Farmington Shopping Plaza in the future to allow for safer crossing of Orchard Lake at Grand River from that neighborhood and across Grand River pending future development in the old winery. Chris stated he thought the Grand River Corridor Improvement Plan included plans for improved crossings.

9. ADJOURNMENT

8:31 pm

Next meeting: MARCH 13, 2024