



## FARMINGTON PATHWAYS COMMITTEE

7:00 p.m.

MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 13, 2023

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1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 7:02 pm

2. ROLL CALL

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

Absent: Bill Gessaman

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion to approve by Maria, supported by Brent, approved unanimously.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MEETING MINUTES, AUGUST 9, 2023

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

5. OLD BUSINESS

a. SNOW FENCING AT SHIAWASSEE AND RAPHAEL UPDATE

Chris – a resident asked via social media what this snow fencing was. Water was flowing into Shiawassee Rd. due to a plugged drain. The hole was part of the process of exploring and unplugging the drain. Contractor is to return and complete the project by the end of November.

b. 9 MILE PATHWAY UPDATE

SEMCOG has committed money for the project and Oakland County matched it. The final report will go before Oakland County Parks and Rec Department September meeting, asking for funding and approval of branding and create quarterly group of all the communities to continue work.

c. OLD FARMINGTON ROAD BRIDGE

City engineers looking into cost estimates to repair or replace the bridge. Discussed options to rebuild a similar bridge or scale down to smaller pedestrian bridge. Identified the need to look for grants for funding and whether to seek licensing along with Shiawassee Park or as separate projects. Expecting to have cost estimates within the next couple of months. Cost estimates are needed before looking for grants.

d. CROSSWALK AT KRAZY CRAB ON GRAND RIVER UPDATE

Robertson Brother's Engineers have prepared plans for Maxfield redevelopment to include road work on Thomas and School streets and the School St. crosswalk, being reviewed by OHM. The other two crosswalk options (mid-block near Krazy Crab and Orchard Ct. locations) are still being coordinated by OHM and MDOT with nothing to report. School St. crosswalk is moving forward.

e. SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL UPDATE

Chris reported he talked to DPW and city engineers, who felt there were several spots worth proceeding, discussed these areas:

- Longacre cut through where the sidewalk needs replacement several replacement flags, curbs need to be replaced with ADA ramps and add

crossings at both sides of drive between sidewalks in the parking lot.  
Approx. \$9,000.

- Corners that don't line up – they felt best to address this when there is a street project in that area sometime in the future.

- Lights that need to be added or replaced – need to have DTE add poles to do it, a significant obstacle. Felt not worth the effort unless getting a lot of foot traffic in that area.

- Drake and Freedom roads no walk signal. – Planned to check if Farmington Hills is interested in working together on this and our exploring the grant for them.

- Flashing Beacon at Gill and Arundel– Felt the existing signs reading “must stop for pedestrians” are sufficient. Pathways Committee finds it worth seeking to add safety at this crossing, discussed talking to Farmington Hills to work jointly and apply for a grant.

-Maria is working on a narrative for the Safe Routes to School Grant application, will work with Chris to include this data.

f. ELY COURT UPDATE

DPW put the coal patch down to level the raised sidewalk/correct tripping hazard, likely to be included in next year's sidewalk project.

g. M-5 OVERPASS DISCUSSION WITH FARMINGTON HILLS

FH is finishing up the design work and wants to meet with city and pathways representatives to review and discuss. Planned to also discuss crossing at Freedom and Drake at that time.

h. SALVATORE STREET CONNECTION

Bill brought up last meeting, reviewed pictures. Recently paved a dirt road on FH side. Small dirt patch between the sides, passing between guardrails, bike tires get stuck in dirt and grass.

Kevin spoke with Chuck in public works – identified that the guardrails and dirt spot is on FH side. Discussed possibilities of removing the guardrails and blending the roads, determined that adding a flag of concrete could help connection for pedestrians but appears to be within Farmington Hills.

i. PEDESTRIAN SIGNALIZATION NEAR HERITAGE PARK UPDATE

Communicated with FH and they said they would look into and address the issue.

j. LEGION SQUARE SIDEWALK UPDATE

PUD agreement being drafted addressing willingness to improve the sidewalks behind the project, and they seem to be agreeable and will upgrade and repair sidewalk on Grand River.

To be discussed at October City Council Meeting.

## 6. NEW BUSINESS

a. SIDEWALK CROSSING AT FARMINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Following traffic studies, the city is moving forward with adding a crosswalk across Shiawassee St. at Lakeway St. to add safety following a recent complaint.

b. CHANGE IN LAW GOVERNING SIDEWALK CLAIMS

Chris explained a recent change in laws regarding lawsuits for trip and falls on sidewalks. Where in the past sidewalk issues were generally considered “open and obvious” and prevented lawsuits. Now courts can consider if a specific tripping hazard was truly “open and obvious.”

Keeping sidewalk unevenness below 2 inches is the standard and typically adequate and adequate to keep a court from allowing a lawsuit to move forward.

c. ANY NEW CITY CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS?

- Maxfield and Legion Square ongoing.
- Winery sale has interest but no solid plans yet.
- Cannelle installed a new tinted sidewalk/patio area.
- Castle Dental – has a team with architects meeting tomorrow looking into improving traffic circulation.
- Maria shared that the Farmington Bicentennial Committee is looking to do a timeline project in the walkway between Fresh Tyme and the former Fitness 19, likely a mural. They are looking for a grant of about \$5,000 for the project including adding lights. Chris is aware of a grant opportunity.

d. ANY NEW TARGET AREAS?

Chris – Suggested focus on walkways to Riley Park for the farmer's market, identifying the path from the crosswalk on Farmington Rd. at the CVS the sidewalk along Apothecary, stops before the end of the building leaving pedestrians exposed to cars. Discussed options and future possibility of reconfiguring the parking lot and creating protected pedestrian pathway during future parking lot repaving.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

The city received a call about wanting the flashing beacon back on Farmington Rd at the CVS crosswalk. Committee members identified increase safety with the protected island with completed streetscape project.

8. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENT

Nail Bytes broken sidewalk not fixed since utility paved that area.

Brent – Identified completed work at Women's Park, felt it was an improvement, looking better following tree trimming and redone landscaping and brick work.

Chris – Shared an upcoming fiberoptic cable project to begin soon in Farmington at no cost to the city, providing faster service and more choice of service providers.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned at 8:23 pm

Next meeting: OCTOBER 11, 2023