



FARMINGTON PATHWAYS COMMITTEE

7:00 p.m.

MINUTES

JULY 12, 2023

1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 7:01 pm

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Tim Prince, Sue Lover, Maria Taylor, Bill Gessaman, Kevin Parkins, Chris Weber, Joe VanDerZanden

Absent: Brent Bartman, Kevin Christiansen

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion to approve by Sue and supported by Maria – Unanimous approval

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. MEETING MINUTES, JUNE 14, 2023

Motion to approve by Maria and supported by Bill – Unanimous approval

5. OLD BUSINESS

- a. 9 MILE PATHWAY UPDATE – Plan expected to be finalized in the next week or two. 15 mil estimate for all. Estimated cost of \$2.7 Million for Farmington portion. Discussed prioritization of legs of the trail and ongoing planning of prioritization.

Identified that most effective means of obtaining funding is to form a group with neighboring communities, such as Farmington Hills, to apply together for plan and apply for grants.

Branding of the trail to be developed by an outside company yet to be identified. 9 Mile Pathway Group currently holding waiting on branding being developed.

b. FARMINGTON HILLS MASTER PLAN WEBSITE LINK

- i. <https://engage.giffelswebster.com/farmington-hills-master-plan> - is online now listing priority projects with comments section for comments and requests on projects.

- ii. List of Pathways Committee priority locations for input – Pathways Committee members to consult list of identified priority locations bordering Farmington Hills/joint responsibility areas to provide comments on Master Plan to encourage advancement of identified projects.

- iii. List of groups/people to inform of link – planned to share link to interested local people and groups.

c. SEMCOG BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN MOBILITY UPDATE

- i. Training on SEMCOG tools – sent out an email, awaiting a reply about getting training for interested Pathways members

- ii. Grants for Old Farmington Road Bridge – Sue emailed Brian, he gave a contact at MDOT who has been contacted, awaiting reply.

- iii. Results of grant application: did not get the grant for the non-motorized pathway study – SEMCOG response is that not enough funds available

to fund all applied projects (41 applications received for \$50k individual grants), their priority is funding projects involving multiple communities – suggestion is to apply again with a partner.

Option to get a partner to reapply would involve splitting \$50k grant with partner if obtained.

Also the option to use SEMCOG tools to do complete some assessment tasks ourselves, which is being explored starting with getting SEMCOG training.

- d. CROSSWALK AT KRAZY KRAB ON GRAND RIVER UPDATE – Meeting next week to try to push the resolution. Engineers are doubtful that MDOT will go for it. Planning to learn what necessary steps would be to get MDOT to accept plan. Reduced speed limit likely necessary and part of the request. Reduced speed limit is also DMOT's decision.
- e. MAXFIELD TRAINING CENTER DEVELOPMENT UPDATE – Chris reported the project is progressing well. The DDA met with developers this morning. The plan is due to go to City Council for approval in August. The developer reportedly wants to perform the demolition this winter and begin construction next spring.
- f. RALPH C WILSON GRANT UPDATE
 - i. Call with grant coordinator – Has not happened yet. Bill has learned who the contacts are for Parks and Greenspace.
 - ii. Tim review of grant application – discussed Tim looked at the website – would likely be applying under Active Lifestyle. Planned to submit a letter of inquiry including details for Farmington 9 mile Pathway project sections. Option to partner with other local communities for 9 mile pathway sections, possibly strengthening application. This grant has funded some bigger projects in the past. After completion of final report for pathway can approach this grant for advice of applying for the Farmington section of the path individually or trying to form a group of communities to apply together.
- g. LIST OF PATH OBSTRUCTIONS – Committee members will send identified obstructions to Tim to compile an ongoing list to address. None identified in this meeting.
- h. DISCUSSION WITH AMERICAN LEGION ON WALKING CONNECTION WITH SHERWOOD STREET – Development concept evaluated by The Planning Commission and Kevin C brought up the suggestion for the connection. Feedback is that the owners of the houses on Sherwood Street do not want the connection and the developers showed no particular interest in whether the connection is made or not. Identified that this project appears to have no current interest to proceed and leaves the option of seeking an easement to develop the connection further in the future.
- i. SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL
 - i. Door to door discussion with residents – Maria and Tim went door to door on the east side of Whitaker Street. They went to every house that had provided no response to the survey. All replies from door to door survey were all hard no's on adding a sidewalk. The community has shown no support for this project.
Next Steps: Explore other project options to apply for Grant, including adding lighting for safety, street flooding issues, missing piece(s) of existing sidewalk, and adding a stop sign and/or flashing beacon at Gill Road. Identified that all of these projects can likely be pursued without the need of local community feedback. Planned to have city engineer look at projects and estimate cost for grant writing.
- j. MEDIA POST

- i. Farmington Hills Non-Motorized Plan input – Post and encourage residents to make comments and requests for connections to Farmington and Farmington Hills.

6. NEW BUSINESS

a. ANY NEW CITY CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS? None

b. ANY NEW TARGET AREAS?

- i. 23780 Ely Court sidewalk inquiry – Home is in the area within the project, was marked for replacement but not in the project map. This may be in next year's plans. Received an email from the homeowner asking if her sidewalk would be included in the project. Chris replied and asked for pictures and have yet to receive a reply. Tim said he would take a look at the sidewalk condition.
- ii. Sue – Fresh Thyme parking lot redo coming approximately 2025 – she saw a man in a motorized wheelchair hitting the landscaping curb while trying to stay out of traffic while traveling. Discussed planning safe placed in reconfiguring and improving pedestrian paths when the parking lot is updated, possibly including islands/landings.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT - None

8. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENT - None

9. ADJOURNMENT 7:58 PM

Next meeting: AUGUST 9, 2023