



FARMINGTON PATHWAYS COMMITTEE

7:00 p.m.

MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 11, 2024

1. CALL TO ORDER 7:00 pm
2. ROLL CALL

Present: Tim Prince, Joe VanDerZanden, Heather Davies, Jamie Palmisano, Chris Weber, Sue Lover

Absent: Bill Gessaman, Maria Taylor

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion to approve by Sue and supported by Heather, approved unanimously.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. MEETING MINUTES, AUGUST 14, 2024

Motion to approve by Sue and supported by Heather, approved unanimously.

5. OLD BUSINESS

- a. NAIL BYTES SIDEWALK COMPLETION – Sidewalk repair in front of Nail Bytes has been completed.

- b. POTENTIAL CROSSWALKS ON GRAND RIVER AND FARMINGTON ROAD
Reviewed a map marked with possible locations to add crosswalks identified during last month's walk of these areas completed by the Pathways Committee. On Farmington Rd identified:

- In front of Castle Dental – discussed trying to make a part of the redevelopment project for the building and likely prioritizing this location for a crosswalk.
- South of Alta Loma near Cromwell Family Chiropractic and Citizen's Bank.
- In front of Warner Farms condominiums, possibly with a boulevard/island
- In front of LOC Credit Union.
- In the area of the Huron River Hunting and Fishing Club, near Cloverdale. It was noted there is already a ramp from a previously existing crosswalk that was removed.

Grand River:

- Near Warner Mansion – Suggest trying to line up with the gazebo path to access the path and is a good location to avoid driveways in the area.
- Cass Street mid-block
- Near Blue Hat Coffee and the nearby memorials, east of the existing crosswalk at Liberty Street.
- School Street – This one is already planned
- Near Krazy Krab connecting to the gazebo – previously discussed and funding secured in Krazy Krab original development plan
- In front of Big Boy
- In front of/near Valvoline
- On the west side of Power. – There is already one on the east side of Power but one on the west side would line up with the existing bike lane and continue the planned 9 Mile Connector Path.

Locations discussed that were beyond the area walked:

-Lakeway St. - There are no crossings for the long distance between Power Rd. and Orchard Lake. Would likely need a protected pedestrian island/boulevard. It was pointed out that this has been discussed in planning of the Grand River Corridor Project.

Next steps discussed:

-Continue to develop list of possible crosswalks to add throughout the city. Pathways members planned to walk different parts of the city to identify and report locations to consider for crosswalks at the October meeting.
-A community needs assessment is required to add crosswalks and could be made part of the Master Plan development process. Discussed enclosing request for community feedback with the December water bill and posting on the city's social media.
-Discussed prioritizing locations for Rapidly Flashing Beacons at crosswalks and reviewed the previously identified priority locations as discussed in the March 13, 2024 meeting in order of priority: The crosswalks on Grand River at Starbucks, Liberty Street, and by Cannelle Pastry.

c. "NINE MILE PROJECT" UPDATE

i. 4 Step Process. Steps 1 and 2 Complete

-A company, called Crimson, has been hired to develop branding for the project.

-Discovery and development step is complete.

-The next steps are deliverables and then assessment.

-Findings in survey – almost respondent named it an every person's pathway for every day use. Respondents did not like the terms "pathway" or "trail", stating the most people won't be going long distances but will be using the project for entertainment, for a short walk and going local places. The term Nine Mile Project is being adopted to avoid the terms pathway and trail.

-The Pathways Committee voiced concerns and disagreement, feeling it is important to make it clear that the trail will connect and continue through communities, connect to other trails, and felt that the original purpose of the project was to link communities and felt that this change in focus on confuse potential users seeking to travel connecting trails and miss the current movement throughout the state to link regional trails.

-Proposed Oakland County Parks and Recreation Millage could be a funding source for the Nine Mile Project.

6. NEW BUSINESS

a. CROSSWALK SIGNS ON FARMINGTON ROAD ISLAND

Trees in front of the crosswalk signs near CVS block visibility from drivers.

Options discussed to improve visibility:

1. Add crosswalk signs below the existing traffic signs on each end of the median island.
2. Move the existing crosswalk signs – move the east side sign south of the tree that is blocking it and move the west side sign closer to the road, out from behind the tree.
3. Add signs to the backs of the crosswalk signs to make them double sided to allow drivers the chance to see the signs on the opposite side of the street.

b. PROCESS FOR REPORTING SIDEWALK/TREE/OTHER ISSUES

- i. Address and photo – Code enforcement has asked that notifications of overgrown trees and other sidewalk impeding issues include pictures of the issue and address of the nearby home or business to identify the location and who they should contact.

One overgrown tree issue impeding a sidewalk was identified on last month's Pathways Committee walk and reported to DPW. DPW identified the trees to be city trees and are scheduled to be trimmed.

-Tim identified overgrown city trees on Freedom Rd. near The Glen Swim Club.

-Trees along 10 Mile between Power and Orchard Lake Rd. identified as getting overgrown and encroaching on the sidewalk.

-Jamie identified that walking on Flanders was dark due to little lighting and the sidewalks are rough with tripping issues.

c. OAKLAND COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION MILLAGE

Proposed Oakland County Parks millage – Chris identified that most Oakland County parks are located in northern Oakland County and has been providing funding for smaller parks related projects in southern Oakland County in recent years, including contributing money for Shiawassee Park fencing and Dinan Park construction. Their stated focus mentions the development of trails and additional funding could become available if millage is passed.

d. ANY NEW TARGET AREAS?

Chris Reported noticing people using the truncated dome ramps at handicapped accessible parking spots to cross Grand River thinking it must be for crossing. He questioned if there is enough handicapped accessible parking spots downtown that include ramps. Jamie identified being aware of a lack of accessible parking near KickStart being an issue for someone recently. It was also questioned if the accessible ramps at handicapped parking spots should be blue to better indicate their purpose.

-Tim identified some sidewalk issues in Belair not already marked for this years sidewalks project and will send the sidewalk location information to Chris to pass along to DPW.

e. ANY NEW CITY CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS?

None mentioned.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

Patrick Thomas, 22432 Brookdale 48336 - said he was present primarily to hear the update on the 9 Mile Project. He reported that he rides his bike on 9 Mile Road to the ITC trail frequently, as well as throughout the city of Farmington. He said that trying to ride across the exit ramp from M – 5 is “crazy” so takes an alternate route to avoid that section of 9 Mile and hopes for it to become more bikeable with this project. He said that anything that can be done to improve bike trails would be appreciated as bike routes and sidewalks often end abruptly or take sharp and unpredictable turns. He said he finds Farmington Rd. no longer bikeable due to on street parking spots. He stated he hopes to see the width of the 9 Mile Project paths are made with bikes in mind.

8. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENT

None

9. ADJOURNMENT 8:29 pm

Next meeting: OCTOBER 9, 2024