



# WALKABLE NOVI COMMITTEE

Minutes

October 21, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.  
City Council Conference Room  
(248) 347-0475

## Meeting called to order at 6:01 p.m.

**Members:** Edward Roney, Justin Fischer, Andrew Mutch, and Salene Riggins

**Staff Support:** Lindsay Bell, Senior Planner, Community Development  
Barbara McBeth, City Planner, Community Development  
Ben Peacock, Planning Assistant, Community Development  
Jeff Muck, Director of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services  
Rebecca Runkel, Project Engineer, Public Works

## ROLL CALL

## APPROVAL OF AGENDA

## AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

## MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

- a. Hills 275 Trailhead in Farmington Hills  
Planner Bell described trail head project. 1<sup>st</sup> in Michigan on a Federal ROW. Bike repair station, benches, water fountain, and public art are amenities there. How could something similar be done in Novi?

Member Mutch thought it was open to the public. Wondered who owns the property? How is it utilized? Classify trailheads two concepts: 1) on point to a trail, drive there to access a trail, like Lakeshore Park; 2) a way station (like Terra comfort station) people are going to stop and take a break – would be nice to have something that is covered. No cover is fine for getting on a trail, but if you want to take a break you need shade. No landscaping either. Doesn't make sense for every location, like a beginning, but at a midway point something to get you out of the sun would be nice. Where do these trails fit in to larger system?

ITC trail has three different rest points. With Beacon Hill being developed in there probably should be something on the east side there to allow shade. Nice central point along Meadowbrook for cyclists. I have seen trails where people have built up food service/food trucks to offer refreshments.

Member Mutch said knowing the non-motorized transportation plan update is coming up, it would be nice to have list of what amenities should be located at different locations.

b. 2022 Tentative Meeting Schedule  
Before Parks and Rec meetings, at 6pm – four meetings planned.

Mutch moved to tentatively approve, second by Riggins.

Parks and Rec Commission will discuss meeting times.

Passed unopposed.

c. 6-10-2021 Walkable Novi Committee Meeting Minutes – Approved with no objections.

### **STAFF UPDATES**

#### 1. Planning Update

Goddard school finished sidewalk on Cabot Drive, Vibe Credit Union branch office on 12 Mile – additional new segment not quite in yet, Novi Tru hotel still under construction, Jaguar closer to completion.

#### 2. Parks, Recreation and Cultural Service Update

Access to Lakeshore at southern point. Vehicles parking on 12 ½ Mile has become a safety concern. A parking area was recommended by police, engineering and parks, trying to get people off the road with new housing development. DPW offered to install parking spaces themselves, ended up with ten parking spaces. Likely will reduce traffic problems. Something to go before Council to eliminate parking on 12 ½ Mile. Tree removals and other things, still have to work on a berm had to push dirt to the east. Fixed drainage issues around nearby resident's property.

Member Mutch asked, How do you get people who normally go on their own route to get to this location?

Jeff Muck said they are not cutting more trails, the parking is right next to the path.

Wildlife Woods park exercise equipment is being built as we speak. The new pickle ball courts are getting used a lot. The connection trail to ITC Trail will be constructed in the Spring of 2022. We really activated that park. Before there was nothing to draw you in, now there is and it's senior oriented.

Splash pad announcement: donor came forward to fund the project, conversation is focused on Bosco Park as it is centrally located, visible, easily accessible. Have \$20K so far, more donations could come in the couple weeks. Funneled through the Parks Foundation.

#### 3. Engineering Update

On Haggerty Road near Orchard Hill Place: 123Net finally spliced cable there so we can finish retainer wall and complete sidewalk. Segment 70 on Meadowbrook south 11 Mile: utilities have been moved, DTE just moved second pole. Segment 51: (10 Mile near ITC) DTE says they will have it moved by November.

Member Mutch said DTE was having issues this summer with workers being stationed at repairs, they hope to make staffing changes so that doesn't happen in the future.

a. Safe Routes to School

Rebecca stated there was a meeting this morning. Tamara sidewalk within the next couple weeks, finishing up in the spring. MDOT gave us more time than we needed, Merlo wanted to get that done this year, but we aren't going to get that second road done in time.

Member Mutch said there is erosion happening near the top where the playground is.

Cranbrook Road starting on sidewalk, ITC to Wildlife Woods trail starting in April as well as final piece of 10 Mile being done with water main loop project, RCOC still has quite a bit left to do.

Flashing lights for school speed for Walled Lake school, biggest speed differential we have in the city

b. Active Non-Motorized Public Projects

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

Emails: Francisco Piazza: someone tripped and fell on a business property. Forwarded to maintenance crew, did not meet differential where city would fix it, so it falls on property owner, maintenance will reach out to them to make sure that it gets fixed.

Nicki Gabel (see packet) emailed to raise several issues for pedestrians on East Lake Drive.

East Lake Drive has not been on our priority list at all, but maybe that is something that we can look at for the Non-Motorized master plan update. Engineering would not want to raise the crossings, no curb there.

Member Mutch said the improvements at the parks are drawing in more people to the area, but it is also taxing some of the facilities. South Lake Drive complaints are common too. There's a one way Non-Motorized lane, but no other viable route to go other way. Very little ROW space to provide more. How do we make it safer for peds, bikes and drivers?

## **ADJOURN**

**Move to adjourn by Member Mutch, second by Member Riggins at 6:40pm**