



Rochester Hills

Minutes - Draft

Citizens Pathway Review Committee

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Penny Brady, Anne Dieters-Williams, Chad Gietzen, Rodney Hulbert, Samantha Phillips, Tate Vo

Paul Davis, Paul Shumejko
Youth Representative: Hannah Bennett

Wednesday, February 6, 2019

6:00 PM

1000 Rochester Hills Drive

CALL TO ORDER

Paul Davis started the meeting at 6:00 p.m. and introduced himself.

ROLL CALL

Present 5 - Anne Dieters-Williams, Penny Brady, Chad Gietzen, Samantha Phillips and Tate Vo

Absent 2 - Rodney Hulbert and Hannah Bennett

Other Present:

Allan Schneck
Paul Davis
Ken Elwert
Sara Roediger
Keith Depp
Bryan Barnett
Peter Arbour

PUBLIC COMMENT

Peter Arbour stated he didn't have much to say but was glad he showed up today and thinks it will be interesting.

One member asked if sidewalks in all neighborhoods was a priority. Mr. Davis stated that the City originally didn't want sidewalks. Mr. Davis stated there is a difference between Sidewalks and Pathways. Homeowners are responsible for sidewalks and the City is responsible for Pathways as they are supported by a millage. Mr. Schneck stated that Avon Township wanted to be rural with no sidewalks as the City grew and became Rochester Hills sidewalks became more of a priority. A member asked if this committee has the control to help with school safety and neighborhood sidewalks. Mr. Davis stated that all options can be considered.

Mr. Schneck stated that per the ordinance there are limitations on where the funding can come from. The City can do Special Assessment Districts but there hasn't been much of a demand for it. Ms. Roediger explained that there is a Capital Improvement Program that residents can request projects.

Sarah Roediger arrived at 6:17pm

COMMUNICATIONS

The rest of the attendees then introduced themselves. The Mayor then introduced himself and indicated that he couldn't stay long but stated he was passionate about this committee and stated what makes pathways such an important part of the City. He also discussed the Auburn Road Corridor and how we were trying to create a safe walkable area. The new Eddington area was also discussed. The Mayor stated that at least half of the population visits the Clinton River and Paint Creek Trails. He also discussed the new Innovations Hills Park currently being constructed. The Mayor thanked all the attendees for coming and wants to encourage everyone to keep this enthusiasm for the trails and pathways going.

Paul Davis mentioned it has been quite some time since we had a meeting and we're going to go back to the wayfinding map. He also stated that the Mayor loves this committee and stated that pathways are well received and we're going to make the pathway system even better. Paul also confirmed that everyone has been sworn in. The Committee in the past has elected a chair for the committee.

2019-0042

Pathway Budget Review

Attachments: [2019 Pathway Budget Info.pdf](#)

The first thing we are going to talk about is the City's current Budget. The Pathway fund covers two different funds. One is Fund 214 which is the Pathway maintenance fund. Primarily funds come from taxes. Total revenue for this fund is \$624,560. This amount changes annually. That's the majority of the revenue. The total is about \$760,000. It is limited funding for Pathway projects. New Pathways are very expensive. We cannot build a new Pathway every year with the funds we have. Most of the money goes for maintenance and repairs. Mr. Davis stated we have about 95 miles of existing pathways. The original intent for the Pathway system is 120 mile network. The original master plan was to have pathways on both sides of major roads. With the last millage the voters agreed to an expansion of where we could construct pathways and they allowed for different areas to be considered like key linkages. Typically when the City reconstructs a road they also do the pathways. Like with Auburn Road the Pathways will be reconstructed and some added with that road project. In the Capital Improvement plan there is a section for pathways and you can see the potential projects. Just because it's in the plan doesn't mean it will become a project but it has been identified as a need. This Committee may be able to identify future capital improvement projects. There is a section called pending projects that list projects that have been ranked. The CIP plan and Budget are available on the website.

The next fund 403 in the Pathway Construction Fund. In 2019 we don't have a lot planned for the pathway system. Every year we have a pathway rehabilitation program. They are listed on page 125. On PW-01, you'll see \$175,000

expenditure for 2019. It is our goal to spend about \$250,000 on pathway rehabilitation each year. You'll see in 2019 we are not planning to spend that much. Whatever is not spent on maintenance is transferred here. \$376,000 came into the fund. This will remain in fund balance that we can use on other projects. We use this fund to build up so we can use it for more expensive projects.

Mr. Schneck stated that School Road off of John R. will be paved this year and that will include pathways. We will also fill in pathway gaps on John R. In the back of the budget book you will see some of the history of the Pathway Program with some of the millages that have been approved.

Mr. Schneck stated that on maintenance side of things. Even if the roads are under other jurisdictions such as the Road Commission the City owns 100% of the Pathways.

2019-0043

Pathway Ranking Form Review

Attachments: [Pathway Ranking Form.pdf](#)

With a lot of different projects to be considered this committee came up with a ranking form years ago to determine where we should spend out pathway money. We keep the form on an excel spreadsheet. In the capital Improvement plan there is a ranking of all City projects. They all use the same form. The Pathway program is the exception to that. This committee came up with their own ranking form to try and prioritize the most important pathway projects.

One project that was brought up by a resident that I intend to rank was to extend the pathways on both sides through the Rochester Road and M-59 interchange. Crooks had the same issues but it has been redone. Livernois also has an issue with safely getting across the M-59 bridge. Mr. Elwert asked if the committee could re-do the ranking form. Mr. Davis stated that the committee can change it as they created it. Mr. Davis shared some of the criteria used to create the original ranking form. He also stated they can rescore original projects on the ranking form. Members asked about pathways along Adams around Oakland University. Mr. Schneck stated that the Adams Road at Avon area is on the radar and pathways are lacking there.

Ken Elwert showed a scoring of walkability of the City of Rochester Hills. He wants to committee to consider and discuss whether walkability and connections should be a priority to connect subdivisions to the existing trailways.

2019-0044

Pathway Use Restrictions Discussion

Attachments: [Pathway Definition.pdf](#)

Mr. Davis stated that the handout documents define the definition of a pathway. Mr. Davis stated that there are different options to consider such as scooters for mobility. At the time our ordinance does not permit motorized vehicles but it is something the committee can consider changing. At the end of the packet

there is an article how the City of Austin is motorized vehicles. The committee discussed the possible benefits and issues with these type of vehicles

2019-0045

Pathway Wayfinding Map Discussion

Attachments: [Pathway Inventory Map w-Way Finding Loops rev.pdf](#)

Mr. Davis stated we discussed this eight years ago. The wayfinding information is included in your packet. City staff went to Carmel, Indiana to look at roundabouts. We also discovered that they had these marked pathway loops which was an effort for people to get out and bike or jog. They had some wayfinding associated with it. We came back and had some meetings and came up with these loops. It stalled when we tried to come up with funding for signs and such. Mr. Davis asked the committee if they were interested in revisiting this. With new technology with smart phones we may not need something like this. The mayor was passionate about improving our pathway system. A member stated that the City could do an app with the different loops. Another member stated that some markers on the trail would help people stay on the right loop. Another member asked if the opposition was just funding? Mr. Davis stated that it may have also been other priorities. The committee was interested in starting on a smaller scale. Just one loop at a time. They discussed wanting to put loops that would be equivalent to a 5k, 10k, etc. So the next meeting we should come back with some ideas on what the next steps are

2019-0046

Master Thoroughfare Update

Mr. Davis stated the City will be starting an update to the Master Thoroughfare Plan. Last time it was a ten month process and if any members from this committee are interested in participating in this process starting in the next two or three months. We have to do a proposal for a consulting firm and have it approved through City Council. We would like a lot of public involvement. Ms. Roediger stated that the City will be soon adopting the Master Land Use plan and this is the next logical step to look at priorities within the City. Mr. Davis stated that our Advisory Traffic and Safety Board had three members participate. We also had members from this committee helping. Other agencies also participated last time as well as other communities. He asked the members to let him know if they have an interest in helping with the Master Thoroughfare Plan.

NEXT MEETING DATE

-to be determined

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.