

Public
Services

Paul M. Davis, P.E., City Engineer

DATE: September 24, 2007

TO: Mayor Bryan Barnett

RE: Pathway Committee Creation

Mayor,

Per your previous request, the DPS/Eng files have been reviewed to explain how the past committees have been setup for pathways. Unfortunately, our files did not have a lot of old information specific to the creation of advisory committees or the members prior to 1987 but the information included in this memorandum should assist you in responding to councilmember Yalamanchi's request to form a pathway group.

The initial pathway millage for Avon Township was included in the August 6, 1974 primary election and submitted as Proposition B. This millage was passed by voters and provided ¼ mill for 10-years for pathways along main and arterial roads in the Township. Another millage request known as Proposition #4 was put forth to the voters on November 6, 1980 prior to the 1974 millage expiration and this millage also passed (\$2 million bond issuance). A question and answer informational communication was prepared for the millage and it references that the Avon Charter Township Bike-Path Advisory Committee established in 1974 prepared the information. However, it is not known who served on this committee and how it was created based on our archived file search.

Our file does contain information in 1987 and 1990 referencing the Rochester Hills advisory bike path committee. **It appears that the committee consisted of nine members, including one from the City Planning Commission and Council, and seven of the members were appointed by the Mayor and approved by the Council. Terms on this committee were for a 3-year duration.** One special note of interest is that Robert J. McConachie, Jr. served on the committee as of January, 1990 and appears to have still served into 1999. Mr. McConachie recently retired from the Building Department where he worked as an Inspector/Plan Reviewer. He might be able to provide you additional insight on the structure and expectations of past committees.

A 10-year 0.2-mill pathway millage was approved in 1995 after ¼ mill election defeats in 1991 and 1993. Our file indicates that a formal pathway committee was still setup with Mayor Ken Snell in 1999 and still consisted of nine members and one engineering staff liaison. At that time, Susan DeCaussin was the Council representative, Eric Kaiser the Planning Commission Representative, resident Gerald Hanley the Chairperson and Sandra Auten the Secretary. Mr. McConachie was also listed as a member.

I commenced employment with Rochester Hills in August of 2000 and did not have involvement in a pathway committee until 2002 when the Council's Community Development & Viability (CDV) Committee requested that an ad-hoc committee be assembled to help determine how to best spend the remaining pathway millage monies. From my recollection, the CDV Committee asked that I setup the committee and contact some of the previous members that engineering staff knew were previously involved with the pathway system. **An ad-hoc committee of five City resident members was setup** and I believe that they (Schroeder, Kaiser, Sanzica, Marshall and Slattery) all had previous pathway committee involvement.

The CDV Committee council members in 2002 were yourself, Jim Duistermars and Melinda Hill. It should also be noted that the other council members were still notified of the ongoing efforts of the CDV committee through the non-member information distributions. A resolution was passed by the CDV Committee to formalize the ad-hoc committee structure and set a timeline for completing their work during one of the CDV meetings the first half of 2002.