



# WALKABLE NOVI COMMITTEE

Minutes

March 11, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.  
Zoom Online Meeting Platform  
(248) 347-0475

In accordance with Executive Order 2020-48, this meeting was held remotely.

## CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm.

## ROLL CALL

**Present:** David Dismondy, Justin Fischer, Andrew Mutch (arrived 6:03), Salene Riggins and Brian Smith

**Absent:** John Avdoulos (excused)

**Staff Support:** Lindsay Bell, Senior Planner, Community Development  
Barbara McBeth, City Planner, Community Development  
Jeff Muck, Director of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services  
Rebecca Runkel, Plan Review Engineer

## APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Member Smith made a motion to approve the agenda. Member Riggins seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

## AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

No one in the audience wished to speak.

## MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

- a. Election of Chair and Vice Chair for the Committee

Motion made by Member Fischer and seconded by Member Mutch to elect Brian Smith as Chair. Voice vote taken, all in favor.

Motion made by Member Fischer and seconded by Member Mutch to elect Salena Riggins as Vice-Chair. Voice vote taken, all in favor.

- b. 2021 Tentative Meeting Schedule

Motion made by Member Mutch and seconded by Member Fischer to approve the 2021 Tentative meeting schedule. Voice vote taken, all in favor.

- c. Non-Motorized Capital Improvement Projects

Senior Planner Bell reviewed the Non-Motorized Capital Improvement Projects as detailed in the packet. Engineer Runkel answered questions about the timing of a couple of the

projects listed, including the possible pulling forward of one of the Ten Mile Road sidewalks. Once the sidewalks and pathways shown on the CIP are completed, a pathway along the entire north side of Ten Mile Road will be completed all the way from Napier to Haggerty Road. The upcoming budget will present the latest recommendations on the CIP.

d. Cross-walk Markings and Sight Lines

Chair Smith showed some pictures of problematic sight lines at intersections observed to and from sidewalks and bike paths in several locations. The discussion revolved around the type of markings that are installed for crosswalks, and how to make sure that sight lines remain clear. Staff will share a memo from the City Engineer recently prepared on crosswalk standardization with the Committee and prepare additional information on corner clearance and enforcement prior to the next meeting.

e. 10-22-20 Walkable Novi Committee Meeting Minutes

Motion made by Chair Smith and seconded by Member Fischer to approve the 10-22-20 meeting minutes. Voice vote taken, all in favor.

f. 11-5-20 Walkable Novi Committee Meeting Minutes

Motion made by Chair Smith and seconded by Member Fischer to approve the 11-5-20 meeting minutes. Voice vote taken, all in favor.

## **STAFF UPDATES**

1. Planning Update

a. Ascension Providence trail system

Senior Planner Bell shared the Ascension Providence Trail Master Plan and discussed the desire that the hospital has for connecting the trails on their campus with the ITC Regional Trail. Staff and representatives from the hospital have explored options to determine how this connection could best be made for the users of the two trail systems. One possibility, that is continuing in discussion, is for the City to construct the portion of the trail that crosses the ITC Corridor when the trail improvements to Wildlife Woods are made. This could be done under the agreement that the City has already established with ITC, with a Reimbursement Agreement between the City and Ascension Providence for the cost of constructing that portion of the trail.

Member Mutch asked if the conversation has also included the City's plan to bring a trail all the way north to Grand River Avenue.

Senior Planner Bell explained that the trails proposed by the hospital would provide that connection, while avoiding the wetlands that are in the corridor close to Grand River Avenue.

Chair Smith asked if there needs to be an easement or agreement in place to allow the public to use the trails on the Campus.

Senior Planner Bell said that staff would follow up on that question.

2. Parks, Recreation and Cultural Service Update
  - a. Northwest Neighborhood Park

Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Director Muck said that the City Council approved a resolution to seek a grant for improvements to the park. The grant application shows about a half mile of trails in the park, as well as a completion of the missing sidewalk segment on 12 Mile Road along the frontage of the park. During the virtual open house that was held, the plan was shared, and there were comments about the need for privacy of the neighboring residents, along with the wish for residents living to the south to have access to be able to through the park to get to the commercial areas to the north.

Member Mutch said that this is a balancing act to try to accommodate the diversity of requests, and that the staff did a good job of letting the residents know that the concerns were heard and noted. Residents in the area are currently using this property as a cut-through to get to and from 12 Mile Road and the stores along Grand River, and wondered if there is some way, working with the existing subdivisions, for pedestrians to get from one point to the other.

Director Muck indicated that the city is ahead of the due date for the grant submittal, but most likely won't hear back about it until December of 2021.

Member Fischer said that this is an underserved area, and the park will be a jewel for this area and its residents. Council always appreciates the effort when staff pursues grant opportunities.

3. Engineering Update
  - a. Active Non-Motorized Public Projects

Engineer Runkel explained the projects as noted in the written report.

Member Smith asked which schools were involved in the Safe Routes to School Program.

Engineer Runkel listed some of the current and prior schools that had participated in this program including:

- A small crossing on Wixom Road and 11 Mile Road to connect the Middle School to Deerfield Elementary.
- The Taft Road pathway getting added to Novi Woods.
- Adding a mid-block crossing north of the school complex on 11 Mile by Mandalay Circle and improving pathway there.
- Adding a large sidewalk in the Orchard Hills neighborhood to connect Orchard Hills Elementary.
- A couple smaller segments in other neighborhoods.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

Member Mutch indicated that he read someone's comment on Next Door that there was a near-accident between a child and a driver near the corner of Grand River and Haggerty Road. Member Mutch doesn't know the validity of that comment but said that it is a good reminder that the City's Social Media could bring safety messages to the public's attention about the need to stop, look, and be aware of the surroundings for bikes, pedestrian, and vehicles.

Engineer Runkel said that SEMCOG has a good campaign related to pedestrian safety that we could share.

Member Smith indicated that cyclists and pedestrians also need to pay attention.

## **ADJOURN**

Member Mutch made a motion to adjourn. Member Dismondy seconded.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:43 pm.