



WALKABLE NOVI COMMITTEE

MINUTES

March 24, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.
Council Conference Room
45175 W. Ten Mile, Novi, MI 48375
(248) 347-0475

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

Present: John Avdoulos, Laura Marie Casey, Jay Dooley, Justin Fischer, Edward Roney and Joe Tolkacz

Absent: None

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Member Fischer made a motion to approve the agenda. Member Casey seconded. Motion passed 6-0.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

No audience members wished to speak

MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

- a. Election of Chair and Vice Chair for the Committee
Member Fischer nominated Member Tolkacz as Chair, seconded by Member Casey. Motion approved unanimously.

Member Dooley nominated Member Avdoulos as Vice Chair, seconded by Member Fischer. Motion approved unanimously.

- b. 2022 Tentative Meeting Schedule
Senior Planner Bell went over the tentative schedule of meetings for the year. Several members expressed concern about the proposed meetings in May and in July. Those meetings will be moved forward: the Committee decided to hold meetings the third Thursday of the months of June and August. Staff will send the meeting invitations to the Committee members to make sure they will be on everyone's schedule.

c. City Wayfinding Signage

Project Engineer Runkel referenced the pages in the packet and explained consulting engineer Spalding DeDecker provided a plan for wayfinding signage. Proposed signage locations are provided on the map for consideration. The wayfinding signs are primarily for city facilities and parks and intended to be used by motorists.

Director Muck explained that the committee had discussed this project previously and is now brought back with additional information. The intent is for the committee to consider the signage plan, and if acceptable, the information and committee's decision will be shared in an off-week packet. The signs will be created at the DPS sign shop.

Engineer Runkel said the signs with the blue background are for city buildings, and the brown signs are for parks. She pointed out that signs are proposed for the ITC crossing at Ten Mile Road.

Member Avdoulos asked if we would also need one for the ITC crossing at Eleven Mile Road.

Director Muck stated that the discussion was consistent with the condition of the Ten Mile Road crossing, and the vehicular traffic in this area. The Eleven Mile trail crossing provides a different condition. Non-motorized access at Ten Mile doesn't provide immediate parking areas, and many people would be able to park at the Library or Civic Center further down the street.

Member Dooley agreed that the Ten Mile location was important due to traffic and access.

Director Muck said Rotary Park and Lakeshore already have signs, so these would be replacements.

Member Fischer asked if the signs on Meadowbrook were intending to direct traffic to the Senior Facility?

Engineer Runkel said she can add that to the list.

Member Fischer suggested that the whole plan be provided for the committee to review. He suggested holding off on this until the information could be brought back to the committee.

Member Casey inquired about the timing.

Director Muck stated that this would be acceptable.

Member Fischer suggested that the Committee could look at it separately from a meeting, or could be brought back as a memo in the packet and see if there are any questions.

- d. 10-21-21 Walkable Novi Committee Meeting Minutes: Approval was moved by Member Fischer and seconded by Member Avdoulos. Motion approved unanimously.

STAFF UPDATES

1. Planning Update

- a. Planner Bell gave a brief reminder of the history of how the committee was formed by Council in 2008. The annual prioritization update reports can be found on the City's website.
Member Fischer had specific questions about the segments proposed by Sakura and Planner Bell provided an update on the location of those segments.

2. Engineering Update

- a. Project Engineer Runkel provided an update on Non-Motorized Public Projects

3. Parks, Recreation and Cultural Service Update

- a. Director Muck provided an update on the planning efforts for Northwest Neighborhood Park and the splash pad at Bosco Fields, and the RC car track at the Water Tower park.

Following discussion of the Water tower park, Chair Tolkacz asked about accessibility to and from the restaurants at Main Street and whether any parking spaces will be provided. Director Muck indicated that walking access to Main Street is very good, and parking spaces are proposed.

4. Discussion for next meeting

Planner Bell noted possible discussion for next meeting and shared images and concepts provided by Nancy Darga and John Roby from the City of Northville. Non-motorized improvements are shown on a plan within the City of Northville, many of which focus on trails along the river, with connections proposed to the City of Novi. The group is wondering if the City of Novi is interested in learning more about this, and possibly partnering with Northville in the direction that this will take.

Member Casey suggested that the staff could start by engaging with the representatives and perhaps invite them to the next Committee meeting.

Member Fischer stated that the discussion may take more than the allotted hour that the Committee has to meet, and suggested that staff meet with the representatives, get a little more background to share in the packet, and advise the representatives about the time limitations of the Committee. If this is agreeable, then we could invite them to the next meeting.

All members agreed to that idea, and said that this is an exciting concept and we appreciate the information.

COMMUNICATIONS

No communications were received.

ADJOURN

Meeting was adjourned at 6:55 pm.