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**VILLAGE OF ELM GROVE
VILLAGE PATHWAYS - AD HOC COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

Tuesday, March 14, 2023 * 5:00 PM * Park View Room

1. Roll Call

Present: Trustee Jennifer Stuckert, Stacy Barry-Coffey, Trustee, John Schindler, Natalie Schneider, Sarah Wynia-Smith (via zoom), Kim Irwin, Emily Baseheart, Elizabeth Williamson, Theresa Kapke, Martha Kendler (via zoom) (arrived at 5:03PM)

Absent: None

Also Present: Village Manager Dave De Angelis, Finance Director Monica Hughes, Assistant Manager Katherine Gehl

Ms. Stuckert called the meeting to order at 5:01 P.M.

2. Review and discussion of Village Pathways, with possible recommendation to the Board of Trustees

Ms. Stuckert noted that there were a number of residents present in the audience and invited those residents to speak.

Keegan Mager, 1185 Church Street – Stated that he believed a pathway on Juneau Boulevard should be a priority.

Ben Dymit, 1170 Legion Drive – Stated that he believed a pathway on Juneau Boulevard should be a priority. He also stated that St. Mary's is planning an addition of an adoration chapel and as part of this project may be putting in a sidewalk that will connect Church Street to Crescent Drive. Mr. Dymit also thought pathways on Highland Avenue and Gebhardt Road would be valuable because they would impact a high number of people.

Laura Kahle, 1150 Legion Drive – Stated she was in attendance to support the idea of new pathways in the community. She believes that a lot of the village is very dark at night so adding pathways would make it safer. She believed a pathway on Juneau Boulevard should be a priority.

Laura Linn, 1175 Church Street – Stated she has children who attend St. Mary's and currently have to walk on piece of road south of church where there is no shoulder. She believes drivers are unsure what to do when there are pedestrians in the street which makes it unsafe.

Dave Breshnahan, 13450 Juneau Boulevard – Stated that there is very good pathway heading west from 124th street but believes there is a critical piece missing once you hit St. Mary's.

Bob Conroy, 13155 Gremoor Drive – Shared that he is part of the “walking school bus” of kids who walk to school on Legion Drive. He believes buses are piled snow in the winter because safety issues which are exasperated by a lack of pathways.

Ms. Wynia-Smith stated that her family plow their yards in the winter months to allow a path for kids to walk after school. She believes Gremoor Drive is a major route beyond just school kids. She believes there should be continuity between St. Mary's and Village Park with a pathway.

Ms. Stuckert stated that there were no other comments from the public.

Ms. Stuckert explained that the committee last met on September 6th, 2022 and pathways were revisited and ranked. Since this meeting, there was a vehicular accident on Gremoor Drive which increased the interest for a pathway in this area. She stated there has also been increased interest in a pathway on Juneau Boulevard. Ms. Stuckert also reiterated a potential opportunity to partner with St. Mary's. She asked the Committee discuss if the existing ratings should be kept or if they should be adjust as a result of recent events. Ms. Stuckert believes the current schedule to have a new pathway every two years is too slow and would like the Committee to discuss doing a pathway every year.

Ms. Baseheart stated that a pathway is desired as part of St. Mary's adoration chapel addition and the church will be meeting with their architect in April to go over plans. She believes potential partial funding of this pathway should increase the ranking of the area

Ms. Irwin believes the potential for a pathway on Juneau Boulevard has been very well received but stated that the money does not seem available and asked if there is any opportunity for a public fundraising campaign.

Mr. De Angelis stated the village will have a more accurate idea for what pathways will cost once the Gebhardt Road project is bid out this spring. Mr. De Angelis stated that Highland Avenue from Gebhardt Road to North Avenue is scheduled for re-construction in 2025, so the Highland Avenue pathway was preliminary scheduled to happen at the same time.

Ms. Baseheart believes the committee she remain committed construction pathways on main thoroughfares and heavy traffic areas.

Ms. Schneider believes the pictures showing accidents provided to the Committee don't tell an accurate story because these types of accidents could happen anywhere. She believes main arterials should be a priority.

Mr. Schindler stated that pathways were put into the village's 10-year paving plan so that money can be saved for the specific projects, but doesn't believe constructing a pathway every two years is often enough. He believes that the village has to look at the budget and see where money can be shifted to allow additional funding for pathways. Mr. Schindler stated that the

village also has the option to borrow if needed. He believes it's important to construct pathways at the same time roads are being constructed for mobilization cost savings.

Mr. Schindler believes partnering with St. Mary's to do a cost sharing for that pathway would be very advantageous. Mr. Schindler asked if the Committee would be interested in doing a pathway on Gremoor Drive but stop at Arrowhead Court or Fairhaven Boulevard instead of the full length of the road east.

Ms. Schneider recalls that the ditch would have to be enclosed in order to construct a pathway on Gremoor Drive which is not ideal and would be very expensive.

Mr. Schindler stated he worked with eight Marquette students who sampled a number of residents and found that 80% of people sampled are in favor of pathways and would pay more in taxes for them.

Ms. Stuckert believes it is important the Village try to construct two pathways in the next calendar year.

Ms. Schneider believes it's important to construct pathways but believes saving for a pathway on Highland Avenue is important and does not want to use money for other pathways and have it not get done.

Ms. Barry-Coffey asked if the Committee was still open to splitting the pathway on Gremoor Drive into various projects.

Ms. Kendler believes the "arc" of Gremoor Drive from Tonawanda School to Arrowhead Court should be a priority. She believes the Committee should find where there are "pain points" in the village and address those first.

Ms. Stuckert asked if the Committee would like to make a recommendation.

Ms. Schneider moved and Ms. Barry-Coffey seconded the motion to move Highland Drive from Gebhardt Road to North Avenue to 2024 and to combine a portion of Gremoor Drive with a portion of Juneau Avenue for construction in 2025. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Adjourn

Ms. Barry-Coffey motioned to adjourn. Ms. Schneider seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 6:05 P.M.