

To: Village Board Trustees

Cc: David DeAngelis

From Village President Neil Palmer

Date: January 19, 2021

Re: Elm Grove Pathways

Village residents continue to express interest in expansion of the Village pathway network. Various pathway planning discussions have identified desirable pathway locations and prioritized which should be built next. The Board also previously agreed to consider adding a pathway for streets being rebuilt. Unfortunately, road rebuilding is infrequent and new pathways rarely have been viewed as a high enough need to survive the Village annual budgeting process on a stand-alone basis.

Recently, discussions have been held with Trustees and residents discussing how reconsider and accelerate existing pathway plans. It has become better recognized that pathway construction is difficult and expensive. State spending regulations and road aid funding are not likely to change soon so Elm Grove needs to identify a new way to address this need.

The Village Board will soon be considering the establishment of a transportation utility to better support street maintenance and pathways can be part of that effort. If the new utility is established and pathways are to be included, we need to establish a new starting point for future projects.

Pathway consideration includes input from the Public Safety, Public Works and Finance Committees and Elm Grove residents.

I suggest that an ad hoc Pathway Committee consisting of Village Board members, residents and Village staff be established to:

1. Reconsider the existing pathway construction priority list.
2. Estimate a cost estimate for each new pathway proposed.
3. Identify outside pathway funding opportunities.

The ad hoc Pathway Committee will present their findings by early summer so that any plans can be included in 2022 budget preparations.

With trustee approval I will assemble the ad hoc committee.