

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Service Committee of Council
Held in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building
On Monday, November 27, 2023, at 6:30 P.M.**

Jennifer Demaline, Chair of the Service Committee, called the meeting to order.

Committee Members Present

Chair, Ward 1 Council Member Jennifer Demaline

Ward 3 Council Member Tony Moore; Council Member At-Large Craig Witherspoon

Others in Attendance

Council Member At-Large Tammy Holtzmeier; Ward 2 Council Member Dennis McBride; Law Director John Gasior; Council President Brian Fischer; Mayor Bryan Jensen; Ward 4 Council Member Scott Radcliffe; City Engineer Ryan Cummins; Planning/Economic Development Coordinator Pam Fechter; Zoning Enforcement Officer Jill Clements; Safety/Service Director Duane Streator; Clerk of Council Barbara Brooks; Council Member Elect Mary Berges; Resident Larry Escalante; Council Member Elect Michelle Patton

Discussion of the 2023 and 2024 Sidewalk Programs

Mrs. Demaline stated that we called this meeting so that we could recap the 2023 Sidewalk Program, understand the progress we have made throughout the City in 2023, learn a little more about the financing and how that end worked of the program, and then look forward to the Sidewalk Program for 2024.

Mr. Cummins suggested that Ms. Clements might start with the recap of 2023. Ms. Clements stated that all of Avon Road minus 20 ft. in between two of the properties is complete. They are waiting for the Service Dept. to come in and fill in the ditch. The north side of the Shire Glen area is complete, French Creek Road is complete, Jaycox Road is complete, and on Schwartz Road, Michael Veite put his in and we are still waiting for Mr. Mathes and Lorain County Metroparks to finish. Colorado Road is complete and on Detroit Road the only section we are missing is the ZZ's portion and then at Detroit and Moon she knows that Mr. Gasior has been talking with the property owner and manager.

Mrs. Demaline asked if the property on Colorado Avenue that transferred and changed hands has put in sidewalks there; what is the status there? Ms. Clements answered that they have not. She has talked to the property owner a couple times and he is contemplating knocking down the house and putting up a commercial business there. The last time she talked to him was about one and half weeks ago, and he was still trying to get plans drawn and not knowing if it would be this year or next year to get that complete.

Mrs. Demaline asked Ms. Clements if she had given him any sort of time frame on when we would like to see the sidewalks put in and Ms. Clements said, no, she has been waiting to see what he is doing. He was not aware that they had to put the sidewalks in. It was the prior owner so when she reached out to him, he was trying to figure out what the plan was for the property. She said that if Mrs. Demaline wants her to give him a deadline, she will gladly give it to him. Mrs. Demaline stated that she did not want to impose on what Ms. Clements is already working on; she was just interested to know if we have given a deadline. Ms. Clements stated that he does know that he has to eventually put sidewalk in.

Mayor Jensen stated, just to give an update on the Metroparks, they are working right now on putting in the trails on the other side. They are also going to build a bridge to connect the two pieces of property together. They had asked him about putting in the apron plus the sidewalks all at the same time once they build that bridge at the beginning of next year. He told them that he did not see that as being a problem since we got such a late start now but he needed it done this next spring and they assured him they would do that all at the same time.

Mrs. Demaline asked where we were in the development of the property on Colorado, the former Party Animal spot that is now going to be the new business of dog day care. Ms. Fechter said that she looks for them to come in probably in February or March. Mrs. Demaline asked if they were aware that as part of that they will have to put in a sidewalk? Ms. Fechter answered that they may not be aware of that but they will put the sidewalk in when they develop.

Mrs. Demaline asked if anyone else had any questions on the progress of the 2023 Sidewalk Program.

Mrs. Holtzmeier said that she wanted to talk about deadlines and what is a reasonable expectation vs kicking the can for years without any guidance. She thinks that we, as a body, should be able to provide at least some rough guidance. She asked Ms. Clements if she had any input herself on how long is too long to continue to keep these projects from year to year if they are unsettled? And she knows there are extenuating reasons why. Ms. Clements said that the property on Schwartz Road has an active permit going but now we are running into the problem of weather so she would want it done in the spring. Mrs. Holtzmeier noted, and that would still place it within the deadline; it would be about 14 months? Ms. Clements said it would be about a year because the original was to be done in May. Mrs. Holtzmeier said, and the property at Detroit and Moon, for example, that has its own set of circumstances. Would that same reasonability apply? Ms. Clements said she thought that there is a little more going on with that property because of how close it is to the right of way and having to move the barn. She said that she would defer to Mr. Gasior as to what type of response we have had with them.

Mr. Gasior said that they are planning on taking down the barn. He told them that there is no rush at this point because we are not going to be able to put the sidewalk in during these winter months but they are committed to taking down the barn. They had a problem with the stone fence and he told them that is going to have to be removed as well. And then we have been talking about possibly assessing the project and putting it on the taxes but the owner of the property actually is someone in Texas and there is a property manager here in Strongsville and Mr. Gasior has been dealing with him. So we are at that point; there is not much we can do at this juncture but there has been discussion between himself and this property manager in Strongsville. So he expects that they will take that barn down; if not late winter, then early spring.

Mrs. Holtzmeier said, so all of those things sound like they will be resolved in early 2024. Ms. Clements stated that she would say the early part of spring for sure. Mrs. Holtzmeier said, and that still makes everything within that 24 month period and if we are really going to kick the can down the road, 24 months is a decent amount of time. So there may not be a deadline per Ordinance but at least there is a working quality there as we continue to work on things. And then also on Detroit Road you mentioned the commercial property. She knows that there is project happening to upgrade that intersection. Mr. Cummins said, at the intersection of Detroit and Jaycox? Mrs. Holtzmeier said, yes, can we talk about that? Mr. Cummins stated that we did make an application to try and receive funding to upgrade that intersection and we were not successful in getting that funding in this round. As it stands now, the property, he believes, was part of last year's Resolution of Necessity so we will provide notice to them to install the sidewalks as they have been laid out now that that question has been settled. We have also

had some discussions with them about pre-emptively purchasing the right of way. He is not certain that is going to happen either so he thinks it just falls back to them being required to put a sidewalk in as any other property owner would in a reasonable time. And given that we are headed toward December, that is probably looking at the springtime, 2024.

Mrs. Holtzmeier asked if there were any plans to reapply for that grant and Mr. Cummins said that was actually the second time that we applied for that particular grant. There might be other opportunities for grant applications in the future. In his mind, it is an intersection that absolutely needs attention and should be upgraded considerably so he is always looking out for opportunities to seek funding and will continue to do that. Mr. McBride stated, so we do not own the property yet. Are they aware that we are going to want them to put the sidewalk where it would be at the edge of the right of way? Whether that is this year, next year, or four years from now? As much as he wants a sidewalk, it is kind of a waste to tell them to put it in and then two years later come and tear it all out. Mr. Cummins said that everyone is aware that Avon is a growing community and has older infrastructure that was based on a smaller community at the time. There are many areas around town that need to be upgraded and that was part of the consideration of the list that we will go through here in a bit. It is what is on the horizon or potentially on the horizon to be upgraded and when you do those upgrades, he knows you are not going to put the sidewalk in today when you do the upgrade. So, yes, that is a consideration. He thought what they were looking at at that particular intersection were sidewalks just along the Detroit Road frontage basically along the front so that the Palmer Village area can get over there easier but put the sidewalk in there today and if we then get grant dollars to redo the intersection, the sidewalks would be ripped out; there is no doubt in his mind.

Mayor Jensen said when we had discussions with the property owners, they wanted a sidewalk in there. When we brought up the intersection right there and having to make some adjustments, they started to claim a taking because they have that little patio that sticks out and so we kind of backed off on that and then suggested that we sit down and talk about purchasing the right of way beforehand. That did not seem to go anywhere so our intent is to have the conversation again with them over the winter. They are probably not going to put the sidewalk in so the City will have to do it and assess the piece of property.

Mr. Cummins said to go back to Mrs. Holtzmeier's question, typically what we do is we give the property owner basically through the winter and in springtime it is automatic. They either show us they have a contractor that is ready or we go ahead and contract someone in the very beginning of spring and put the sidewalk in. And that is the same as what is on the corner of Moon Road. They should get everything taken care of in the spring; they do not get a buffer period of time from the time before. It starts as soon as the weather breaks.

Mr. McBride said that, jumping to another intersection, the one at Detroit Road and Stoney Ridge, on the west side of Stoney, there is a barn and then a little west of the corner on the south side where Frank & Ellie's is, there is paved asphalt. There is a history with both of those businesses where people park right there and are blocking what should be the sidewalk. He said his preference is that we put in a paved concrete sidewalk and put up a sign saying, "No parking across the sidewalk" and then issue tickets if need be. It has gone on too long at both of those locations and he thinks that is something we take a look at in the spring and push the issue.

Mr. Moore stated that Ms. Clements had mentioned ZZ's; that was on the 2023 list but he did not see it on 2024. Mayor Jensen said that is just a continuation; if you do not see something on the 2024 Program that was supposed to be 2023, that is a given. That is not on the list because that still has to be completed. We consider that still 2023 even though it will be concluded in 2024. Mr. Moore asked if we had any

feedback because he gets emails from Covington and Palmer Lane asking what the status is so what can he tell them? Mayor Jensen said to tell them it will be done in the spring of 2024. That was one that we were just talking about and it will be completed early.

Mrs. Demaline asked to talk a little bit about how this program worked in 2023 financially. Did all the property owners take this upon themselves to install sidewalks or did the City have to come in and do it? What kind of process was there? Ms. Clements stated she would say that the majority of the installation was done by the City. All of Avon Road was done by the City coming in and then invoicing the property owners and if they do not pay we will assess them. French Creek she would say would be 50/50. Colorado Avenue was another one of all the City doing. Mrs. Demaline said, so the City came in and did Colorado. Why didn't they do all of Colorado? Did they come in because some of the property owners requested the City to do it or how was that decision made that the City would come in and do it? Ms. Clements said that they had the deadline to install it themselves and if they did not hire a contractor to get it installed then the City put out a contractor out.

Mrs. Demaline asked why the City did not do that one property that changed hands that we talked about and Ms. Clements said she did not think to have them go over there because that was not part of it. They just ran the part they needed to get done for the 2023 Program. Mayor Jensen added that was in the process of transferring over and we were aware of the transfer so we were kind of waiting for that to settle. We had some discussions with what kind of building they were going to put up there. They were going to tear the house down so that was one of the ones that was questionable about installing sidewalks. Coming this next year whether they decide to do something or not, the sidewalk is going to have to go in.

Mrs. Demaline asked Ms. Clements if she had the figures of how much the City spent installing sidewalks in 2023. Ms. Clements said she does not have it broken down, she just has the invoices that they gave us and some of the invoices are still outstanding that they have time to pay but she would say it was probably close to \$150,000 but that included all the work on Colorado on the City property and then on Avon Road as well. Mrs. Demaline asked if any of the property owners have paid and Ms. Clements said, yes, but some of them we have to assess. Mrs. Demaline stated, so Ms. Clements would say we spent about \$150,000 on the 2023 Sidewalk Program on the installation of sidewalks and Ms. Clements responded, yes. Mrs. Demaline thanked Ms. Clements and said that is very helpful.

Mr. Gasior stated that the Avon Road sidewalk is an aberration because we installed a great deal of that sidewalk and the value of that property was only about \$60,000 and he thinks we are only going to be able to recover about \$20,000 of that sidewalk. So \$150,000 is really an unusual number for the City in any given sidewalk year. Ms. Clement said that she would agree because we did a lot on Colorado Avenue by Northgate Park and that was a lot of City property as well.

Mayor Jensen stated that Finance Director Steve Presley is still on vacation but when he comes back the Mayor will have him get a breakdown for all of Council and send that before the meeting next week. We will see who we still have to assess and if we did assess, what amount of money, and also the amount of money that we had to spend on different pieces of our property. He will have that for all of them for next week.

Mrs. Demaline said that would be helpful. As we continue to evolve this program, it is important for us to understand where we have been and how we continue to grow this program, so thank you Ms. Clements. Mrs. Demaline then asked if there were any other questions on the 2023 Sidewalk Program.

Mayor Jensen stated that he would give the credit to Ms. Clements for the success of this year's Sidewalk Program because in the past, it has never worked as smoothly as it has this year. He thought it was because the effort was made to make sure we kept up on it. Also, Ms. Clements had a contractor that she worked with which again was not typical that we had someone who wanted to do the work that was able to do it when we needed it done. The Mayor said, so it is the first time since he has been on Council that it has ever worked as well as it did.

Mrs. Holtzmeier stated that she just wanted to make sure for the record to say well done. It is noticed that it is different and it is moving in the right direction. She then thanked Ms. Clements.

Mr. McBride stated that he had two comments before we close the discussion of the 2023 Sidewalk Program. One is that people apply to BZA to not put their sidewalk in; they might come in to request a variance not to install sidewalks as they built a new home and there are 1,000 ft. on each side of the house. It may be something Council wants to consider that there are no variances. At some point we just tell them that the sidewalk needs to go in as part of the construction project and that is for Council to decide. The other comment is that he would like to see sidewalks at least on the north side of Detroit Road, preferably both sides, but he would like to see sidewalks on the north side of Detroit Road from the Westlake line all the way to the actual French Creek which is Ward 2. He knows there will be some challenges on the north side; there are some areas where we just might want to send a letter to a homeowner, pick two or three years out into the future and tell them this is the deadline for sidewalks, at least on the north side.

Mr. Moore also wanted to thank Ms. Clements for all the work. He knows that he is always bugging her about the sidewalks on the corner of Jaycox and Detroit and it has been moving along pretty well so he does appreciate the work she has put in.

Mayor Jensen said that Mr. Cummins is going to start some conversation about Detroit Road. The south side is going to be the easier side to do sidewalks all the way to Westlake. The north side has a lot of issues so if they do not mind, we will try to look at the south side. The north side is going to be very difficult because we are looking at putting in turn lanes along Detroit Road, there is not much area if we do widen it, we are looking at putting in storm sewers, and that is where a lot of the farm fields are located. So again, if they are willing to look at the south side, the Mayor said he thought that we can look at that and still look for some funding for that. Since it is a State route there may be possibilities. Mr. McBride said, but even if sidewalk installation is five years out in the future, we could just give people a notice that it is coming subject to other projects.

Mr. Cummins said that particular area is certainly one that would be difficult for an individual property owner to put a sidewalk in. The conditions, the elevations, and the alignment there would be very difficult to have that be a uniform type installation. We did start some survey work this year and started to look at what that section would look like as a three-lane wide road, to have a center turn lane but then also sidewalks on both sides. To lay out the line and grade of that would really help us determine if putting some sidewalks in in the interim is a good choice or not, or how drastically different it would be. So that is something that is ongoing and as the Mayor stated, we have started talking about looking for some grant dollars in that area.

Mrs. Demaline asked Mr. Cummins if he would like to segway into the proposed 2024 Sidewalk Program. Mr. Cummins said, yes, the paper that they have in front of them lists proposed areas. We had taken some time to look throughout the City and identify these areas of potential new sidewalks that would maybe fill in certain gaps or make certain pedestrian movements to central locations or parks or schools,

etc. We put together this list that is just shy of 24,000 linear feet. Mr. Cummins thought that these are all fairly local sections, not to say that they will not be impactful to the residents along the way, but he thought they are all areas that it is reasonable to assume that some sidewalk can be put in in those locations. The thought was to provide this list and go through it here with City Council and then after the meeting answer any questions on an individual basis, maybe about particular things that are on the list or not on the list and come up with a final list that maybe could be voted on at a future Service Committee meeting that would officially set what the 2024 Sidewalk Program would be and then we could begin putting engineering plans together and working towards getting those installed as quickly as we can in 2024. Mr. Cummins then went through the list of projects individually as follows:

1. Lakeland Drive
2. Garden Drive – these two projects of Lakeland Drive and Garden Drive kind of go together and provide access from Stoney Ridge Road into the Garden Drive neighborhood. That section of Garden Drive is really one of the only sections in that area that does not have sidewalks. North of Lilac, there are sidewalks on both sides of Garden. Lakeland has a pond and a guard rail that is close to the north side of the edge of pavement so that is why we have proposed sidewalks only on the south side of Lakeland. Those two projects together would make an easier route coming from the Kinzel/Stoney Ridge area up into the center portion of town.
3. Jaycox Road – St. Maron Drive down to Mills Road – there are areas north of St. Maron that do not currently have sidewalks but what is there is the Mills Creek bridge and it would need either to be expanded or a separate pedestrian bridge constructed next to it, so that is why we chose St. Maron as kind of the northern dividing line but there are sections of Jaycox in that area where sometimes sidewalk is missing on the east side, sometimes on the west side. The idea is to make it so that Jaycox has sidewalks on both sides in that particular area.
4. Colorado Avenue – from I-90 to approximately Bridgepoint Trail, on the south side there are a number of commercial properties and a couple houses in that area. Mr. Cummins thought that is more of a continuation of the concentration that was done in that area in 2023, so he thought that complements that and, when completed, would have sidewalks on both sides throughout that corridor.
5. Jaycox Road – I-90 to Middleton Road along the west side. On the west side there are a number of existing houses and a few of them have sidewalks installed but there are a number of ones that do not so Mr. Cummins thought that would provide consistent access down Jaycox to the Middleton Road area which again provides a pedestrian route into the center of town and the commercial district. The east side is currently undeveloped; there is talk of future development in there and he is sure that any development in there would come with the requirement for sidewalks. Mr. Fischer asked, on the east side, isn't that where the "Prayers for Maria" field is being considered? Mr. Cummins answered, yes. Mr. Fischer said, so if they are going to develop and do that, they will need to put the sidewalks in. Mr. Cummins stated that he is not exactly sure what they are going to do there in the end. He has heard a lot of discussions of roadway and almost like a commercial-type welcoming structure. So whatever their plans are, he could imagine that coming to Planning Commission, that there would be some requirements to do some things along that frontage. Mr. Fischer then asked about the timeline for updating the bridge that is over I-90 and Mr. Cummins said, he believes that bridge was redone within the last decade so he thought you could be looking at 20-plus years before another updating would be the case. Mr. Fischer noted there is no good way to add internally to narrow that road for the traffic requirements and Mr. Cummins said that is already kind of a narrow roadway. Mr. McBride stated that is kind of the same on all the bridge specs going over I-90. People walking over the bridges is an issue everywhere except on the SR 83 bridge where there is plenty of space.

6. Mapleridge Blvd. – there is a section of Mapleridge that has some existing asphalt path along it on kind of the south side of the Schwartz Road Park area. This would be the east/west portion that runs from the area where the path ends, eastward toward Nagel Road, looking to put sidewalk just on the south side there up to Nagel and then the two properties that front on Nagel to the north. That would close in a gap in that area so there would be consistent access along the west side of Nagel and then down into Mapleridge Blvd. which gets you over into Schwartz Road Park.
7. Schwartz Road – between Sandy Lane and Nagel Road, about 900 ft. along the south side. It is the missing sidewalk; there is sidewalk along the north side so that is kind of filling in a gap.
8. Schwartz Road – on the other side of Nagel Road to Stone Wheel Run. Along both sides there are areas that are missing sidewalks, sometimes on the north, sometimes on the south and the idea is to have continuous sidewalks on both sides up to Stone Wheel.
9. Schwartz Road – from Stone Wheel further to the east to Westlake, just along the south side. There is some sidewalk along the south side already right at the Westlake border and that would fill in that gap. The north side is largely undeveloped and wooded and the thinking is that as those areas go to development, sidewalks would come with them.
10. Detroit Road – from Case Road all the way over to roughly Century Lane along the north side. There are a few spots that have some sidewalks in there but in general have that be continuous all the way over into the Century Lane area/Briar Lakes area.
11. Mills Road – on the north side, obviously in Avon, there are some existing homes that do not have sidewalks both to the west of French Creek and to the east of French Creek. There is a City parcel that does not have sidewalk to the east of French Creek. So this would provide continuous access from Rt. 83 over to Jaycox Road, on the north side of Mills. When the French Creek bridge was redone, that was one of the contentious points that we went through with N. Ridgeville was to make sure that the north side of the bridge had pedestrian access and had a dedicated sidewalk and that is off the bridge and then there are connections for sidewalks to attach to. So that would fulfill that thinking.
12. Kinzel Road – right there in the middle of town; would provide better access both east and west for residents in that central portion of town into the commercial-type area of Detroit Road.
13. Nagel Road – has several of its own challenges but Mr. Cummins thought the area that starts (it is all on the east side) across from Avon East Elementary down south to Schwartz Road, about 840 ft., is a section that can be done relatively easily and provide connection to the Schwartz Road area
14. Center Road – Columbia Gas owns a parcel not far from City Hall, just one parcel wide, along the west side of SR 83 and that does not have sidewalk. That would fill in there.

Mr. Cummins stated again, this list leads to just shy of 24,000 linear feet of sidewalk to be installed, all in areas that he thinks are well needed and workable to do.

Mr. Cummins said that the last point he has is that we still are awaiting some direction about Moon Road. Currently along Moon Road, 2,600 linear ft. has an 8 ft.-wide asphalt path next to it, about 725 ft. has concrete sidewalk next to it and there is a 1,675 ft. gap in between. We have done some preliminary layouts of both sidewalks and path and just to kind of move that forward, we need some direction about what Council would want us to construct in that area. He thought that once the list is formalized, we certainly can highlight these areas on mapping and make it more visual for the final acceptance or vote.

Mrs. Demaline stated that she and Mr. Moore had spoken in our last Service Committee meeting that we had a strong desire to see connectivity down Rt. 83, from South Park Drive north. Can that area still be

considered for the 2024 Sidewalk Program? Mr. Cummins said that is an area that if sidewalks are put in currently and then SR83 is widened, you will probably be ripping them out. As you remember, we did get a grant to do from Kinzel Road up north to Falcon Crest and that work is underway. As far as plan development and getting to the ODOT process, going south of Kinzel all the way to Mills, those are areas where you certainly could put in sidewalks but with any widening in the future, those sidewalks may not survive that particular construction project. Mrs. Demaline asked if there was a plan to widen SR 83 at this time and Mr. Cummins answered, we have looked at widening SR 83, certainly between Riegelsberger Road and Kinzel Road and improving the intersections: a turn lane, having a three-lane section fully in between those two. Because of the cost of that project, we have not moved forward with that. But that large piece of property, the Riegelsberger property, is currently being considered for development and we have made it known to the developer that we feel that improvements of a traffic signal, turn lanes, etc., are needed to the Riegelsberger and SR 83 intersection. We are very early in that development process. They have not submitted any plans yet and we have not gotten into discussions of what is required, what they will provide, etc.

Mayor Jensen said, just to add to that, there is no reason to move forward on that piece until we get the sidewalk down SR 83 the rest of the way. So that is why we are holding off on that. In 2025, if we do the sidewalk on SR 83 like we plan with the grant money, then that would lead right in to continuing that sidewalk down to the other development. But until that happens the sidewalk would really go nowhere because you would have to cross over just to go into another development. So that was the biggest reason we did not put anything on the list because the decision needs to be made. He said that he knows that Mrs. Demaline wants sidewalks in her Ward down Kinzel on the south side and Mr. Moore is looking at Lakeland Drive and Garden Drive where a lot of people just walk in the roadway. So if that is the desire to push for sidewalks on those two streets that would connect that all the way through. And for Mr. Radcliffe, the Mapleridge part of it, that would connect that over to Nagel Road. For the Jaycox piece that Mr. McBride mentioned, there are only a few homes that go toward the bridge so is that something that you would really want to push to bring those few there? Is it worth the battle with some of those residents? And the Mayor thought that is the other part even on Bridgepoint. On Colorado right there from basically the auto repair place going up to there, there are some commercial pieces of property. Is that something residents would get a benefit from? Is that something that you are willing to push for? And that is the purpose of this list that we want to go through. Mr. Cummins may send an email out to everybody again to ask which are the things that you think are the most important that you want to push for. Again, the SR 83 one that you talk about; since it will not go anywhere then you are going to have frustration that you have a sidewalk that goes to Kinzel but does not connect anywhere because it is not in place yet. The other concern too is the widening of SR 83 but we can work around all those things but it has to connect to make sense.

Mrs. Demaline said that, based upon what we have seen with the 2023 Program, we know it can take up to 24 months to get sidewalks fully installed. She feels if we communicate to our residents that the 2024 Program has connectivity going up SR 83 and we have this grant to connect in 2025, knowing that in 2024 everybody might not comply and we may have some overflow into 2025 which therefore would make the whole program complete in 2025. She thinks it is important to see connectivity from South Park north.

Mayor Jensen stated that he did not think that the SR 83 project will be completed by 2025. It will be into 2026. By the time that all gets completed with the bridgework and everything else, you will be into 2026 easily. Mrs. Demaline asked, the section from South Park heading north to almost Riegelsberger? Mayor Jensen said, no, from Kinzel to Detroit Road; that completion over across the bridge on the French Creek will not be completed until 2026. Mrs. Demaline asked if the Mayor was speaking of the project that we have the grant money for and Mayor Jensen said, yes. Mrs. Demaline then said, but if we are showing

property owners the plan and how we are going to connect, and advising them that we need to start this in 2024 because we know it may carry into 2025, they are going to see the ODOT project starting in 2025 that may carry into 2026 but we have a plan and a process that we are putting it all together. Now it does not sound like we have a plan to actually do that so she feels like we are spinning our wheels a little bit on connecting one of our largest developments in town to get to our amenities. She thinks there is a strong desire to have that connect.

Mr. Moore added that he would like to see it happen although he understands what the Administration is saying. He thinks that communicating to the residents is going to be key. He thought that what Mrs. Demaline is saying is that we do not want 2026 to slip into 2027 and on, not knowing what we are going to do with SR 83. So let's try to figure out what we are going to do with SR 83 and get the sidewalks in and if we have to tear them up, we have to tear them up; residents want connectivity.

Mr. Cummins said that he just wanted them to know that it is not a standard project with the way the right of way is, the way the elevations are, and the things that are in the way as you go along. It is not the same type of project as if you are doing say, down Garden Drive or something like that. He wants to be very upfront about the fact that in order to do it and do it right, it does take more planning than normal.

Mrs. Demaline said she thought it would be helpful if we saw what that planning looked like and what the totality of that project would really look like; if we can scope it out in 2024, connecting to what is going to start in 2025 and 2026 and then we have a plan.

Mayor Jensen said that we can put all of that together. It is not a good use of taxpayers' money and when we put the figures together, we will show that. Once it gets to certain sections of it he thinks it makes a lot of sense but early on, to put in that kind of money (and we are not just talking about the sidewalk, we are talking about the engineering to get to that point), is not a good use. We can draw it out and try to come up with some figures and Mr. Cummins will do anything that Council wants but it has to be valuable use of taxpayers' money and for that little section, we will get the cost together and then Council can decide where they want to go from that point.

Mr. McBride said that he was just thinking that the north side of Detroit Road is going to take a lot of work; some areas are going to be widened but it is a State route so ODOT may potentially be involved and that may be what needs to go on on SR 83. He understands where Mrs. Demaline and Mr. Moore are coming from in that we want to get this going, and maybe the thing to do would be an anticipated project in 2026, or whatever the year is, and anyone that has not installed sidewalks by that date, the City is just going to go ahead and install them and assess. It is more of an advance warning but depending on what areas are to be widened, will they even know where to put a sidewalk? Mr. Cummins said he guessed that was his point. You can tell someone to put it in this location but that location may not exist in space until the roadway is widened and elevations are corrected so that everything drains, etc. Again, he thinks that there are options to do it and he was happy to put that together. If this is a real priority he just received word that there is another pot of the money like we got for the last SR 83 project. This is one of the applications that is done for that because then we can really acquire the right of way and really do it correctly so that it is set up for the future for when the roadway gets widened. So he was happy to have those further discussions and figure out the best way to make it happen.

Mrs. Demaline confirmed that Mr. Cummins had just become aware of another grant funding opportunity and Mr. Cummins said, yes, the Systemic Safety Grant for ODOT. That is the pot of money from which we received the \$2 million grant award earlier this year. He just received word that they are going to do another round of that and so if there is a real desire to do that, maybe this is one of the areas that we

apply for. Mrs. Demaline said that she appreciated Mr. Cummins mentioning other opportunities for funding and speaking of that, have we made any application for Safe Routes to School? She knows that some of these sections we are looking at for 2024 are near schools. Mr. Cummins responded that we did not make an application in 2023; he does not know that there has been a desire to make an application in 2024. That program is very difficult to get meaningful funding for. We tried to apply to do all of Nagel Road and fix up the sidewalks and the gaps, get it further away from the edge of the pavement, etc. and it just did not fly well. So you are left with little projects around that the School could apply for as well that you have to take a step back and ask is it worth what it takes to get this money and what it would cost you to get this money. Is it just better to take your own funds and do the work for these smaller type projects? That is something we can certainly talk about. The applications are generally due around the beginning of March but it is very difficult to put together a meaningful project that in his mind makes sense for the amount of money you would like to get.

Mrs. Holtzmeier said that she was encouraged by the projects on the 2024 list that illustrate where there are some missing links of sidewalk. One more project she would like to consider for next year is on Stoney Ridge and that is the missing links that are on the east side from Harriman down to Long. Mr. Cummins said that he did consider that area and the reason he did not include that on the list is that our rain event back in August showed that there is a good portion of Stoney Ridge Road where the existing storm sewer system is undersized and maybe not in the best of shape. We have started to take a look at what correctly sized storm sewer along both sides of Stoney Ridge would look like and he thought that storm sewer work is something, just based off from the flooding conditions that we have experienced over the last few larger rain events, that we should address first. If you do the sidewalks first, you are just going to rip them up when you put the storm sewers in. Mrs. Holtzmeier asked what kind of timeline then would Mr. Cummins be looking at to reassess the storm water situation in there and the storm sewer size for that part of Stoney Ridge? Mr. Cummins said, as far as having an assessment, we will have that over the next six weeks. Then it is going to come to what is the appetite for doing a large storm sewer project there. What resources are available? All of those decisions would come into play. If you decide not to do anything with the storm sewer then we will move forward with the sidewalk. If there is a desire to maybe do certain portions then he thought that would govern what sidewalk choices are made. Mrs. Holtzmeier said that is fair. She respects that we have to do a few things at the same time. She asked if this sidewalk project could be added to the list and then be addressed as the timing comes along. Mr. Cummins said that he thought that the intent of the list was that, once it was finalized, that was our scope, to get to work on these items and make them happen. There are numerous areas around town where sidewalks should come but we should do this or that first. He thought they have all made the comment that they want sidewalks everywhere. That is fine but that should happen in a certain sequence. So his preference would be that this list be things that we are going to work on in 2024. We can always amend it but that was the intent. That being said, he will do whatever Council decides.

Mrs. Holtzmeier stated that she had one last comment. She said that Mrs. Demaline has done an excellent job in chairing this Committee. She wanted to give Mrs. Demaline and the Committee members, Mr. Witherspoon and Mr. Moore, kudos for their work and the Administration as well. Sidewalks have been a thorn for quite a number of years and they have needed hard and good conversation that keeps coming up and Mrs. Demaline has been the person to continue ringing that bell and making sure we come together to have those conversations. So she just wanted to say thank you for that and to all who continue to talk about sidewalks. She said, well done everybody, thank you, and thank you to Mayor Jensen also.

Mrs. Demaline adjourned the meeting at 7:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by Gail Hayden, Assistant Clerk of Council