

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Service Committee of Council
Held in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building
On Monday, August 14, 2023, at 6:30 P.M.**

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

Committee Members Present

Chair, Ward 1 Councilwoman Jennifer Demaline

Ward 3 Councilman Tony Moore; Councilman-at-Large Craig Witherspoon

Others in Attendance

Councilwoman-at-Large Tammy Holtzmeier; Law Director John Gasior; Council President Brian Fischer; Mayor Bryan Jensen; Ward 4 Councilman Scott Radcliffe; Ward 2 Councilman Dennis McBride; 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; Resident Larry Escalante

Discussion of Progress Made in the 2023 Sidewalk Program and Proposals for the 2024 Sidewalk Program

Mrs. Demaline thanked everyone for being there to discuss the Sidewalk Programs. She said that she called this meeting so we could discuss the progress that we made so far to date in the 2023 Sidewalk Program and then discuss proposals for the 2024 Sidewalk Program. She stated that Mr. Cummins had sent out to everybody maps and also the linear feet progress that we have made year over year and he can give us an update on what we have done so far in 2023.

Mr. Cummins asked Zoning Enforcement Officer Jill Clements if she could give an update on things that have happened recently. Ms. Clements stated that French Creek Road and Colorado Avenue are done. There was an inspection on Friday on the ADA ramp at Moore. Jaycox Road is complete to the Schafer house. She said that she talked to Steve Schafer on Friday and he is actively getting somebody together to do that and he hopes to have it done by the end of the month. For Avon Road, they have a couple permits pulled so they hope to get started to complete those on the east side within the next couple of weeks. Mr. Mathes on Schwartz Road next to the Metroparks has a permit pulled and he is waiting to hear back from his contractor.

Mrs. Demaline asked Mr. Cummins if he had anything else to add and he answered, no, Ms. Clements handles the day-to-day of making sure that everything is complete and keeping track of that so he would defer to her. Mayor Jensen added that he talked to the Metroparks on Friday and they are going to complete the work next to Mr. Mathis there for whatever was on that list and they will begin work on that right away.

Mrs. Demaline asked, for the 2023 Program of Ward 1, where do we stand with Moon Road on the west side at Crescent Drive? That property address is 39016 Detroit Road; is there an update on that? Ms. Clements responded that she sent a notice to the property owner, which is a holding company in Texas, and she has not heard back from them. Mrs. Demaline asked what our options are if we are not getting any response from a property owner? Mayor Jensen said that he would defer to Mr. Gasior on that because they talked about that barn having to come down. There is no way that we could put the sidewalk

up against the roadway. We have looked at if we could just put the sidewalk close to the street there but there is not enough room to do that so the barn will have to be moved or removed and that is a discussion that he and Mr. Gasior were having in terms of what we are allowed or not allowed to do. Mr. Gasior stated that he would like to go out there with Ms. Clements and actually take a look and we may need a surveyor to go out with us and identify exactly what the encroachment is and then how much property would need to be acquired. Then maybe we could consult the owner with all the facts and then draw something up on paper, showing how much of the barn encroaches. He said that he thought that we need to trace it back because he thought that they may have built the barn where they were not supposed to build it. He thinks that the barn is on City property. So we will have to write the owners a letter and let them know what their options are. He asked if there was an issue with the Historical Society and Ms. Clements said that she would have to check on that. Mr. Gasior said it is possible that the barn is on the Landmarks list so we would need to delve into all that and report back to the Service Committee at some point in the future and let you know what our plan of attack is.

Mrs. Demaline asked Ms. Clements when we first started corresponding with that property owner and Ms. Clements said probably the end of last year. She would say that once we started moving forward with the 2023 Sidewalk Program, a letter went out to them so they were aware of it. Mrs. Demaline noted, so we have been trying to be in touch with them for at least 9 months now. Do we have an idea of a timeline of what that looks like from here?

Mayor Jensen said that he thought it is a matter of the Law Director deciding that we can take the building down if we get no response from the owner. The barn is in the right of way and that has never been in question, so we need to talk to Mr. Gasior about what the City could do to help with that, to either move it or take it down. It has always been in the right of way and the same with the retaining wall that is on the other side of that drive there where they are. So that may be a property that we need a letter from the Law Director in terms of moving forward if we do not get a response.

Mr. Gasior stated that the thing that comes to mind immediately is an action of quiet title, where you have to go to Common Pleas Court and file an action for quiet title to the property. Something similar to what we are contemplating on Church Street because of the confusion over whether Church Street is a public street or is still a private street, etc. So this might be a situation as well where the property owner may be claiming that they own the property and we may have proof that he does not and we may have to go to court and get a judge for quiet title to the property in the City and then of course let the property owner know that we are going to take the barn down and put in the sidewalk.

Mrs. Demaline asked Mr. Gasior if he thought he would be moving forward with action on that property and Mr. Gasior asked how fast she wanted him to move forward, is what it comes down to, because it is going to be time-consuming if we run into a problem. And obviously we are going to run into a problem; it is just how much of a problem. He said that what he would like to do first and foremost is definitively identify the right of way, and see where the barn is situated and then present that to the owner of the property and tell the owner he has 30 days to get in touch with us and let us know what his plans are because his barn encroaches on City property. Then at that point we can report back to Council on whether we get a response and what the response is to that deadline of 30 days. If the owner ignores it, then we will probably have to, as he said, go to court and get an action of quiet title or some type of a declaratory judgment so that we have the clear authority to remove the barn and put in the sidewalk.

Mr. McBride asked if anyone had an idea of how old that barn is and how long it has been there? Mayor Jensen said that we have been able to go back in our records to 1990 and it was there in older form

without it being re-sided. We could not go back far enough to look to see when it was not there. But it has always been in the right of way. Mr. McBride stated that in most of the older property deeds, the property basically went to the center line subject to whatever the public right of way was and sometimes that was undefined. Mayor Jensen said but when you look on the Auditor's website, this one does not show that it goes to the middle of the road in terms of the right of way. We need to let Mr. Gasior know that we want to have this on the sidewalk program next year and do whatever we need to do to get it to that. The Mayor said that he did not think this is one that we want to wait until 2025. The retaining wall will not be an issue because that is something we can do; it is going to need another retaining wall so we will have to move that.

Mayor Jensen asked Mr. Cummins if he had time this next week or the week after to go out and just stake it. He thought that is the first step just to stake the location of the sidewalk; he thought we will need to put the sidewalk around the corner.

Mrs. Demaline asked about once that sidewalk can be installed, what are we going to do about a crosswalk right there across Detroit Road? Is that something we are still looking at? Mr. Cummins said that we certainly could. We looked at that in the past and settled on where we have the crosswalks currently. We could take another look at that, depending on if the traffic has changed over the years since we last looked.

Mrs. Demaline said that those were all the questions she had for Ward 1 for the 2023 Sidewalk Program and she opened up the discussion to other members of Council for questions for other areas of the City from the 2023 Program.

Mr. Fischer asked if there was a plan to do a crosswalk on Avon Road and Mr. Cummins said, yes, the Avon Road plan shows a crosswalk. Mr. Fischer asked if it would be from Pine across? Mr. Cummins answered, yes, and also he thought at the western end as well.

Mr. Moore stated that they have talked about certain areas in Ward 3 that he is still waiting for and he is also losing sidewalks. There is still that vacant lot on Riegelsberger Road where the sidewalk has not been fixed. So it is like his Ward is going backwards a little bit. They took out the sidewalk and they still have not put it back in; he would really like to get that done. There are other sidewalks in his Ward that were supposed to be done by now and they have not been. He has residents on Palmer Lane that are landlocked and two years ago, we assured them that they were going to be able to get around. He said he knew that we were going to send out letters and were also going to work on another campaign. He thinks that we should warp speed this a little bit because for his next ask, he will ask for all of those that were supposed to be in 2023 and what we should get in 2024. He just wants to get this thing moving along; let's appropriate the money and assess. Residents want connectivity; his residents still want it and are asking him for it and it is frustrating.

Mayor Jensen stated that the part that Mr. Moore is talking about on Detroit Road that goes to ZZ's, we just received information that we did not get approval for any money for improvement of that intersection so we have told the owners over there that we still would like to move forward this year. That is that one open lot that you are talking about and we sent a letter out so we can move forward on that. We want to do it all as one project and the owners of ZZ's want the sidewalk; it was just a matter of how we were going to move forward, whether it was going to be a joint partnership with giving us the right of way. We are not sure we are going to get that but even if we do not, we would still like to try to move forward with that sidewalk piece still this year. The Mayor said he did not know if Mr. Streator can address the sidewalk

on Riegelsberger Road that everybody is frustrated with. That is one that we have been pushing; there was a need for the sanitary sewer and he thought that they finally got approval of that. Moving forward, it is easier for the homeowner to put that in and he has agreed to do that. The Mayor was not sure that they were aware of any of the other ones on the 2023 Program that have not been put in that Mr. Moore mentioned. Ms. Clements stated that the only other one that she is aware of is that corner Schafer house and she just talked to Steve Schafer about that on Friday. And then the Mathes one from where it connects to the Metroparks. Mr. Mathes has permits pulled and was working with his neighbor's contractor so she will follow up with him again to make sure he is pushing to get it done and then the Metroparks would be the only other one that she would know other than at Detroit Road with ZZ's.

Mr. Streator said, and regarding the other property on Riegelsberger Road, he talked to Utilities Supt. Brian Bruce and they do not have final inspection on the sewer yet. But he will check with Mr. Bruce tomorrow as to how soon that will be. Mr. Moore said he would appreciate that; it has been months since that sidewalk has been out. He knows that they have talked about sending out letters and he asked about the assessment procedure. Mayor Jensen said that it is an assessed project and we are at that point now where it is over the time limit of what we gave everybody so anybody who has not gotten the sidewalk installation in motion themselves, the City is moving forward.

Mr. Witherspoon stated that on Jaycox Road between Detroit Road and the bridge going over there, it is kind of like a patchwork of sidewalks. He does not know if that is on the 2024 program or not but it is something that we might want to take a look at. The new homes that were built there have the sidewalks, but there are several homes that do not and sidewalks need to be extended in that area.

Mr. McBride said that is part of the Ward 2 ask and then also, he is looking for a plan for Nagel Road, although probably a little too soon. He is hoping that commercial development goes over on the west side but he would like to see Nagel Road and Jaycox Road finished up. We did get Jaycox Road done from Middleton to Detroit, and then let development put in that asphalt path on the other side but those will go all the way up. That is a farm field and we may have to push that if the "Prayers for Maria" sunflower field goes in there as that attracts a lot of traffic and that may become a safety issue. But as far as the rest of Ward 2 goes, he would like to complete both sides of Rt. 83 from the tracks south, and both sides of Colorado from I-90 south. A good portion of that is done. He would like to complete Detroit Road, at least on the north side, starting at the French Creek. The tavern on the corner is an issue; people park across and it needs to be paved and a long crosswalk needs to be painted in. People will continue to park there unless we do something a little more permanent. And then there are multiple properties on Detroit Road. There are still some missing parcels on the north side of Detroit and there are a couple of problem areas where we cannot saddle the homeowner with putting in a culvert extension so they can put a sidewalk across and there are elevation issues. He stated that Colorado looks great; the Service Dept. and the Engineer came up with a great plan and sidewalks are in. People over in Windmill Village and some other areas are not cut off like they were on Avon road.

Mrs. Demaline asked if anybody had any further questions on our progress for 2023?

Mrs. Holtzmeier said that she and her family have done a lot of walking lately on Colorado and down French Creek and she has talked to people also walking there and what she wanted to pass along was that the people that she has found really walking and riding bikes on those two streets particularly, are thrilled. They are excited to have that accessibility, that connectivity to get from wherever they were to wherever they want to go because they did not have it before and there is just a lot of happiness. So she wanted to share that as we look at installing more sidewalks for 2024. There has been a lot of good progress made

and people clearly want to get around and when we provide them a means to do that, they use it. She was asked to share thanks from people so she wanted to do that.

Mrs. Demaline said she had a follow-up question on the 2023 Program. We had discussed potentially putting a pedestrian crossing at the Library. once the sidewalks were in up Colorado. Is that something that is still being considered? Mr. Cummins said, yes, we have identified that crossing point before and tried to get a grant a couple years ago for some trail in that area and identified that as a crossing point. So the short answer to that is yes; that is a prime spot for a safe crossing.

Ms. Demaline asked if we are all complete then on the side of Colorado where Dairy Treat and One Stop are. That space between them was a little disjointed; it runs into a parking lot that was crumbling and then there is a house that did not have a sidewalk and then there was some property that did what they were asked to do and installed a sidewalk. Is that a complete path now of sidewalks on that side of the road? Ms. Clements said she thought that there might be one house still to install a sidewalk but she would have to check. Mayor Jensen stated that the Dog Day Care is going to be in the space that Mrs. Demaline mentioned. We did not want to do anything about the crumbling parking lot until they come in. Once they come in then we will connect everything. Mrs. Demaline said, and then that house is still missing so we are following up with them? Ms. Clements said, yes.

Mrs. Demaline said if there were no further questions on the 2023 Program, she would like to discuss the vision for the 2024 Sidewalk Program. She, Ward 1, and Mr. Moore, Ward 3, kind of have a property line of their Wards on Center Road (Rt. 83) from Kinzel Road south to S. Park. That is the border there of Ward 1 and Ward 3 and they are looking for sidewalks to get from S. Park Drive north at least to Kinzel Road and wanted to discuss that option.

Mr. Cummins said that is an area that certainly could use sidewalks. Just north of Kinzel Road is where we did get a grant, which in the past looked at addressing a large swath of that with a project to improve the intersections of Kinzel and Center and Center and Riegelsberger. That project has not moved forward as of yet. A lot of the danger in doing work in that area is you do not have the right of way width that you will ultimately need for that section. He thought that if you do put things within the current right of way, you might end up having to take them out later. But if that is an area that the Service Committee wants to put sidewalks in, he could certainly engineer that into place but has just been kind of holding still on that. Lately there have been discussions of the Riegelsberger property going into development and that is right in the center of that area. Part of that discussion will certainly be what happens at the intersection of Center and Riegelsberger and the frontage that they will deal with and it is a good amount of frontage on the east side. Sidewalks, as with any subdivision, are the main component of the discussion there. So we do not have a set plan but we understand the need, and there is an option to get maybe some of that done in the short term as part of the development. Overall, it is a larger discussion about what Rt. 83 (Center Road) actually is or could be in the near future.

Mrs. Demaline asked what that meant and Mr. Cummins said if they gave directions to put sidewalks there, he could come back to them and show them what that looks like, not doing any other type of project. He is not certain that it would all fit in certain locations and it would have some impact on existing properties along the way but if that is something that wants to be seen, he could show what that looks like just on its own, then make a decision about proceeding with that or wait for some other larger project.

Mrs. Demaline said that she was not aware of anything going forward to do improvements with Rt. 83 at that area. Is that something that is happening, or going to happen? Mr. Cummins said that they have

looked at from Kinzel to Riegelsberger in the past. That project turned out to be a little bit more expensive than initially thought so the plans are there but the funding is not, but as it turns out, some of that work may occur on the private side if the development of the Riegelsberger property happens and what the developer's responsibilities are with the traffic that they generate at the light.

Mrs. Demaline said that she was also not aware of what that development of the Riegelsberger property looks like. Mr. Cummins said that we have just had some preliminary discussions with them; they have not made any official submittals. We have seen some concept plans. One thing we know is that the developer has gained an option on the property and is starting to present plans right now in the concept stage, making all the implications that they are going to move forward with the development there. And so what that means to the City and to the developer is yet to be defined but it will be that large field, that open space, that is north of Riegelsberger and east of Rt. 83.

Mrs. Demaline said that it is important in Ward 1 that we are able to connect the residents that live off from S. Park Drive to get them up Center Road northbound so that would be her number one ask for this year's Program. Mr. Radcliffe said, since the plan for between Kinzel Road and Riegelsberger Road did not go as planned, but there is some hope with this potential development at Riegelsberger and Center, is there the ability to look at a plan then for Riegelsberger to S. Park to facilitate joining in to the south side on Riegelsberger for those residents because that is one of the biggest asks that we all hear of. So we know we have a section planned from Kinzel to Riegelsberger; can we go south from Riegelsberger to S. Park for that connectivity? He does not believe we have seen anything in the past on that, have we? Mr. Cummins said, no, he did not believe that we have and we can prepare a plan and give you what that looks like installed for any section; we just need some direction. Mr. Radcliffe said, right, and again, he knows that between Ward 1 and Ward 3, there is a huge need there and they are asking for that. He thought that this would be a good area to just get a next section of planning in place because that is the connectivity that links an east and west path across the City right there in that section. He thought that is a great connectivity point to try to figure out how to do that, especially with potential development happening on the north side in the future.

Mrs. Demaline said that she agreed with the plan to go forward in 2025 from the grant we received from the State that will connect the next level.

Mr. Moore asked if there was a way to be able to connect down to Ward 1 on the east side of Rt. 83. Once the construction of the development on the south side of Riegelsberger goes in, that will be a good anchor of patching up the rest of the south side of Riegelsberger. Is it realistic that we could go south on Rt. 83 to that light where Bob-O-Link Golf Course is and be able to connect into that section of town to at least get us up there knowing that we can finish that last leg as we continue to do north of Kinzel on Rt. 83?

Mr. Cummins said, yes. If you look at Riegelsberger, you have Autumn Grove Subdivision that is under construction now that is going to end up with a large section of frontage that is part of that. That will leave just a few homes to the west remaining. He thought that would be a prime thing to have sidewalks put in as soon as the Autumn Grove Subdivision is done. The field on the north side of Riegelsberger Road is what we are talking about with development. When that moves forward that is going to result in everything on the north side, the western half of Riegelsberger for sure over to Center, having sidewalks and again, that would just leave a couple properties to get you over to Kensington on the north side. So he thought that as those developments happen, Riegelsberger comes to fruition. From Riegelsberger north, certainly along the east side, again with the development, you see that come in and then you already have sidewalks on the east side from Hanamar up to Kinzel so that will make a connection there

on the east side. As far as Riegelsberger south, absolutely we could lay that out and see what that looks like and what impacts or what the deficiencies are there as far as getting it to fit within the current right of way.

Mayor Jensen said that going back to Rt. 83, the residents on S. Park want that sidewalk to go all the way to Detroit Road and so we had looked at the program that we had received the grant money for, to do both of those at one time. If you put the one in before the other, he thought you would run into a problem because you are not going to know exactly what is going on there. All of us know that a light is needed at Riegelsberger so that one is not in question, but who is going to pay for it or how is the City going to pay for it? If we put in the improvements on Rt. 83, which people know that we also need to do in that section, we need to be sure what that is going to look like and then you are going to have to buy right of way just to put a sidewalk in. As he said, the people on S. Park want a sidewalk on Rt. 83 to go all the way up to Detroit Road. As it stands right now, it is safer for them to go through the development in Highland Park to Stoney Ridge and then to Detroit.

Mrs. Demaline stated, so we will still look at what plans we would like on either the west side or the east side of Rt. 83? Mayor Jensen said that we can still look at that but you want to kind of warn Council that we need to look at it in its entirety including the improvement and then look at where the sidewalk will go. He thought that realistically it would not be on the east side and it would not really be a good project to do in 2024 but in 2025. He asked Mr. Cummins where we are going now with the grant money and Mr. Cummins said that the grant money goes from Kinzel Road up to Falcon Crest. Mayor Jensen said, so if you do Falcon Crest up to Kinzel, then you would want to look at almost the same time doing from Kinzel up to S. Park, at least the one side.

Mrs. Demaline said that this is a hot area for Wards 1 and 3 so she just wants to make sure that we are looking thoroughly and we have a plan or a timeline with the development that is coming and the improvement that is going to happen on Rt. 83. If we have some kind of timeline on the overall totality of what we are looking at, that would be very helpful.

Mrs. Demaline said that the next thing for Ward 1 is Lakeland Drive and Garden Drive. This is an area that does not have sidewalks and we do get a lot of traffic there on foot and on bikes to get to the Avon Early Learning Center. She asked Mr. Cummins if we could look at that area as well and Mr. Cummins said, yes.

Ms. Demaline stated that last year we said that we would revisit the south side of Detroit Road from Veterans Memorial Park to Briar Lakes. Is that something that is still on the radar to look at? Mr. Cummins said it is something that we could look at if that is desired.

Ms. Demaline stated, and long term we are looking to connect down Stoney Ridge from Long Road going south and then Mills Road is a huge area, too. So they are not all going to be in one year and she understands that but it would be great if we had an opportunity to timeline that out. Those are the big areas that we need to connect within the City and see from Ward to Ward how that looks. Not just looking at one Ward, but looking at the entire City. She said those are her suggested areas.

Ms. Demaline then asked Mr. McBride about Ward 2. Mr. McBride stated that he has not heard any over-arching need for anyone in Northgate; no one is really requesting sidewalks there. He stated, for Ward 2, let's get the sidewalks finished on Rt. 611, on both sides of Rt. 83, on Jaycox Road, and on Nagel Road, depending on when some of that commercial development happens. He has seen, particularly on Rt. 83 and on Jaycox Road, people walking right next to the road. On Jaycox there is almost no space there and

it is dangerous but that is a longer term project. And it would be nice to finish Rt. 83 but again, that is a longer term project. Mr. Cummins asked Mr. McBride if when he said Rt. 83, he was looking at from the tracks to Schneider Court; is that the correct area? Mr. McBride answered, it would be from the tracks to Schneider Court but basically the tracks all the way south to Detroit Road and then part of that is crossing over I-90. There is obviously a bigger issue involved there with ODOT. Mr. Cummins said, yes, that would entail ODOT involvement and possibly that was one of the things that he thought was going to be a long term benefit of having the Active Transportation Plan identifying those routes so that the next time ODOT does touch those bridges we have some basis to require some additional pedestrian/bike access on them.

Mr. McBride stated that we have been widening Chester Road as we go and there needs to be sidewalks on Chester. He is not sure whether the north or south side makes the most sense. There are some sidewalks there now but he thinks it is completely disjointed. Mr. Cummins said that the intent is that each section of Chester that we touch we would be putting a widened path on the north side and sidewalk on the south side. Mr. McBride said that he thought that is a good way to proceed.

Mr. McBride then said that most of his Ward is subdivisions in many ways and in the subdivisions, the sidewalks are essentially complete with the exception of Northgate and he does not get a lot of requests there. He thought that the big issue is moving to the north side of Detroit Road. There are some definite breaks there but there are large sections of property that are developed without sidewalks. There are some physical challenges; a few of the locations have box culvert or whatever that need to be extended north so the sidewalk can go across.

Mr. Cummins said to Mr. McBride, so you are looking at sidewalks basically east of Jaycox Road on the north side of Detroit Road? Mr. McBride said, well, really from the Westlake line all the way to the actual French Creek. Mr. Cummins stated that he thought that is something that we have looked at and put some plans together for touching Detroit Road between Jaycox and Nagel when the time is appropriate, taking that to three lanes. Also we have started to take a look at what Detroit Road would look like between Nagel and the Westlake border, so again, with any type of infrastructure project, we have been pretty consistent that when we are doing an actual project, we are putting in appropriate pedestrian facilities such as ADA ramps, sidewalks, paths, whatever makes sense or makes the connection.

Mr. McBride said, so a more specific request for Ward 2 is let's continue working on Rt. 83, particularly from the tracks north and as far south as we can go. I-90 is probably the major road block and then just because of Willow Creek and those homes off from Avon Road, it would be nice to proceed down Nagel and take sidewalks all the way up to Detroit Road and he was assuming we would probably do that on the west side of the street. Mr. Cummins noted that Middleton crossing is an example; it is before the Planning Commission currently. It is right at the intersection of Nagel and Middleton and part of that project involves installing sidewalk along Nagel Road. There has been discussion of some rezoning efforts completed and some rezoning efforts talked about along Nagel Road, both the east and west sides between Middleton and Detroit. Again, any development that occurs there is going to be required to have sidewalks.

Mrs. Demaline said to Mr. Cummins that when she mentioned Ward 1, she misrepresented: she said the south side of Detroit Road and she meant to indicate the north side of Detroit Road from Veterans Park to Briar Lakes, so she wanted to clarify that.

Mr. Moore said that for Ward 3, he already went over some of his concerns and he was going to meet with Mr. Cummins about a few more things, such as feedback from some of the residents. Also, trying to

connect Riegelsberger Road over to Rt. 83 will be nice to see and also the part of Detroit Road by ZZ's, so folks over there on Palmer will not be landlocked.

Mr. Radcliffe stated for Ward 4, for next year he would like to see continuing to fill in the gaps here and there on Nagel Road and Jaycox Road and also down Schwartz Road. He had sent an email to Mr. Cummins about this and Mr. Cummins said that the areas that Mr. Radcliffe had mentioned in his email are appropriate areas to fill in the gaps. Mr. Radcliffe added that he would like to see double sidewalks on Schwartz Road all the way from Westlake to the turn at Jaycox Road and then the same with Nagel and Jaycox and then up and around, being able to do a loop all the way around Jaycox up to Mills Road back to Nagel, filling in those gaps and getting sidewalks on both sides.

Mrs. Demaline asked if there was any input on sidewalks from the At-Large Representatives.

Mrs. Holtzmeier stated that while she has been listening to some of the concerns and requests for 2024, she just wants to encourage Council to also be thinking about 2025. It sounds as though, while there may be a lot of projects still in the works, having contingencies in place, it is always good business, because you never know if the first is going to pan out, to continue working ahead so that residents as well as developers can have some advance notice and be able to make some decisions and we are all moving together. Time moves fast and before you know it, another three years has gone by and the connectivity has not happened, so continue to push forward because even if something is thought today to be on the horizon, nothing is certain. That being said, she does not think it is fair to have a conversation where she does not ask about the status of any kind of connectivity on the north side of French Creek Road.

Mr. Cummins said that the French Creek Greenway project is still ongoing. Lorain County Metroparks has successfully acquired the Lustri property so we have been looking at doing some environmental studies, etc. to chart a course across that property. There was a crew out taking some survey information this week on that and plans have been developed for the western end of that run as well so it is continuing to move forward. He has a check-in call with ODOT quarterly and now that the Lustri property is owned by the Metroparks and we can work on it, that is really advancing quickly. So, as far as he understands, we are moving forward to getting to a point where we can construct a 10-ft wide asphalt multi-purpose path along the north side of French Creek. That is the direction, as he understands it today.

Mrs. Holtzmeier said that she wanted to just ask, on behalf of those residents that three years ago came in and asked for those sidewalks in front of their properties on the north side of French Creek Road, and to be fair, on the south side as well because we were not sure which side it would be on, she wanted to represent those voices and one thing she has heard from this conversation is we have mentioned property owners who wanted the sidewalks. The other theme she has heard about putting sidewalks throughout the City is that we do not want to tear up existing sidewalks that people have put money in to install. And we want to be respectful of that and she just thinks about the existing sidewalks on the north side of French Creek Road. She knows that those property owners, if given the green light to install their own sidewalks or the knowledge that they could without perhaps having to tear it up in three more years, would be interested in moving forward with that. Just the uncertainty is causing some non-action and it has been three years. So she wanted to take the opportunity for the 2024 Program to represent that voice way back when we talked about it in 2020.

Mrs. Demaline said that she takes it that the Administration will work on inviting some drawings, some engineering, and some feedback on the information we have provided tonight, so that we can look to get back together later in the fall and revisit this topic to see where we are.

Mayor Jensen said, to add on to what Mrs. Holtzmeier was saying, he thought that the decision has to be made if Council wants to move forward either with the bike path or with the sidewalk on French Creek Road. He knows that Mrs. Holtzmeier said a lot of people just want a sidewalk but on the other hand, a majority of people who do not have a sidewalk in front of their house would rather have a bike path. Council has to decide which way they are going and if we are not going with the bike path, there is no sense in having Mr. Cummins continue to spend money engineering something because we are not going to go through the Metroparks property then if we do not want to do a bike path. Residents have talked for a long time about having the bike path but if that is not the case, the City needs to change gears and say the connectivity of a bike path is not important and just go ahead with sidewalks. A majority of people spoke in the study that was taken and said they would like to see a bike path somewhere and this would be the ideal place to start but if that is not what Council wants to do, we need to stop spending money with the engineering and change direction. Tearing up sidewalks to put a bike path in, is the necessity of trying to do something that the residents want. If it is not, let us know and we will change directions but there is no sense in spending more money if we are not going that direction.

Mrs. Holtzmeier said that she just wanted to clarify if she heard something right. The Mayor said that he would not advocate putting a 10-ft wide trail through the Lustrri property unless there could be a 10-ft wide trail along the north side of French Creek Road? Mayor Jensen said that is correct. It does not make any sense for the City to spend money on the Lustrri property for a bike trail that is going to go nowhere. Again, for the City, why would we spend taxpayers' dollars on a property that we do not own unless it connected to somewhere else? It would be the Metroparks' property connecting to the other side because the Metroparks in Sheffield is putting the bike trail in there to connect into Sheffield. So to put a bike trail in that stops right at French Creek Road does not make any sense. Mrs. Holtzmeier said, but the trail could absolutely go in the Lustrri property and connect from trailhead to trailhead. Mayor Jensen stated, if the Metroparks decided to do it but that would not be something that the City would entertain spending money to do.

Ms. Demaline adjourned the Service Committee at 7:28 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by Gail Hayden, Assistant Clerk of Council