

# Traverse Heights Neighborhood Association Meeting

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- The current board members introduced themselves.
- John Steen from Mundo's Coffee introduced himself and described his business.
- Penny Hill, liaison with the City, addressed a number of issues:
  - A number of projects are in the works to improve the sidewalk situation in Traverse Heights:
    - The city has approved \$4.5M in bonds for sidewalk projects city-wide, including 45,000 linear feet of new sidewalk in Traverse Heights.
    - The city has also applied for a \$2M MDOT grant for safe routes to school.
    - A field study is currently in progress to gather engineering information for the project.
    - Some Kelley Street residents have submitted a petition to the city asking that sidewalks not be added to their street.
  - The planned timeline for the Eighth Street reconstruction. The city has hired Gourdie-Fraser to undertake the engineering of the project.
  - Some questions from the attendees about the sidewalk project:
    - Will mail delivery change from the current curbside system? (No change anticipated.)
    - What is the time frame for the sidewalk project?
      - A representative from Machin Engineering stepped forward to address this one. The design process will be completed this year. Construction will take place over a three year period beginning in 2019. Machin Engineering is currently gathering information in the neighborhood to assist with the design process. This information will be turned over to the city and the city commission will decide (based on the finalized cost estimate) what the actual sidewalk construction plan will look like.
    - Trees and other natural resources are a part of the field study and the health and age of the tree are taken into account.

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- Could a crossing be added at the intersection of Kinross and Rose to help student get to school?
  - The intersection is part of both the Safe Routes to School and the city's sidewalk project, so it will eventually be addressed and a crosswalk will be added. Until those projects take place, adding a crosswalk would be difficult due to the need for an ADA-compliant curb cut.
- The city has applied for the Safe Routes to School grant but is still awaiting MDOT's decision. If the grant is approved, construction would probably be in 2020.
- Machin Engineering has a dedicated email address for any questions about the field studies or the design process: [tcsidewalks@machinengineering.net](mailto:tcsidewalks@machinengineering.net)
- Betsy Coffia introduced herself as a candidate for county commissioner
- Sergeant Adam Gray from city police
  - Share some statistics for the city and the neighborhood.
  - There have been some issues with people parking their cars across the new sidewalks. This is a situation where the police would take some action, speaking to the owner and potentially issuing a traffic citation.
  - Sgt. Gray shared his contact information:
    - Work cell: 231-218-2902
    - Email: [agray@traversecitymi.gov](mailto:agray@traversecitymi.gov)
- Rhonda Bush introduced herself (and the fellow members of the 5 Moms) as a candidate for TCAPs school board. More information about her positions at <http://www.team5tcaps.com>
- Amy Shamroe shared information about the Traverse City Children's Book Festival, being held November 10th from 10AM to 2PM at the City Opera House. It's a free event with books for sale, authors, crafts, entertainment, and activities.
- Board President Jordan Yeatts discussed clarification of the neighborhood boundaries. The current language is ambiguous as to the western boundary on the north end of the lake. The board has proposed that the boundary be defined as the eastern edge of Boardman Lake and Franklin Street. Ben Miller moved that the language be clarified. Tyler Bevier seconded, and the motion carried by consensus.

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- Should a fourth neighborhood meeting be added to the yearly calendar? Currently we meet in January, May, and September. A revised schedule of Feb, May, Sep, and Nov would provide more frequent meetings. The January meeting is usually lightly attended. Most other neighborhood associations have four (or more) yearly meetings. Specifying that the November meeting was the week after Thanksgiving would accommodate the shifting date of that holiday. The board will discuss and bring a finalized proposal to a future meeting (possibly January, if enough residents show up to the meeting).
- Some neighborhood social events are coming up!
  - There will be a Harvest in the Heights pop-up in Jupiter Gardens on Saturday, October 13th. More information to come.
  - The board has discussed a winter event as well. Possibly a tree lighting ceremony, or a winter skating event at the rink by the elementary school. Date(s) to be determined.
- How did people hear about this meeting? Good response to the signs. Some mentions of Facebook. One for the email announcement.
- Should the city hire another policy officer who would be strictly dedicated to traffic control? Would the Association support the hiring of such an officer? A motion was raised and seconded to send a letter of support to the city, and it passed by consensus.
- Should the Association send a letter supporting the extension of the DDA to the Eighth Street corridor? The motion was raised and seconded and passed by consensus.
- Only a few of the BATA stops in the neighborhood have weather shelters. What is the criteria for installing these?
  - Tyler Bevier (a member of the board and transportation planner for BATA) shared that BATA recently got a grant from the Grand Traverse Band for five additional shelters in its network. BATA will evaluate where they can best be placed. Route 2 (through Traverse Heights) is the most productive route in the system.