

Safety and Welfare Meeting Minutes

Thursday December 7, 2023

7:30pm Town Hall Village Council Chambers

The Safety and Welfare Committee met Thursday December, 7, 2023. In attendance were Committee Members Jody Donsbach, Louise Estep and Rick Tolles, Mayor John Berry, Village Administrator Chad Beyer, Councilperson Rachel Smith, along with Grand Rapids Residents Bev Rochte, Peggy Seab and Bob Stickley.

Agenda items included:

Sidewalk/Brick Safety Updates

- Committee members discussed the current sidewalk projects and commented that the sidewalks that have been replaced look very nice and are enhancing the safety of those who are using them. We also discussed the downtown trees and their impact on the sidewalks. The root structure of these trees is causing issues. It is the second time we have had to replace trees, so will be looking at other options. Rick Tolles will be contacting North Branch Nursery to see if they have some ideas. We also discussed possibly doing planters of flowers (similar to Bowling Green and Rossford) in the downtown area instead of trees. In addition, we mentioned that the bricks need to be glazed again. While the glaze is aesthetically pleasing, the current glaze that is used is also quite slippery. Chad Beyer is going to research other sealing options for our brick work.

Upcoming Solar Eclipse

- The total solar eclipse will take place on April 8, 2024, beginning at 1:56pm with a 1m 47s total eclipse peaking at approximately 3:13pm in Northwest Ohio. An influx of tourists is expected. It was also noted that Otsego Local Schools will not be in session that day. We discussed possible issues with cell service and other issues stemming from the amount of people in our area. We will continue to monitor news and emergency sources as the date gets closer.

Public Parking Signage

- It was suggested that we consider some new Public Parking Signs directing people to the lots behind the southside of the downtown businesses. It was noted that we could greatly benefit from more public parking for our guests. It would also be nice to have some signage directing people to the ball diamonds, pool and library as well.

Tree on Second Street near West Street

- The tree in question was discussed. Chad currently has 2 quotes. It was noted that if it is a safety issue we should have it taken down as soon as possible, regardless of number of quotes.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jody Donsbach

Grand Rapids Village Council Safety and Welfare Committee Chairperson