

# WALKABLE COMMUNITIES COALITION

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## AGENDA

Tuesday, October 13, 2015  
12 Noon to 1 PM

disAbility Connections  
409 Linden Avenue

**MISSION:** To create an environment where it's easy to walk and bike for recreation, transportation, and health; and to educate and encourage citizens to be active.

1. Call to Order
2. Public Comment
3. Approval of Minutes of September 8, 2015 (enclosed)
4. Status of Sidewalk Snow Removal Project
5. Report from Executive Committee of HIO Physical Activity Action Team
6. Mayoral Candidate Questionnaire (enclosed)
7. Election of New Officers
8. Meeting Schedule for FY 2016
9. Comments and/or Concerns from Members
10. Public Comment
11. Adjournment

**Next Meeting: November 9, 2015  
12 Noon to 1:00 PM  
disAbility Connections**

# WALKABLE COMMUNITIES COALITION

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## MINUTES

Walkable Communities Coalition  
disAbility Connections  
409 Linden Avenue  
Jackson, Michigan

Tuesday, September 8, 2015 12:00 PM

### Members Present:

Alex Cash, Fitness Council of Jackson  
Elisabeth Cross, HIO  
Chris Gulock, MDOT – University Region  
Ted Hilleary, Fitness Council of Jackson  
Pete Jancek, Blackman Township  
Laurel Mauldin, Chair  
Laura Schlecte, Jackson City Council  
Parrish Stahl, disAbility Connection  
Julie Weisbrod, Jackson County Department of Health

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Mauldin called the meeting to order at 12:02 PM.

### 2. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was received.

### 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF AUGUST 11, 2015

The motion was made by Mr. Jancek, supported by Mr. Hilleary, to approve the minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

### 4. CITIZEN INTERACTION DESIGN (CID) PROJECT AGREEMENT

Ms. Mauldin informed the committee that Mr. TenBrink has not sent her particulars of the meeting she should attend. She feels the project was a “go”. We assume we are moving forward with this. Mr. Stahl suggested writing a press release this fall concerning winter snow removal. Ms. Schlecte suggested publishing the city ordinance. Group supported Mr. Stahl to begin drafting a press release. Mr. Jancek stated that it is best to have the article featured early.

### 5. CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Mr. Hilleary expressed concern with how questions were presented. Ms. Schlecte feels the questions are challenging for the candidates. Mr. Jancek feels a candidate should do homework enough to answer the questions which will not be off the cuff. Ms. Schlecte offered suggestions for changing

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questions from a candidate perspective. Ms. Mauldin would like to see one or two carefully worded questions that can be presented at the mayoral debates at the Jackson Chamber of Commerce and league of Women Voters on September 21 and 24, 2015. Ms. Weisbrod said focusing on trail development would appeal to voters on an economic level. Ms. Mauldin will resent questionnaires out to committee members to ask for feedback. Ms. Schlecte applauded Ms. Mauldin for speaking up at the Glick/Washington Street changes. Ms. Schlecte will send out e-mail inviting group to next meeting on this topic. Ms. Schlecte suggested publishing the findings in "Voice of the People".

## 6. **COMMENTS AND/OR CONCERNS FROM MEMBERS**

Ms. Cash proposed the idea of WCC becoming aligned with the Health Improvement Organization Physical Activity Health Action Team. Ms. Schlecte asked the overall goal of HIO and look at objectives and strategies of the group. Ms. Cross stated working with HIO would slightly change the structure of our meetings.

A motion was made by Ms. Schlecte, supported by Ms. Weisbrod, to support getting more information and working with HIO. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Mauldin commented positively about the non-motorized plan from MDOT University Region. Many members voiced concern in there being no plan for maintenance for new trails emerging.

Ms. Weisbrod informed the committee that Kelli Hoover told her that the bike racks have been ordered and will be put into the ground on Michigan Avenue in late September.

## 8. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment was received.

## 9. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further comments, Chair Mauldin adjourned the meeting at 1:10 PM.

**From:** Martin Griffin <[martingriffin@sbcglobal.net](mailto:martingriffin@sbcglobal.net)>  
**To:** "[lmauldin@lm-law.net](mailto:lmauldin@lm-law.net)" <[lmauldin@lm-law.net](mailto:lmauldin@lm-law.net)>  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 3, 2015 11:41 AM  
**Subject:** Walkable Communities

Dear Laurel:

Sorry I am a little late with this. I did tell you I would get it to you, so I hope you will still accept it.

1. Walking and biking infrastructure should be maintained as we do street projects. I am hopeful, and will support an initiative to go before voters to pass a millage and bond for a large road rebuilding project. If three mills are passed and the project is set out to 10 year bonds, the city could rebuild a significant amount of its streets, bike lanes, and sidewalks.
2. As a strong supporter of the Falling Waters Trail while I was in the Legislature, I would welcome any expansion of the trail. In my opinion, though trails are created for recreational activities, they are also forces of economic development that bring many outsiders to the community. I would continue to develop the portions of the trail that are within the city via DNR grants with matching funds if necessary from the city.
3. I would support complete streets to the extent that the city has the funds to carry out any of its requirements. Outside groups, such as the Walkable Communities Coalition would be naturals for seeking outside input and expertise.
4. I do support increased enforcement of city ordinances regarding snow removal. It would be nice if people looked out for their neighbors and took care of those that aren't able. We can't legislate that but should encourage it. As a child, we took care of the whole neighborhood and expected nothing in return. The best way, would be to educate people via the mailed newsletter that the city has just reinstated.

September 30, 2015

Laurel Mauldin, chair  
Jackson Walkable Communities Coalition  
120 W. Michigan Ave.  
Jackson, Mi. 49201

Dear Laurel,

Thank you for the interest in the Mayoral race and for helping Jackson.

Here are my responses to the questions sent.

1-We first need to unclog numerous storm drains filled with years of debris, dirt, grass, leaves and trash. The last two winters have damaged our local roads more than anyone can imagine. I would restore leaf pickup with vacuum trucks and double our street sweeping. Cleaning the streets would be the first step. This is a fundamental obligation of city government and wise use of our tax dollars.

2-I would make the trail a major priority along with the county. Jackson would be a good central location for the trail and draw people to the area. Connecting the Falling Waters Trail to Cascades would also be ideal. I personally walk this section of the FWT quite frequently and live within eyesight of the trail. I would enthusiastically support the proposed trail. I would advocate for funding from grants and donations from foundations that support such causes. It will take cooperation with the County and State.

3-It is difficult to comment on the Complete Streets Ordinance without knowing more detail of the “functional non-motorized plan” and what it calls for. I would seek input from any residents or business owners based on their experiences and observations of needs in any areas affected by the plan. Certainly any local advisory groups would be desirable. I generally support the concept and purpose of the ordinance.

4-This is a tough one. The underlying problem is the high number of rental units in the city. Landlords typically might pay for plowing the driveways but ignore sidewalks. Unfortunately enforcing this problem would be costly. The only alternative I think of would be to publically remind the residents and landlords in any way possible of the importance of clearing the snow and possibility of fines.

Thank you again,  
Bill Jors