

City gives Trail Friends runaround

The Commercial Record

August 29, 2019

To the editor,

Friends of the Blue Star Trail and the public were told that safety issues concerning Saugatuck city's portion of the non-motorized trail would be discussed at the most recent Saugatuck Township Fire District Board meeting. Come to find out, the topic was not placed on the agenda and attendees were told it wouldn't be.

This is the just the latest of the great "City of Saugatuck Runaround" engaged in by this council, its representatives on the fire board and the district fire chief.

The city professes to support the "bike trail" but always has more questions. The city's own engineers present a plan for the trail that will be safer than the present situation and yet, after two years, the council still has more questions, wants more answers, wants to consult with MDOT, wants to continue the runaround.

The fire chief appears at the city bike trail workshop, says he supports the trail, "we will work this out" and "we will find a way," yet nothing is ever worked out. When FBST attempted to meet with the fire chief last spring to review plans and safety concerns, he cancelled the meeting.

The FBST did not design or construct the Douglas portion of the trail. If there are design flaws with this portion, that is Douglas City Council's responsibility and duty to resolve. That is not a valid reason for the Saugatuck council to withhold their approval.

For the many reasons already stated in this newspaper over and over again, the refusal of the Saugatuck City Council to approve the city's small portion of this trail is incomprehensible. Thankfully a number of citizens have stepped forward and announced their candidacy for council in the next election. If elected, hopefully they will put an end to this farce.

Mary Cobb
FBST Volunteer