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MEETING MINUTES

TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

TUESDAY, MAY 23, 2019

7:00 P.M.

SECOND FLOOR TRAINING ROOM OF VILLAGE HALL

- Members Present: Chair Libby Braband
Commissioner Issac Gaetz
Commissioner Benjamin Schmitt
Commissioner Randall Tyner
- Members Absent: Commissioner Nathan Kebede
Commissioner Jill Hayes
- Staff Present: Brigitte Berger-Raish, P.E., Public Works Director
Dan Manis, P.E., Village Engineer
Dan Smith, Engineering Assistant
Kyle Murphy, Police Chief
Mike McGarry, Commander (Police)
- Guests Present: Lauren Pickrell, 1930 Greenwood Ave
Jonathan (Kim) Murlas, 15 Winfield Drive
Tom Boar, 1034 Lake
Katie Murlas, 2005 Greenwood Ave
Margaret Bode, 1938 Greenwood Ave
Cheryl Sundheim, 2001 Greenwood Ave
Natalie Kapnick, 1946 Greenwood Ave
Shannon Zock, 2401 Pomona Lane
Kimberly Segal, 2934 Indianwood Road

I. CALL TO ORDER.

Chair Braband called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m., welcomed new commissioners Kebede and Tyner and took role of the Commissioners.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES; TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 27, 2018.

Chair Braband directed the Commission's attention to the draft minutes of the Transportation Commission meeting of September 27, 2018.

Commissioner Gaetz moved to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Tyner. There were no changes noted to the minutes. **The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.**

III. APPROVAL OF THE SCHOOL CROSSING GUARD REPORT PRESENTED BY THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Village Engineer, Dan Manis summarized the memo titled Approval of the 2019/2020 School Crossing Guard Locations, dated May 23, 2019. Mr. Manis directed attention to the memo from staff addressed to the Commission. No changes were recommended by staff for regarding crossing guard locations. There were also no additional crossing guard requests made since September 2018. Mr. Manis highlighted various improvements underway and planned within school walking boundaries outlined in the memo.

Police Chief, Kyle Murphy summarized 2018-2019 School Review memo dated March 23, 2019. No significant changes were observed in pedestrian and traffic patterns, and no changes to crossing guard allocation were recommended. Chief Murphy summarized school traffic observations at Central School, Wilmette Jr. High, and Harper School.

Chair Braband asked if there were any questions from the Commission.

Commissioner Gaetz asked regarding the location of Wilmette Jr. High.

Chief Murphy responded that it is located at 615 Locust.

Chair Braband commented that she was happy to hear District 37 received the Safe Routes to School grant after concerns from last year and that there will be data for the four municipalities to address issues.

Chair Braband asked for public questions or comments on the Annual School Crossing Guard Report.

Shannon Zock, 2401 Pomona Lane, thanked the Commission for the temporary crossing guard for Romona and Wilmette Jr. High population, and asked the Commission to consider keeping it permanently considering how highly utilized it is.

Chair Braband and Mr. Manis discussed the Locust Road construction project and temporary crossing guard at this location. Mr. Manis stated construction is

scheduled to be completed by November 2019 and that the crossing guard at this location will be evaluated for permanent approval in the spring of 2020 after construction and be presented to the Commission at that time. Commissioner Gaetz restated that waiting until that time to make a decision would be based on collecting data after construction, and Mr. Manis confirmed.

Commissioner Gaetz moved to approve the Annual School Crossing Guard report. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Tyner. **The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.**

IV. TRAFFIC CALMING

Mr. Manis called attention to the memo addressed to the Commission and summarized the procedure used by staff to determine eligible candidates for traffic calming and presented a table of streets currently eligible for traffic calming.

Commissioner Gaetz asked for clarification on the 85th percentile metric. Mr. Manis provided explanation on the data.

Chair Braband commented that the largest category of eligible candidates appears to be speed related, and asked if enforcement is the most effective method for adjusting speeds as opposed to infrastructure changes. Ms. Berger-Raish responded that traffic calming is a recognition that police resources are limited, and traffic calming allows for infrastructure changes that encourage drivers to slow down.

Chair Braband asked how many speed radar signs the Village owns, Chief Murphy responded that the Village currently does not own any, but Mr. Manis has applied for a grant to purchase some.

Commissioner Gaetz asked if it is possible that any of the data regarding eligible candidates has changed over time, and Mr. Manis responded that the data has been collected over a period of years and any data older than 2017 was renewed.

Commissioner Tyner asked if the portable speed radar signs are to be purchased out of the traffic calming budget or the grant that has been applied for. Chief Murphy stated that the grant would be in addition to the current traffic calming budget. Commissioner Gaetz asked if the traffic calming budget would be applied to purchasing the portable speed radar signs and Mr. Manis confirmed.

Commissioner Schmitt asked if staff has noticed any trends regarding the number of complaints received. Mr. Manis stated it has stayed consistent, and

Chief Murphy mentioned that Police have also experienced consistent levels of inquiries over time. Commissioner Schmitt asked if a trend was noticed on streets that have had updated data collected, and Mr. Manis responded that the old and new data have been consistent. Ms. Berger-Raish commented that because the transportation network is built out, there haven't been major changes that would cause change. Stated that the largest change was on Lake between Hunter and Green Bay Road in the mid-2000s.

Chair Braband asked about the classification of Park Avenue, and Mr. Manis responded that it is classified as a local street. Ms. Berger-Raish commented that north of Central it is residential. Chair Braband mentioned the volumes and businesses in the area, and asked if there are any eligible candidates on the list that stand out. Mr. Manis and Ms. Berger-Raish commented that the volumes are low and are probably residents of the block.

Commissioner Gaetz asked about the role of residents on the block in regards to traffic calming. Mr. Manis responded that the residents of the block would be balloted once a proposed plan is created. Ms. Berger-Raish stated that just the block where the proposed improvements are located would be polled, and an approval rate of 67% is required. Chair Braband commented that based on volumes, the majority of trips are probably originating from the block.

Commissioner Schmitt asked Engineering staff if they interact with Police for enforcement when data shows a potential issue. Chief Murphy responded yes, and would conduct traffic surveys and enforcement in response. Commissioner Schmitt voiced concern over some narrower streets with speeds over 40 MPH, and Ms. Berger-Raish responded that those streets would be perfect candidates for the aforementioned speed radar signs.

Chair Braband asked for public questions and comment.

Kim Murlas, 15 Winfield Drive in Northfield, concerned about his grandchildren on Greenwood. In particular, Greenwood between Ridge and 21st, mentions high volume of traffic as well as parking on both sides of the street, limiting visibility. A large number of children are present in the Kenilworth gardens neighborhood. Chair Braband asked about driveways, and Mr. Manis responded that most driveways are single car width driveways, which is probably why there are a lot of residents parking on the street.

Natalie Kapnick, 1946 Greenwood Avenue, stressed that there are a number of smaller lots on Greenwood and the general demographic of children is very young. Feels that there is a lot of cut through traffic for the Kenilworth train station. Also commented that she feels parking on both sides of the street slows traffic down.

Chair Braband asked if parking restrictions have existed to restrict parking to one side on Greenwood, and Mr. Manis responded no.

Commissioner Schmitt asked about the effect of no parking on streets and speeds. Ms. Berger-Raish commented that parked cars on the street are very effective for reducing speeds.

Katie Murlas, 2005 Greenwood Avenue, reiterated that Greenwood is a direct thoroughfare to the Kenilworth train station. Felt that parked cars do help reduce speed, but feels that a speed bump would be effective. Stated that the mailman told her he had been hit once. Mentioned the number of children in the neighborhood. Chair Braband asked if there are any planned improvements on Elmwood, Mr. Manis replied that it is proposed to be a bike boulevard in the draft recommendations in the bike master plan.

Margaret Bode, 1938 Greenwood Avenue, mentioned speed bumps in the City of Chicago.

Lauren Pickrell, 1930 Greenwood Avenue, stated there are a lot of young children and they are always supervised, but is looking for preventative measures.

Tom Boar, property manager for the church at 1024 Lake. Spent the last few years working with staff on crosswalks and signage for the church and the parking lot across the street. Asks about possible traffic calming at Lake and Wilmette.

Chair Braband states that it is her understanding that no formal action will be taken at this meeting, but staff will take comments into consideration for future assessment. Ms. Berger-Raish mentions that the Commission can provide additional guidance to staff for future study.

Ms. Berger-Raish states that traffic calming can have consequences, and that isolated traffic calming measures can create issues on other streets and Elmwood is due for road improvements. Therefore, traffic calming is usually looked at on multiple streets at a time. Mentions that Lavergne traffic calming could be implemented with the stormwater improvement project.

Chair Braband states that the Kenilworth gardens area stands out on the eligibility list. Commissioner Gaetz asks about the cost of speed bumps and how many would need to be installed, Mr. Manis states that it varies depending on if it can be bundled with other improvements. Ms. Berger-Raish mentions that speed bumps may be difficult on Greenwood with the number of driveways as well as a

loss of parking. Chair Braband states no formal action, Commissioner Gaetz agrees as traffic would go elsewhere.

Chair Braband mentions Lake and Wilmette intersection, Ms. Berger-Raish states that the intersection is federal aid eligible, and a traffic circle is a potential option to evaluate in the future.

Chair Braband asks for any other public comment. Commissioner Schmitt asks about existing road restrictions, mentions Park Avenue and Prairie Avenues and restrictions creating problems on other streets. Ms. Berger-Raish comments on turn restrictions. Chair Braband mentions Greenwood and that a turn restriction may be too restrictive. Kim Murlas makes comment about having to speed up to cross Ridge at Greenwood. Natalie Kapnick and Lauren Pickrell also comment.

Ms. Berger-Raish mentions that if the grant isn't awarded, possibly make a motion to use traffic calming funds to purchase speed signs. Mr. Manis says staff should know about the grant award in July, and Chief Murphy says two signs are proposed to be purchased.

Commissioner Gaetz asks about effectiveness of speed radar signs, and Commissioner Tyner believes they do work, referencing one on Crawford in Evanston. Chief Murphy also mentions one in Glenview on Laramie. Mr. Manis also states that the signs collect data and can be used to measure effectiveness. Chief Murphy also makes comment about perception of speeds on local roads and possibly educating public on Village wide speed limit.

Commissioner Tyner asks if speed sign will have an effect on Greenwood, as it appears to be a volume issue, but may still provide temporary relief.

Ms. Berger-Raish read the motion to purchase two portable speed signs with traffic calming funds if the Village does not receive grant funds. Chair Braband moved to approve the motion. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Gaetz. **The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.**

Commissioner Schmitt asked if the speed limit has always been 25 MPH. Ms. Berger-Raish states that the speed limit is determined by engineering study and mentions that artificial speed limits create issues with enforcement.

Commissioner Gaetz asks if any upcoming bike planning or road improvements overlap with traffic calming candidates, and Ms. Berger-Raish says they are shown on the table provided.

Chair Braband asks for any other public comment on traffic calming.

Kimberly Segal, 2934 Indianwood Road, states a number of children on Indianwood and states it is used as a cut through from Lake and Hibbard when

backups occur. Concerned about construction during Lake and Skokie construction. Ms. Berger-Raish also mentions that Lake and Skokie construction is primarily pedestrian improvements. Mr. Manis stated that Indianwood did not meet the criteria for traffic calming when it was studied. Ms. Segal asks if residents can pay for speed bumps, Ms. Berger-Raish states that the traffic calming policy does not allow for residents to pay for traffic calming measures directly. Chair Braband states that we can continue to monitor Indianwood during construction.

Chief Murphy asks for specific times of traffic issues, Ms. Kapnick states 4:30PM-6:00PM, and 8AM hour. Chief Murphy states that police will add Greenwood to enforcement list.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Braband asked for any additional public comment, there was none.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

Chair Braband asked for any old business, there was none.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

Chair Braband asked for any new business, there was none.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Gaetz moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Schmitt and Commissioner Tyner. **The motion carried.** No further discussion occurred on the motion.

The meeting was thereafter adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Minutes Respectfully Prepared by D. Smith