

Minutes of the **Transportation Commission** Meeting Held on **August 18, 1998**
at **7:30 p.m.** in the Council Chamber of the Village Hall

Members Present: Neil Ferrari
Dominick Gatto
Andrew Hansen
Barbara Lusky
Alan Swanson, Chairman

Members absent: Roger Teal

Staff Present: Robert S. Lewis, Village Engineer
Sgt. Chester Hutton, Police Department
Linda Reilley, Engineering Assistant
Officer Julie Parisi, Traffic Coordinator

1. **Approval of the minutes of the May 13, 1998 meeting**

Minutes of the meeting were approved pending the corrected revision regarding manpower and funding for crossing guards.

2. **Approval of the minutes of the July 21, 1998 meeting**

Approval was delayed until August 18, 1998 so the Commissioners could review the minutes.

3. **Petition from the 1700 & 1800 Blocks of Forest Re: Commercial Cut-through**

Regarding signage or enforcement issues, Robert S. Lewis said that to date no studies have been done concerning load limit vs. no truck traffic. He asked Police liaison, Sgt. Chester Hutton for enforcement effectiveness. Sgt. Hutton said that, by point of law, special training for officers and an actual scale would be required. He cautioned against exclusions because U.P.S. and Federal Express trucks would have to be an exception. Officer Julie Parisi informed the Commission that tickets for 5 mph over the speed limit will not hold up in Court.

Chairman Swanson connected the issue with the Village Traffic Calming Policy, and told the residents we have the means to gather and quantify data. Chairman Swanson informed the residents that the Commission is seeking candidate locations with high amounts of through traffic for the purpose of applying test solutions.

Commissioner Ferrari attempted to focus the issue by recommending the collection of speed data, % of truck traffic, and total traffic volume.

Robert S. Lewis suggested that the area be named as a candidate for traffic calming, wait for school to start, and post data counters. The results of the data collection would be presented in October.

Chairman Swanson thanked the residents for attending and for their presentation.

Commissioner Gatto suggests that neighborhood willingness to help be channeled into neighborhood watch program and moved that the 1700 & 1800 Blocks of Forest be included as a location for Traffic Calming, that data be collected and presented, a solution be recommended in October, and that the neighborhood apply to the Police Department to become part of the Neighborhood Watch Program. Chairman Swanson suggested a modification in that neighborhood participation is voluntary and can not be legislated. Commissioner Ferrari seconded the motion. The motion carried by voice vote.

4. **A Petition for No Parking (2:00 a.m. – 5:00 a.m.) on the 400 Block of Isabella**

After some discussion as to the origin of the petition, Commissioner Hansen asked what the Village ordinance was with regard to the restriction. Linda Reilley informed the Commission that 50% of the block must petition before the issue reaches the Commission. Commissioner Gatto moved to accept the petition, seconded by Commissioner Hansen. The motion carried by voice vote.

5. **Sign change (No Turn on Red) at Wilmette & Hunter**

Linda Reilley reported that the Engineering Intern had been out to gather data on May 28th and 29th. Robert S. Lewis said the original signage was consistent with similar areas, and that the data does not support a bad condition, an increasing problem or a developing problem. He explained that although the emotion of the issue is understood, it is not possible to cover 100% of all conditions. Chairman Swanson pointed out that this intersection is under IDOT jurisdiction. Linda Reilley said the old controller needs to be upgraded to handle green phase change. Officer Parisi said

a letter from the Police Department had been sent August 18, 1998. Commissioner Gatto moved to deny the petition which was seconded by Commissioner Ferrari. The motion carried by voice vote. It was noted that the petitioner was not present.

6. Traffic Calming

Chairman Swanson reiterated that Traffic Calming is an official policy of the Village. Commissioner Ferrari reminded the Commission that \$15,000.00 had been approved last year and set aside for test cases. Commissioner Hansen asked that a notation be made in the minutes that the Village Board had approved the Traffic Calming Policy & Procedure on December 9, 1997. Commissioner Hansen asked if Forest could be added to the list. Chairman Swanson said it would be added as a unit, and added that Washington from Ridge to Hunter clearly meets the criterion. Referring to the criterion, Commissioner Gatto suggested the elimination of some locations via a letter to the petitioners. Robert S. Lewis suggested, as an alternative to elimination, a system of annual ranking. The Chairman announced that the Commission is looking for a couple of locations to apply solutions to. Regarding Highcrest School, Officer Parisi suggested the use of a barricade instead of removing the island. Commissioner Gatto noted that at Thornwood, north of Harper School, the stripes are worn off and suggests pavement markings be reinstated on that street. Linda Reilley will contact Public Works.

Chairman Swanson stated it is the Commission's intent to wait until September to gather data. Commissioner Lusky added that site priorities would then be made. Chairman Swanson suggests that by October solution ideas could be applied to the chosen locations based upon severity of the issue. Implementation would be in the Spring of 1999.

7. Old Business

Chairman Swanson said that he had received a packet for new students from Highcrest School. He noted that it did not include a letter from the PTO regarding traffic education for parents dropping off and/or picking up students. Officer Parisi to contact the school. Robert S. Lewis addressed the island removal at Highcrest School, noting the impossibility of extending curb lines without creating drainage problems. He suggests, instead, the use of a Type III barricade to discourage drop off movement and increase safety. The Chairman called for an update on the streetscape project. Linda Reilley is awaiting word from coordinator. Linda Reilley reported that the Bicycle Task Force is continuing work on Gillson Crossing, Central Business Crossing, and waiting on Grand Illinois Trail.

Robert S. Lewis requests that an additional item be added to the agendas—"Pending Matters"-- which would aid in the determination of meeting dates.

8. Pending Matters

- a) Review status of traffic signal at West Lake & Edens Plaza
- b) Resident permit parking on 400 Maple
- c) 5th & Linden Parking issues
- d) Traffic signal at Fairway & Bunker
- e) Upgrade traffic light at Skokie Blvd. near Hibbard
- f) Next meeting set for September 16, 1998

Commissioner Ferrari moves to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Lusky. The motion carried by voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 9:37 p.m..

Minutes respectfully submitted by Amy E. Hellwig.