

Minutes of the **Transportation Commission** Meeting Held on Tuesday,
June 15, 1999 at **7:30 p.m.** in the **Training Room** of the Village Hall,
1200 Wilmette Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois 60091

Members Present: Neil Ferrari
Dominick Gatto
Amy Panici
Alan Swanson, Chairman
Roger Teal

Members Absent: Andrew Hansen
Barbara Lusky

Staff Present: Robert S. Lewis, Village Engineer
Linda Reilley, Engineering Assistant
George Carpenter, Chief of Police
Officer Julie Parisi, Traffic Coordinator

Staff Absent: Don George, Parking Enforcement Officer

Also Present: John LaPlante, T.Y. Lin Bascor

1. **Approval of the May meeting minutes**

Chairman Swanson called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. and called the roll. **Commissioner Gatto** moved to approve the May minutes with two corrections. **Commissioner Panici** seconded the motion. The *motion carried unanimously by voice vote.*

2. **Presentation of Bicycle Task Force May minutes and pending Task Force issues**

Commissioner Gatto reported that the Wilmette Park District would co-sponsor and organize the Bicycle Tour by taking reservations, and filling out forms. The Bicycle Task Force requests that the **Board of Trustees** provide funding in the amount of \$250.00 for flyers and refreshments.

3. **Discussion of Traffic Calming & Determination of Calming Device Location(s)**

Due to time constraints, this item was tabled.

4. **Final Report from T.Y. Lin Bascor on School Traffic Study for McKenzie, Central and St. Francis**

Chairman Swanson recognized **John LaPlante** of T.Y. Lin Bascor who presented the Pre-Final Report on the School Traffic Study for McKenzie, Central and St. Francis, noting the results of the critical gap study and sight distances / motorist behavior at 9th & Greenleaf. **Mr. LaPlante** reiterated his recommendation that 9th & Greenleaf should be a crossing guard location. Concerning a tree in the parkway at 9th & Greenleaf that interferes with sight distance, **Commissioner Gatto** recommended that the Village Forester conduct a health assessment of the tree. If it is not healthy, it could simply be removed.

Police Chief Carpenter indicated that “knuckles” at 9th & Greenleaf as well as the entire stretch of Greenleaf would reduce the width and increase the sight distance while serving as a traffic calming measure.

Three residents (parents of St. Francis School children) spoke about crossing problems.

Commissioner Gatto suggested that both locations should have crossing guards, and that all interested parties should meet next month to discuss a means of staffing the two locations with volunteers. Commissioner Gatto cited Romona and Harper Schools as examples. Staff will contact Central School.

Commissioner Gatto made a motion to endorse the recommendations of the pre-final report presented by T.Y. Lin. **Mr. LaPlante** confirmed the inclusion of a crossing guard location at 9th & Greenleaf. **Commissioner Panici** seconded the motion.

Chairman Swanson recognized Engineering Assistant **Linda Reilley**, who raised a point of clarification concerning moving the crossing guard location from 16th & Wilmette to 15th & Wilmette. **The Chairman** responded that this had been done at the May meeting.

The **Chairman** called for additional discussion on the motion. There being none, the **Chairman** called for a vote. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote. **Mr. LaPlante** left the meeting.

5. **Review of the School Crossing Areas**

The **Chairman** recognized **Officer Julie Parisi**, Traffic Coordinator, who provided background information on problem locations. **Commissioner Gatto** moved to fund 15 crossing guard locations (to be determined) for the 1999-2000 school year. **Commissioner Panici** seconded the motion. The **Chairman** did not call for a vote. There was further discussion on the motion.

6. **Old Business / Pending Matters / Next Meeting**

Chairman Swanson noted that he had received correspondence requesting the establishment of a subcommittee to discuss the traffic issues at Linden & Poplar, and whose membership would include residents. **Chairman Swanson** informed the Commission that a task force comprised of Robert Lewis, Linda Reilley, Julie Parisi, Roger Teal and himself had already been established, met on site, observed traffic activity during the afternoon peak period, and made informal observations. Their observations at Linden and Poplar revealed a variety of traffic infractions. The **Chairman** explained that there is enough pavement width to create a third lane that would allow for a right-hand through lane, a left-hand through lane, and a left turn lane. **Chairman Swanson** indicated that making one block of Poplar (between Wilmette and Greenleaf) a one-way southbound would alleviate some of the congestion at the stop bar at Wilmette Avenue.

Chairman Swanson noted that the three-phase signal employed at all Green Bay Road intersections at the railroad track are set up by IDOT to go north and south, then eastbound, then westbound. If an eastbound vehicle is lagging, there is only room for one car to dwell in the westbound direction. The next car and the one following it must wait for the eastbound car to clear the Poplar intersection; thus, diminishing the already limited capacity. This is a common occurrence. The **Chairman** indicated that he contacted IDOT. Although IDOT understands the resulting difficulty and is willing to adjust the phasing, the signals are programmed in the

shop and can not be field-adjusted to avoid any field errors. A letter from the Village to John Schwarz requesting the change in the temporary, but demanding it in the permanent.

The *next meeting* was set for Thursday, July 8, 1999 at 7:30 p.m. to discuss school crossings at 9th & Greenleaf and at 9th & Linden, a petition for permit parking on the 500, 600 and 700 blocks of Leamington Avenue, and the introduction of traffic issues associated with the public use of Gillson Park. An in-depth discussion of traffic issues at Gillson Park will take place at a special Transportation Commission meeting on Tuesday, July 20, 1999.

There being no further business, **Commissioner Gatto** moved for Adjournment. **Commissioner Ferrari seconded** the motion. The *Motion passed by Voice Vote and the meeting adjourned at 10:10 p.m.*

Minutes respectfully submitted by Amy E. Hellwig.