

Minutes of the **Transportation Commission** Meeting Held on Tuesday,
July 8, 1999 at **7:30 p.m.** in the **Training Room** of the Village Hall, 1200
Wilmette Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois 60091

Members Present: Neil Ferrari
Andrew Hansen
Barbara Lusky
Amy Panici
Alan Swanson, Chairman
Roger Teal

Members Absent: Dominick Gatto

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

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

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

Chairman Swanson called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m. and called the roll. **Commissioner Panici** moved to approve the June minutes as amended. **Commissioner Ferrari** seconded the motion. *The June minutes were approved as amended.*

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

Commissioner Hansen 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.

Robert S. Lewis explained that non-budgeted requests would most likely come from the Engineering department's operating budget, at the expense of eliminating an already budgeted item. **Mr. Lewis**

volunteered to speak with the Village Manager concerning the availability of additional funds.

3. **School Crossings at 9th & Greenleaf and at 9th & Linden**

Chairman Swanson provided an overview of the crossing guard program, highlighting the need for funding and emphasizing the fact that once a location is dedicated, it must be regularly manned. If crossing guards are not present, police officers serve as back up at the locations. The **Chairman** pointed out that this takes the officers away from their regular responsibilities. **Chairman Swanson** noted that because the intersection at 9th & Linden is a slower street and has a 4-way stop, there is a more critical need to have a crossing guard at the 9th & Greenleaf location. The Chairman recognized **John LaPlante** of T.Y. Lin Bascor who indicated that while the speed limit on Greenleaf is 30 mph, the mean speed is 35 mph.

The Chairman recognized resident **Robbie Joseph** who requested that stop signs be posted at every intersection on Greenleaf between 5th and 11th. The **Chairman** explained that this arrangement would not meet the specified warrants, and informed those present that other traffic calming measures are being considered for application throughout the Village.

Commissioner Panici moved to accept the final report and endorse the recommendation supporting a crossing guard location at 9th & Greenleaf as well as the removal of the crossing guard at 9th & Linden for the 1999-2000 school year. **Commissioner Hansen** seconded the motion. Commissioner Ferrari suggested that Greenleaf be added to the Traffic Calming list. **Chairman Swanson** called for the question. *The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.* The final (T.Y. Lin Bascor) report will be presented to the Board of Trustees on July 13, 1999.

Chairman Swanson recognized Mr. **Robbie Joseph** who requested that a copy of the data be sent to him after traffic on Greenleaf is again monitored and counted.

4. **Resident Permit Parking on the 500, 600 and 700 blocks of Leamington**

The **Chairman** introduced a petition from the 600 and 700 blocks of Leamington requesting “No Parking” from 8 a.m. – 10 a.m. except by permit. Invoking its discretion, the Transportation Commission decided to include the 500 block of Leamington in an attempt to ease parking difficulties in the area. **Chairman Swanson** recognized **Don George**, Parking Enforcement Officer, who pointed out that although the 800 block of Leamington is similarly posted, parking permits are not currently required. **Linda Reilley**, Engineering Assistant, volunteered to contact each resident of the 800 block of Leamington and let them know of the Commission’s decision with regard to the 500, 600 and 700 blocks of Leamington. The **Chairman** indicated that this would provide the 800 block with the option (via the petition process) of having permit parking.

Commissioner Ferrari moved to grant the request. **Commissioner Lusky** seconded the motion. **Chairman Swanson** called for the question. *The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.*

Linda Reilley explained the permit process to those present.

5. **Gillson Park Traffic Study**

In preparation for the public meeting scheduled for July 20, 1999, **Chairman Swanson** introduced the 1999 Gillson Park Usage Report, and indicated that the most substantive issue is that designated parking be attractive, used and filled.

Staff provided a graphic display of parking restrictions on the eastside of the Village near Gillson Park, as well as collective restrictions of other North Shore communities. **Staff** indicated that, to date, no additional petitions to further restrict parking in residential areas surrounding Gillson Park had been received.

The **Chairman** noted that there are legal requirements and prohibitions with regard to issues of access that must also be considered.

The Chairman asked **Don George**, Traffic Enforcement Officer, what is being done differently. **Don George** responded that the Police Department has increased its presence at the Lakefront.

Police Chief Carpenter added that there is additional signage and an increase in towing activity.

Staff will notify residents around the park about the public meeting to be held on July 20, 1999.

6. Old Business / Pending Matters / Next Meeting

Chairman Swanson noted that a letter had been received from Mrs. Hart from the 1518 Lake who can not park on 15th Street because it has permit parking only from 8 a.m. – 10 a.m. The **Chairman** directed staff to send a letter informing Mrs. Hart that 16th Street has no parking restrictions and may serve as an alternative place to park.

Chairman Swanson reported that he had heard from Karen Lieberman regarding the closure of Linden Avenue at Green Bay Road. The **Chairman** indicated his willingness to revisit the issue after the Green Bay Road project has been completed. The **Chairman** noted that Mrs. Lieberman had expressed an interest in the formation of a task force that would include residential membership. **Chairman Swanson** explained that a subcommittee had already been formed and completed a review. **Staff** noted that Poplar south of Linden is 28-feet wide, and that parking will be moved back after the Green Bay Road project is completed. **Commissioner Panici** suggested the possibility of making Poplar a one-way (southbound) to Linden. **Chairman Swanson** agreed that making Poplar one-way between Greenleaf and Linden might be feasible.

Commissioner Ferrari asked if there had been an update from IDOT on the timing of the signals. **Chairman Swanson** informed the Commission that the letter to IDOT had recently been sent.

With regard to the issue of traffic calming, **Chairman Swanson** described a tiny island at the intersection of 16th and Ashland at Green Bay, and directed the Commission members to take a look at this intersection with the idea of granting a resident request that Ashland be closed and landscaped. **Commissioner Panici** pointed out that the Village of Kenilworth is on the other side of Ashland. **Robert S. Lewis** indicated that the Village of Kenilworth would have to be notified if such action were approved.

Police Chief Carpenter expressed his reluctance to consider a resident's proposal to fund landscaping after-the-fact. The **Chief** noted that closure of a street should be considered on its own merits—whether it is advisable or beneficial to traffic safety.

Linda Reilley suggested that the issue of Sterling Lane be reconsidered at the September meeting, and indicated that traffic counts are not yet available. Linda Reilley noted that Greenleaf has been added to the traffic-calming list.

Commissioner Lusky requested an update on the traffic signal at Eden's Plaza. Robert S. Lewis reported that the engineering is complete, the appropriate permits have been submitted and reviewed, but the right-of-way issues need to be resolved.

Chairman Swanson asked if the County had reviewed Fairway / Bunker. **Robert S. Lewis** informed the Commission that the County has agreed to re-open the issue, but a new study has not yet been scheduled.

The *next meeting, a public discussion*, was set for Tuesday, July 20, 1999 at 7:30 p.m. to discuss traffic issues associated with the public use of Gillson Park.

There being no further business, **Commissioner Panici** moved for Adjournment. **Commissioner Teal** seconded the motion. The *Motion passed by Voice Vote and the meeting adjourned at 9:29 p.m.*

Minutes respectfully submitted by Amy E. Hellwig.