

Minutes of the **Transportation Commission** Meeting Held on Tuesday
October 19, 1999 at **7:30 p.m.** in the **Training Room** of the Village Hall,
1200 Wilmette Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois 60091

Members Present: Dominick Gatto
 Barbara Lusky
 Amy Panici
 Alan Swanson, Chairman

Members Absent: Neil Ferrari
 Andrew Hansen
 Roger Teal

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

Staff Absent: George Carpenter, Chief of Police

1. **Approval of the September 21, 1999 meeting minutes**

Chairman Swanson called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. after a quorum was present, and called the roll. **Commissioner Gatto** noted two corrections and moved to approve the minutes. **Commissioner Panici** seconded the motion. *The August 17th minutes were approved as corrected.*

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

Commissioner Gatto reported that the Task Force had approved the recommendation of “alternate number two” for the Wilmette Avenue reconstruction. This alternate calls for two 12-foot lanes, no parking, and a 4-foot marked bicycle lane on either side of Wilmette Avenue. **Commissioner Gatto** asked that the Commission likewise approve the alternate and forward its recommendation to the Village Board.

3. **Gillson Park Report**—Terry Porter, Wilmette Park District

Terry Porter described the available parking and current restrictions along the Lakefront. **Mr. Porter** provided a synopsis of partial parking counts gathered in September in the beach parking lot at 2:00 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays—the peak usage times for the Lakefront, and indicated that beach parking is near capacity. **Mr. Porter** agreed that during the month of August, lakefront usage drops dramatically, but noted that the Harbor Association enjoys the use of Overlook Drive, the upper road, and it, too, is near capacity. **Mr. Porter** noted that the current parking policy for Wilmette residents has been in effect since 1981.

Commissioner Panici asked if any changes are planned for next year. **Mr. Porter** responded in the negative, stating that he would prefer to gather parking data for an entire year beginning in May 2000 prior to recommending any changes. A discussion of easing the [parking] burden on public streets in the area adjacent to the beach followed. **Chairman Swanson** recognized **Robert S. Lewis** who agreed that parking counts in the beach parking lot taken throughout an entire summer would provide information useful in easing parking issues in the area. **Mr. Lewis** asked how quickly **Mr. Porter** could make this data available. **Mr. Porter** expressed concern that the training time required for his staff might effect the turnaround time, but committed to providing preliminary data by mid-summer, 2000.

4. **Request from the 600 Block of Fifth Street to Revoke the Recent Permit Parking**

Chairman Swanson acknowledged the Commission's receipt of letters on the issue, and recognized the presence of eleven residents. **The Chairman** recognized **Don George**, Parking Enforcement Officer, who provided the results of a survey he had conducted in the area at the same time each morning for seven days. Officer George indicated that based on the results of the survey, there **are** parking spaces available in the 600 block of Fifth Street.

Commissioner Panici indicated that she was not ready to make a recommendation. The **Chairman** recognized residents who expressed individual opinions. The **Chairman** recognized **Robert S. Lewis**, Village Engineer, who acknowledged that automobile ownership has increased, as well as the competition for available parking spots, noting that this condition has existed for some time. **Mr. Lewis** reminded the residents that although many requests seeking a variety of solutions have been received, a compromise had been made providing the optimal solution for everyone.

Commissioner Lusky agreed that the best solution is the one that has been implemented.

Commissioner Lusky moved that the request to revoke overnight parking on the 600 block of Fifth Street be denied. The four Commissioners present voted “aye”, and *the motion carried*.

Chairman Swanson directed **Don George** to conduct traffic counts through February 2000.

5. **Jewel / Osco Traffic**

Chairman Swanson turned the discussion to that of traffic in the area of the Jewel / Osco and recognized three area residents. The residents (from the 1100 block of Linden and the 400 block of Park) expressed their concerns about an increase in traffic, the speed at which cars travel, the failure [of motorists] to obey traffic signs, and the use of the alley for cut-through traffic. Suggestions to make Linden “One Way” (eastbound) west of the alley, or close it to through traffic were made.

The **Chairman** recognized **Robert S. Lewis** who informed the Commission that both traffic volume counts and directional counts [in and out of *both* Jewel parking lots] had been taken in the spring. Mr. Lewis reminded the Commission that the construction on Green Bay Road might have affected the counts.

No motion was made. **Chairman Swanson** directed staff to take new counts once the construction on Green Bay is complete. *Staff* will notify residents when the Transportation Commission will again discuss the results of the counts.

6. **Discussion of the Preliminary Design of the Wilmette Avenue Reconstruction**

Chairman Swanson recognized Village Engineer, **Robert S. Lewis**, who informed those present that STP [Surface Transportation Project] monies will be used for the reconstruction of Wilmette Avenue. **Mr. Lewis** presented the three alternatives for the reconstruction:

- 1) Two 14-foot lanes, no parking, no marked bicycle lanes
- 2) Two 12-foot lanes, no parking, 4-foot marked bicycle lanes
- 3) Two 12-foot lanes, a 10-foot parking lane on one side only

Commissioner Gatto informed the Commission that the Bicycle Task Force totally supports the second alternative that calls for two 12-foot lanes, no parking, and 4-foot marked bicycle lanes.

Resident **George Randall** of 410 Highcrest asked if there would be a left turn lane on Wilmette Avenue at Park. **Mr. Lewis** indicated that T. Y. Lin, the consultant, is reviewing that question.

Commissioner Gatto moved that the Commission recommend to the Village Board that the second alternative be developed from Park to Ridge. *The motion carried by voice vote.*

A discussion of whether to close Wilmette Avenue at Oak Circle and Prairie followed. **Commissioner Gatto** suggested that only Oak Circle be closed. **Robert S. Lewis** will send a memo to the Police and Fire Chiefs for their comments on whether such a closure lends itself to a trial basis.

7. **Feedback**

Three completed surveys were returned to the Commission and were acknowledged by **Chairman Swanson**.

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

The *next meeting* was set for *Tuesday, November 16, 1999 at 7:30 p.m.* to discuss Loyola Academy Neighborhood Traffic and St. Joseph Neighborhood Traffic. A public hearing on the posting of "No Parking Any Time" (on one side only) of streets that are 20 – 24-foot wide will take place in December.

There being no further business, **Commissioner Gatto** moved for adjournment. **Commissioner Lusky** 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.