

Minutes of the **Transportation Commission** Meeting Held on Thursday, **June 20, 2000** at **7:30 p.m.** in the **Second Floor Training Room** of the Village Hall, 1200 Wilmette Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois 60091

Members Present: Andrew Hansen
Amy Panici
Steve Schlickman
Alan Swanson, Chairman
Roger Teal

Members Absent: Barbara Lusky
Neil Ferrari

Staff Present: Robert S. Lewis, Village Engineer
Linda Reilley, Engineering Assistant
Kevin C. Wachtel, Administrative Analyst
Bob LaMantia, Deputy Chief of Police
Donna Jakubowski, Director of Public Works
Steve Dumovich, Fire Chief
Fire Duty Chief Tom Shaefer

Also Present: 23 residents

1. **Approval of the May 16, 2000 Minutes**

Chairman Swanson called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. and called the roll. **Commissioner Schlickman** moved to approve the minutes. **Commissioner Panici** seconded the motion. *The May 16th minutes were unanimously approved by voice vote.*

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

Chairman Swanson recognized **Linda Reilley** who briefly explained the happenings at the May Bicycle task force meeting. The bike tour starting at Gillson Park was rained out on Memorial Day. It has been rescheduled for Labor Day.

Commissioner Panici inquired about what education measures the Bike Task Force is considering for fourth grade students. **Linda Reilley** stated that the Task Force would like additional education on bike safety for the fourth grade, prior to attending the Highcrest School. There would be no change in the second grade program.

Commissioner Hansen said that the Bike Task Force was in strong favor of bicycle lanes as part of the Wilmette Avenue Improvement Project.

3. **Petition from 300 block of Maple to prohibit parking between the hours of 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m., Monday through Friday, except by resident permit**

Chairman Swanson recognized Linda Reilley and asked to explain the nature of the petition. **Linda Reilley** gave background information and explained the request. She stated that Caroline Cerrone of 315 Maple phoned in and supported the petition. The 400 block of Maple has this signage. Mr. Elio Montenegro, 339 Maple, represented the block and explained the need for the permit parking.

Commissioner Hansen made a motion to approve the petition to prohibit parking between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m., Monday through Friday, except by resident permit. **Commissioner Panici** seconded the motion. *The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.*

4. **Petition to extend the overnight parking ban between 10:45 p.m. and 5:00 a.m. from Memorial Day to Labor Day on Eighth Street between Chestnut and Ashland**

Chairman Swanson recognized Linda Reilley and asked her to discuss the nature of the petition. **Linda Reilley** told that commission that due to the location of Langdon Park, the residents of Chestnut, Ashland, that corner Eighth Street petition for No Parking 10:45 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. Mr. John Olvany, 803 Chestnut, represented the neighborhood. This posting is currently on Chestnut from Sheridan to Ninth Street.

Commissioner Panici made a motion to approve the petition to ban parking between 10:45 p.m. and 5:00 a.m. from Memorial Day to Labor Day on Eighth Street between Chestnut and Ashland.

Commissioner Hansen seconded the motion. *The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.*

5. **Petition to close Sterling Lane at Isabella**

Chairman Swanson explained that there had been petitions to close Sterling Lane on prior occasions. After brief comments to that effect, **Chairman Swanson** asked Jeff Kuehl, 134 Sterling Lane, to present the petition. Mr. Kuehl said that the area has many children and will always have children. Sterling Lane is quite frequently used as a cut-through between Isabella and Ridge.

Several residents of Lawndale appeared in opposition of the Sterling Lane Closure. Additional traffic would be driving down their street, which is wider and straight and would encourage high rates of speed.

Sterling Lane residents were in support of the closure because the street very narrow. The homes do not have parkways or large lawns. The sidewalk is directly adjacent to the street, so pedestrians are at risk.

Donna Jakubowski said that Public Works would have trouble getting trucks out of that street if it were closed off. Big trucks often attract small children.

Fire Chief Steve Dumovich opposes the closure. It is difficult to provide emergency services. They cannot maneuver trucks because there is not enough room. Evanston Fire Department would not be able to assist. There is also a water flow issue. Closing Sterling Lane would make it very difficult to bring in a supplemental water source. **D.C. Shaefer** noted that emergency situations often bring multiple emergency vehicles. Too many vehicles would have to be moved in order to get first arriving ambulances out. Closure would create a traffic jam situation with emergency vehicles.

Deputy Police Chief Bob LaMantia said that closing the street would make it less frequently patrolled by police squads. The closure could also impact crime calls.

Robert Lewis said that the measures taken in 1992 have reduced the volume of traffic. There have been some preliminary talks with Evanston to look at traffic calming issues along Isabella. There

also needs to be a traffic study in the area surrounded by Green Bay Road, Wilmette Avenue, Ridge Road and Isabella Avenue.

Chief Dumovich also mentioned that commercial vehicles and delivery trucks would likely have trouble maneuvering in a closed off street.

Commissioner Teal said that Isabella is functioning as a collector but has no place for the traffic to go. Let's work with Evanston to make this situation work.

Commissioner Swanson said that this is more of a global problem. The area needs, among other things, greater enforcement. People submit petitions and the Transportation acts on little problems with little solutions. The Village Board has the authority and resources to approach the big picture items.

Robert Lewis indicated that he had spoken with the Village President and Village Manager about the growing number of traffic issues in the Village, specifically the Wilmette, Green Bay, Isabella, Ridge area. Village President Canafax and Village Manager Voorhees discussed initiating a traffic study of the area and a Committee of the Whole meeting to discuss larger traffic areas.

Commissioner Schlickman said in order to address the Sterling Lane cut-through traffic issue, we should try a three-month enforcement effort, per Bob LaMantia's suggestion, and then assess the situation at the October meeting.

Commissioner Schlickman made a motion to study traffic counts following enforcement in the Sterling Lane area after three months and then re-examine the traffic situation at the October Transportation Commission Meeting. **Commissioner Hansen** seconded. *The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.*

Commissioner Teal moved to recommend to the Village Board that the Village hire a consultant to study the traffic in the area bounded by Wilmette Avenue, Green Bay Road, Isabella Avenue, and Ridge Road, asking the City of Evanston to participate. The consultant hired should also recommend what further study needs to be done in the Village. **Commissioner Panici** seconded. *The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.*

Commissioner Schlickman made a motion to recommend a Committee of the Whole meeting of the Board of Trustees to examine traffic issues throughout the Village. **Commissioner**

Panici seconded the motion. *The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.*

6. **Feedback**

Commissioner Panici encouraged staff to write an article for the *Communicator* highlighting traffic and cut-through traffic problems in the Village.

Bob LaMantia discussed a bicycle helmet ordinance. **The Commission** recommended continuing education about the benefits of bicycle helmets.

Chairman Swanson reminded the Commission that Thursday, June 22, 2000, would be a public hearing at Wilmette Village Hall to discuss the Wilmette Avenue Improvement Project.

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

The *next meeting* was scheduled for **Tuesday, July 18, 2000 at 7:30 p.m.** in the Second Floor Training room to discuss the Jewel / Osco Traffic Study.

The meeting ended at 9:50 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Kevin C.Wachtel.