

Minutes of the **Transportation Commission** Meeting Held on Tuesday,
November 21, 2000 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
Steve Schlickman
Alan Swanson, Chairman
Roger Teal

Members Absent: Amy Panici

Staff Present: George Carpenter, Chief of Police
Julie Parisi, Traffic Coordinator

Staff Absent: Linda Reilley, Engineering Assistant

Also Present: Kipp Friedli, 1027 Locust Road
Linda Matthews, 1137 Locust Road
John Stogin, 1105 Locust Road
Elaine Lenz, 900 Oakwood

1. **Approval of the October 17, 2000 Minutes**

Chairman Swanson called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and called the roll. With a quorum present, Chairman Swanson began the meeting by welcoming interested parties in attendance and outlining items scheduled for discussion. **Commissioner Schlickman** moved to approve the minutes pending clarification that the "No Parking" on Dartmouth trail will be evaluated at winter break and the results presented to the Commission at its February meeting. **Commissioner Hansen** seconded the motion. *The September minutes were unanimously approved by voice vote.*

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

Chairman Swanson informed the Commission that the Bicycle Task Force is going to publish a route map and continue to promote cycling in the Village. The **Chairman** indicated that **Commissioner Hansen's** resignation from the Bicycle Task Force has left a vacancy. Commissioners interested in filling this vacancy may contact **Chairman Swanson**.

3. **Traffic Calming Issues on Locust Road (North of Lake Avenue)**

Noting **Linda Reilley's** absence, **Chairman Swanson** introduced the issue of traffic calming on Locust Road. **Chairman Swanson** explained that resident complaints of cut-through traffic from collector streets onto residential streets and the perception of high speeds are typical and prevalent. The **Chairman** indicated that a traffic calming policy was adapted to address problems brought to the Commission's attention. The **Commission** (via Staff) measures traffic and compares the data with standards or warrants to determine the reasonableness of what can be done to improve the flow on the preferred route and discourage unnecessary traffic and speed. The applicable standards applied are if total (two-way) volume in a given day exceeds 1200 vehicles, or if the average person is traveling 7 mph *above* the speed limit (the 85th percentile for speed). These standards are based on the Manual for Uniform Traffic Control Devices. **Chairman Swanson** reminded those present that street closure is a last resort.

The **Chairman** directed everyone's attention to the agenda materials and indicated that the curvilinear nature of Locust Road might make it a good candidate for some type of traffic circle. A brief discussion of the merits of traffic circles used to create the impression of a barrier and address the problem of cut-through traffic followed. **Chairman Swanson** invited resident comment and recognized **Mr. John Stogin** of 1105 Locust who expressed his gratitude for the Commission's recognition of a general problem.

Commissioner Ferrari pointed out that at least 60% of the neighborhood would need to be in favor of such a change before a proposal could be advanced. **Commissioner Schlickman** asked if the Commission could look at some existing traffic circles to get an

idea of effectiveness and aesthetics. **Chairman Swanson** explained that the Commission had looked at an application on the northwest side of Chicago, near Irving Park and Pulaski, but found them light on aesthetics. **Commissioner Lusky** asked for confirmation that the traffic circles would be temporary. **Commissioner Ferrari** clarified that they would be semi-permanent looking, but removable without considerable expense.

Chairman Swanson recognized Mr. Kipp Friedli, 1027 Locust, who thanked the Commission for its attention to the problem and asked what the dimensions of the traffic circles would be. **Chairman Swanson** indicated that the size might be 30'x 17' with rounded ends having radii of a foot or more. **Commissioner Ferrari** noted that the over-all size would be restricted to accommodate emergency service vehicles and snow plows.

George Carpenter, Chief of Police, suggested that a list of traffic circle applications in the area be compiled. A discussion of existing applications and possible locations for traffic circles on Locust Road followed. **Chief Carpenter** added that traffic circles provide a park-like look instead of a boulevard. **Chairman Swanson** explained that traffic would be required to slow down, negotiate around the first traffic circle and repeat the process at subsequent circles, which would serve to reduce speed and divert traffic to Illinois Road or Hibbard Road.

The **Chairman** recognized **Ms. Linda Matthews**, 1137 Locust (at the intersection of Locust & Mohawk), who indicated that home-addition construction vehicles serve to slow traffic by reducing traffic to one lane, but angry drivers routinely drive on sidewalks to maintain two-way traffic. Although **Ms. Matthews** agreed that something must be done, she expressed fear for the safety of children and pets using the sidewalk. **Commissioner Lusky** added that an official traffic circle might be better received than construction vehicles.

Commissioner Ferrari suggested the use of information signs indicating "Traffic Calming Area – Barriers Ahead". **Chairman Swanson** explained to those present that the next step would be the preparation of diagrams, plans or pictures to be presented at a public meeting. A ballot would be drawn up and if 60% of the neighborhood residents favor the measure, a recommendation would be presented to the Board of Trustees. **Chairman Swanson** indicated that comments and opinions could be directed or e-mailed to Linda Reilley of the Engineering Department. **Ms. Lenz** asked

how people would know about the meeting. **Chairman Swanson** indicated that Linda would provide a mailing.

7. **Feedback**

Chairman Swanson distributed resident questionnaires.

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

The *next meeting* was scheduled for **Tuesday, January 16, 2000** in the Second Floor Training room to discuss traffic calming on Locust Road, if a quorum is present.

Commissioner Ferrari moved for adjournment, **Commissioner Schlickman** seconded the motion. There being no further business, *the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.*

Minutes respectfully submitted by Amy E. Hellwig