

Minutes of the **Transportation Commission** Meeting Held on Tuesday,
January 16, 2001 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

Members Absent: Steve Schlickman
Roger Teal

Staff Present: George Carpenter, Chief of Police
Paul C. Knueppel, Acting Village Engineer
Linda Reilley, Engineering Assistant

Staff Absent: Julie Parisi, Traffic Coordinator
Don E. George, Parking Enforcement Officer

Also Present: Jean Bishop, 2031 Wilmette Avenue
Thomas & Diane Blake, 2036 Wilmette Ave.
Susan Broderick, 1025 Chestnut
Joyce Meier, 404 Illinois Road
Wendy & Khek Teh, 420 Illinois Road
Katie & Peter Tetzlaff, 410 Illinois Road

1. **Approval of the November 21, 2000 Minutes**

Chairman Swanson called the meeting to order at 7:35 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. Regarding the November minutes, **Chairman Swanson** asked that the traffic circles be correctly described as being 30-feet x 17-feet with rounded ends having radii of a foot or more. **Commissioner Ferrari** moved to

approve the minutes pending the two corrections pointed out by the Chairman. **Commissioner Lusky** seconded the motion. *The corrected November minutes were unanimously approved by voice vote.*

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

Chairman Swanson recognized **Linda Reilley** who provided a synopsis of the Bicycle Task Force meeting, noting that Beth Drucker has become a member of the Task Force. Ms. Drucker is working with agencies and communities to create a bicycle path to New Trier (West) High School, which is scheduled to open in August 2001. A brief discussion about the feasibility of sidewalk installation on the northwest side of Hibbard Road connecting Hill Street to Winnetka followed.

Commissioner Hansen asked for an update on the Sheridan Road Crossing. **Ms. Reilley** reported that IDOT (the Illinois Department of Transportation) has approved TEA-21 funds in the amount of \$90,000 for the project. The Village will need to match 20% of this amount.

3. **Petition to address Traffic Issues at the Intersection of Wilmette Avenue and Illinois Road**

Chairman Swanson welcomed residents who came to discuss their concerns about traffic issues at the intersection of Wilmette Avenue and Illinois Road. **Chairman Swanson** recognized **Mr. Peter Tetzlaff**, 410 Illinois Road, who voiced his concerns of an increase in traffic volume and associated speed and in the number of accidents in the last six years. **Mr. Tetzlaff** reiterated that cars turning onto Illinois Road are traveling at high speeds, and reminded the Commission that there are no pavement markings at this intersection, and Highcrest School children are at risk of being struck by motorists. **Chairman Swanson** recognized **Ms. Wendy Teh**, 420 Illinois Road, who expressed her concern about the speed of vehicles exiting Wilmette Avenue and cited a pedestrian near miss on January 15, 2001. The **Chairman** recognized **Mr. Thomas Blake**, 2036 Wilmette Avenue, who indicated that he would not support the installation of a traffic signal or a stop sign because he has not noticed an appreciable increase in traffic over the years. **Commissioner Ferrari** suggested that re-alignment of

the intersection might prove effective if there is enough right-of-way to accomplish it. **Commissioner Panici** suggested the use of narrow-cades or barricades like those used at the Wilmette and Prairie school crossing. **Police Chief Carpenter** agreed that re-alignment can be effective, and cited Park and Lake Avenue as an example. **Commissioner Lusky** suggested a study. Chairman Swanson explained that re-alignment of Illinois Road would require an alignment study. **Commissioner Panici** moved that an alignment study be done with an emphasis on pedestrian safety issues, followed by discussion at the February meeting. **Commissioner Ferrari** seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote. The **Chairman** directed Staff to conduct an alignment study.

4. **Request for Traffic Calming on Chestnut Avenue**

The **Chairman** turned the Commission's attention to the Broderick's request for traffic calming on Chestnut. Representing her husband who could not attend the meeting, **Ms. Susan Broderick** recapped her husband's letter citing an increase in vehicular traffic and loud noise as cars travel over the brick street. Mrs. Broderick stated her belief that the 1200 additional cars using Chestnut should qualify for either traffic calming or a traffic study. **Chairman Swanson** informed the Commission that he had driven Chestnut on Sunday and found that it is *not* a narrow street. **Linda Reilley** confirmed that Chestnut is wider than any other street in the area. **Commissioner Panici** indicated that she had observed a high volume of vehicular traffic using Chestnut earlier in the year. *No motion was made*, but Chairman Swanson directed Staff to conduct a (volume-speed count) traffic study on in the spring. The area to be studied is 1000 Chestnut – 1400 block of Chestnut.

5. **Feedback**

Chairman Swanson distributed resident questionnaires.

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

Police Chief Carpenter provided a synopsis of the 2000 Annual Traffic Report, noting that there had been 3 fatal accidents. **Chief Carpenter** pointed out the increased number of accidents at the intersection of Illinois and Skokie Boulevard, and suggested that the Commission may wish to consider studying ways to improve this intersection.

Chairman Swanson recapped traffic calming on Locust, and directed Staff to provide the Commission with three intersection drawings showing what traffic circles would look like. **Linda Reilley** reminded the Commission that the neighborhood would need to be notified, and 60% of the neighborhood would need to be in favor of the traffic circles. **Ms. Reilley** also pointed out previous discussions of striping the intersections to show the neighborhood how the circles would be laid out. **Commissioner Ferrari** noted that the next step is to prepare preliminary plan with traffic circles. Regarding the use of speed humps at this location, **Chairman Swanson** pointed out that because there is no barrier curb and because the sidewalk is adjacent to the pavement, there is nothing to prevent vehicles from going up onto the sidewalk. The **Chairman** reiterated that the Commission's intent is to deter the volume of traffic with the use of traffic circles. **Commissioner Ferrari** suggested that the project be considered for the 2001 construction season. The **Chairman** agreed and directed Staff to photograph and take measurements of the traffic circles on Evanston's southwest side.

The *next meeting* was scheduled for **Tuesday, February 20, 2000** in the Second Floor Training room to discuss an alignment study at Wilmette Avenue and Illinois Road; and, a preliminary plan and a three-intersection drawing /representation of traffic circles on Locust Road.

Commissioner Ferrari moved for adjournment, **Commissioner Panici** seconded the motion. There being no further business, *the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.*

Minutes respectfully submitted by Amy E. Hellwig