

**Minutes of the Transportation Commission Meeting Held on
Wednesday, November 13, 2002 at 7:30 p.m.** in Second Floor Training
Room at Village Hall, 1200 Wilmette Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois 60091

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

Members Absent: Amy Panici
Steve Schlickman

Staff Present: Brigitte Mayerhofer, P.E., Director, Engineering
Linda Reilley, Engineering Assistant
George Carpenter, Police Chief

Also Present: Shirley Hammersley, 233 Greenleaf
Jackie Mitchell, 1041 Locust Road
Tom Mitchell, 1041 Locust Road
Susan Sullivan, 1049 Locust

Call to Order at 7:32 p.m.

1. Review of August 26, 2002 Minutes

Motion to approve the August 26, 2002 minutes

Motion by: *Commissioner Lusky*

Second: *Commissioner Ferrari*

Action: **Approved by unanimous voice vote**

2. Review of the August 7, 2002 Bike Task Force Minutes

- Linda Reilley reported the Task Force will not meet until February.
- Staff continues to work on the draft bike map. It will eventually be presented to the Transportation Commission for their concurrence.

3. Locust Road Traffic Counts

- Chairman Swanson introduced Brigitte Mayerhofer, who summarized the results of the traffic study on Locust Road. (Memo and corresponding results attached.)
- The traffic counts support that vehicular speeds have reduced since the installation of three speed humps and a white edge line on Locust Road.
- Ms. Mayerhofer stated that per the traffic calming policy, staff will follow-up with a resident survey and additional traffic counts next spring, perhaps in April.
- Commissioner Ferrari asked if at that time we could also gather information from the Public Works Department on their ability to effectively plow Locust Road with the speed humps.
- Chairman Swanson asked if there has been feedback from any residents since the humps have been installed. Staff said they have received a few complaints on noise and aesthetics.
- Mr. Tom Mitchell, 1041 Locust Road, stated that there have not been any accidents on Locust Road, and asked why the humps were installed. He also asked if the residents on Locust Road were notified of the traffic calming efforts on Locust Road.
- Chairman Swanson stated that the Commission followed the terms outlined in the traffic calming policy and that a 60% approval rating was achieved on Locust Road. He continued to describe the history of the traffic calming request, which originated from a petition signed by Locust Road residents several years ago. There have been numerous meetings since then discussing various traffic calming options.
- Mr. Mitchell stated that they did not receive any of the notices for prior meetings, but did recall voting on the speed humps. He asked how absent votes were counted.
- Chairman Swanson stated that over 60% of the households responded as being in favor of the traffic calming. Households that did not vote were counted as “No” votes.
- Mr. Mitchell summarized his position by stating the speed humps pose an increase in pollution, aesthetic problem which decreases his home value and create a noise problem.
- **Commissioner Ferrari noted that in its research, the Commission found that Real Estate Agents typically like to see speed humps in communities, because it**

demonstrates to prospective buyers that residents care about their neighborhoods.

- Commissioner Teal stated that Mr. Mitchell should consult with his neighbors rather than the Commission. He also stated that there was significant resident representation at the meetings where this issue was discussed.
- Concerning aesthetics, Chairman Swanson stated that the residents on Locust Road were encouraged to look at the humps on Manor Drive.
- Commissioner Ferrari stated that Wilmette is not the only location where speed humps are used as a traffic calming technique. **The Commissioner stated there is no question that the traffic calming project has accomplished exactly what was requested—it slowed and diverted traffic.**
- Susan Sullivan, 1049 Locust, stated that the residents on Locust Road are still concerned with speed and volume, but feel they didn't have many options. She said most of her neighbors would choose safety over aesthetics, but that the issue was not "black and white."
- Commissioner Ferrari requested that staff document the aesthetics of the speed humps for future traffic calming efforts.

4. Old Business / Pending Matters / Next Meeting

Resident Comment:

- Chairman Swanson recognized Shirley Hammersley, 233 block of Greenleaf, who addressed the Commission with her transportation concerns.
- Ms. Hammersley stated that she has to traverse Wilmette several times a day in the east / west direction and is frustrated with the amount of time it takes her to get across Green Bay Road and the Union Pacific Railroad Tracks.
- Chairman Swanson stated that the Village does not have a choice with respect to the split phase signals at the at grade railroad crossings, because the Illinois Commerce Commission has jurisdiction over how those signals operate. Chairman Swanson continued to provide the history of the Fox River Grove school bus versus train accident.
- Commissioner Ferrari stated that the change in signal operations is not just in Wilmette, but required **at all at-grade railroad crossings adjacent to intersections** where improvements are being made.
- Chairman Swanson offered some alternative routes to Ms. Hammersley to travel when trying to cross Green Bay Road.

- At the request of Ms. Hammersley, the Commission will continue to monitor the intersection of Poplar and Wilmette Avenue. She also asked if there should be a merge sign for northbound Green Bay Road at Isabella. Staff will review this request.

Miscellaneous Discussion

- Chief Carpenter told the Commission that Julie Parisi will be leaving her position as traffic coordinator as of the first of next year. The position of traffic coordinator is rotated every few years.
- Chairman Swanson spoke on behalf of the Commission saying that Officer Parisi has been a significant asset to the Village and the Commission concerning traffic and school-related issues. The Commission requested that staff prepare a letter on behalf of the Commission thanking Officer Parisi for her contribution. The letter should copy Mike Earl and President Canafax.
- The next meeting is scheduled for January 8, 2003. ***Due to lack of agenda material there will not be a meeting in December.***

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:59 p.m.

Motion to adjourn.

Motion by: *Commissioner Lusky*

Second: *Commissioner Teal*

Action: **Approved by unanimous voice vote**

Minutes respectfully submitted by Brigitte Mayerhofer.