

**Minutes of the Transportation Commission Meeting held on Wednesday, February 11, 2004 at 7:00 p.m. in the Training Room at Village Hall, 1200 Wilmette Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois 60091.**

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Members Present: Alan Swanson, Chairman  
Neil Ferrari  
Jim Grosh  
Amy Panici  
Steve Schlickman

Members Absent: Barbara Lusky  
Ed Gubman

Staff Present: Jorge Cruz, P.E., Asst. Dir. of Engineering  
Linda Reilley, Engineering Assistant II  
Brian King, Deputy Police Chief

Also Present: John LaPlante, TY Lin International  
Tom Kaeser, TY Lin International  
Jennifer & Chris Beacom, 2507 Greenwood  
Linda & Walt Trittipto, 2525 Greenwood  
Rachele B. Lee, 2517 Greenwood  
Sue Kopecki, 2510 Greenwood  
Beth Drucker, 2500 Greenwood  
Suzanne & Mike Murphy, 2506 Greenwood

***Call to Order at 7:00 p.m.***

**1. Review of minutes.**

**Motion to approve the January 14, 2004 minutes.**

**Motion by:** Commissioner Schlickman

**Second:** Commissioner Panici

**Discussion:** Commissioner Panici asked whether the location of the PACE bus stop along Central Avenue would remain at the present location (south side of Central Avenue and east of the railroad tracks). Staff replied that the bus stop **would** be in the same location.

**Action:** **Approved by unanimous voice vote**

## 2. **Bicycle Safety/Helmet Usage Proposals – endorsements.**

- Chairman Swanson recognized Ms. Nancy Schofer, Chairperson of the Bicycle Task Force, who outlined the report discussing the promotion of bicycle helmets.
- Commissioner Panici indicated that it was a thorough report and the Bicycle Task Force should be commended.

### **Motion supporting the Transportation Commission’s support of the Bicycle Task Force Helmet Usage Proposal and recommendation for the Village Board’s endorsement.**

**Motion by:** Commissioner Panici

**Second:** Commissioner Schlickman

**Action:** **Approved by unanimous voice vote**

- Resident Michael Murphy, 2506 Greenwood asked if the coupon program was a success. Chairperson Schofer indicated that the coupon program did encourage children to wear bicycle helmets.

## 3. **Parking on the 2500 Block of Greenwood**

- Chairman Swanson recognized Ms. Jennifer Beacom, 2507 Greenwood.
- Ms. Beacom presented an overview of the petition and asked that a parking restriction from 8AM-10AM, Monday through Friday, except by permit, be granted. She described the parking problems on Greenwood as being too many cars using the street for teacher parking and student pick-up and drop-off, causing severe traffic congestion, poor circulation and an unsafe condition for children.
- Commissioner Schlickman mentioned that this restriction would not address any afternoon parking issues.
- Ms. Beacom agreed and said they would like to start with small steps in addressing the parking issues.
- Walter Trittipto of 2525 Greenwood acknowledged that Greenwood is narrow and difficult for bicyclists to travel. He is also concerned with fire trucks having access to the street. He is in favor of parking restrictions on *one side* of the street.
- Michael Murphy, 2506 Greenwood said he did not sign the petition, indicating that he was aware of the congestion 13 years ago—before he moved into his home. Mr. Murphy discussed the widths of other streets in Wilmette, stating that similar conditions exist in many other areas. He stated that safety was the primary concern and suggested that sidewalks would improve safety. Mr. Murphy indicated that the parking problem should be addressed throughout the Village.

- Chairman Swanson commented that the Commission has struggled in the past with similar issues, noting that a Village-wide proposal to address parking on narrow streets has previously been discussed, but was not approved. He stated that the 8:00 AM to 10:00 AM restriction would not affect weekends and that temporary permits would be available to give to guests visiting between 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM.
- A discussion took place concerning whether the restriction would be just for school days. It was determined that Monday through Friday was more consistent with what has been implemented in similar situations.
- Beth Drucker, 2500 Greenwood, stated she was concerned with unintended consequences. She stated that there is parking available for 43 cars at Thornwood Park and only 4-6 cars park there regularly. She stated that Harper School should be involved in the process. Ms. Drucker recommends that a meeting be set up with the Superintendent of Schools to discuss teacher parking. She also said that if restrictions are imposed, they should be on a trial basis. She concluded by saying the streets adjacent to schools should be required to have sidewalks.
- Sue Kopecki, 2510 Greenwood, PTO Co-President for Highcrest School last year, supports the parking restrictions. She had a function at her home for which she placed “no parking” signs in the front yard. No one followed her request.
- Commissioner Panici lives in the 2300 block of Greenwood and provided some history regarding Harper School. She stated that the 2500 block of Greenwood is unique because it is a dead end street. She stated that sidewalks should be considered because currently children walk in the road to get to school. She described one of the afternoon pick-ups on Greenwood—saying that the traffic congestion was so bad she was not able to turn around. Commissioner Panici supports parking restrictions on one side of the street. She also said that a parking study for the area should be considered.
- Mr. LaPlante previously prepared a parking study of Harper School and stated that the parking at Thornwood Park should be adequate. He stated the parking problem occurred after the removal of angled parking on Dartmouth.
- Chairman Swanson briefly mentioned an e-mail from the 2400 block of Greenwood which discussed concern about how a parking restriction in the 2500 block would negatively effect the 2400 block.
- A discussion took place regarding the teachers’ request for lighting at Thornwood Park. Mr. LaPlante stated that street lighting at the park was one of the recommendations of their study.
- A brief discussion took place regarding the Village’s liability if parking restrictions were not implemented on a Village-wide basis.

- Chris Beacom, 2507 Greenwood, asked if there was any way to get the teachers to park elsewhere.
- Chairman Swanson stated he believed that the school has done what they could. The only other option is to build a parking lot on school property, which is not a desirable solution.
- Commissioner Schlickman asked Mr. LaPlante if he was concerned with an incremental approach to solving the parking problems. Mr. LaPlante stated that eliminating parking options until Thornwood Park is the closest place to park would force teachers to park there. An incremental approach was acceptable to Mr. LaPlante.
- Mr. LaPlante recommended implementing improvements to Thornwood Park, such as improved lighting and sidewalks.
- Commissioner Ferrari agreed with Commissioner Panici, stating that a complete study is desired, but instant relief is needed by the residents. He stated his concern with “during school days” on the restriction, because everyone may not know if school is in session.
- It was agreed that the parking restriction will be limited to Monday through Friday.
- Commissioner Ferrari asked where busses and trucks entering Greenwood turn around. It was noted that they turn around in the school area.
- Commissioner Gosh agreed with the consensus that the “No Parking from 8:00 AM to 10:00 AM, except by permit” parking restriction would be acceptable.
- Chairman Swanson pointed out that of all of the schools in Wilmette, Harper School is one of the toughest for parking, because there is no parking lot for teachers.
- Commissioner Panici agreed with the 8:00 AM to 10:00 AM restriction, but also mentioned her concern with the PM congestion. If the afternoon pick up congestion continues, the issue should be brought back to the Commission.
- An anonymous resident asked if the restriction could be reviewed within one year. Chairman Swanson stated that the restrictions are revocable and that residents can ask to remove the restriction at any time. The request needs to be brought to the Commission for consideration.
- Chairman Swanson also stated that the residents could petition to limit parking to one side of the street. The Commission would likely support this restriction if there is at least 50% support from the residents.

**Motion to recommend permit parking from 8:00 AM to 10:00 AM, Monday through Friday for the 2500 block of Greenwood.**

**Motion by:** Commissioner Ferrari  
**Second:** Commissioner Schlickman

**Discussion:** None

**Action:** **Approved by unanimous voice vote**

#### **4. Green Bay Road Traffic Study**

- Chairman Swanson recognized Mr. LaPlante, TY Lin International, who reviewed Alternatives A & B for the intersection of Lake Avenue and Green Bay Road. After reviewing the pros and cons of each alternative, Mr. LaPlante recommended Alternative B, which calls for a five lane section on Lake Avenue, across Green Bay Road.
- A discussion took place concerning the pedestrian crossing time and distance. Mr. LaPlante stated both alternatives provide adequate crossing time for pedestrians.
- Chairman Swanson indicated that Alternative B should show the taper along the north curb line of Lake Avenue, west of Green Bay Road.
- Commissioner Ferrari asked if this plan would effect any of the requirements for the proposed Train Whistle Ban.
- Commissioner Schlickman stated that current regulations allow Wilmette to be a quiet zone. In order to remain a quiet zone, improvements may need to be implemented to at least one of the crossings.
- Mr. LaPlante stated that the railroad crossing improvements are independent of the signal and roadway geometry changes proposed in this plan.
- Commissioner Ferrari asked where the queue began in each of the proposals. Mr. LaPlante stated at the stop bars.
- Chairman Swanson asked that the plan show how far the queues extend with each alternative. This will show the benefits of implementing Alternative B, instead of A.
- Chairman Swanson stated that the Village Board of Trustees should review the meeting minutes to get an understanding of the details of the plan and the Commission's discussions.
- Chairman Swanson requested that the entire recommendation including meeting minutes be presented to the Village Board. Mr. LaPlante will prepare the final materials and present them to Chairman Swanson and the Director of Engineering for final review.

**Motion to recommend that Alternative B (the five lane pavement section on Lake Avenue) and the improvements for Green Bay Road previously discussed, be presented to the Village Board for approval.**

**Motion by:** Commissioner Schlickman

**Second:** Commissioner Ferrari

**Discussion:** None

**Action:        Approved by unanimous voice vote**

**4.    Old Business / Pending Matters**

The following items were briefly discussed:

- Chairman Swanson wished to thank Commissioner Schlickman for his participation on the Commission.
- Commissioner Schlickman indicated that it was a privilege to have served with everyone on the Commission. He stated the Commission has always achieved fair results and that it should continue to provide this service to the community.
- Commissioner Panici provided an observation that during the Lake Avenue tree trimming west of Locust Road, there was a solid lane of westbound traffic with no gaps to turn left. She concluded that one lane should not be considered for Lake Avenue, west of Hunter Road.

*Next meeting scheduled for Wednesday, March 10, 2004 at 7:00 p.m.*

***Motion to adjourn.***

**Motion by:**            Commissioner Panici

**Action:**                **Approved by unanimous voice vote.**

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Jorge Cruz, P.E.