

Minutes of the Transportation Commission Meeting held on Wednesday, March 10, 2004 at 7:00 p.m. in the Training Room at Village Hall, 1200 Wilmette Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois 60091.

Members Present: Alan Swanson, Chairman
Neil Ferrari
Eileen Miller-Girson
Jim Grosh
Barbara Lusky
Clay Weaver

Members Absent: Amy Panici

Staff Present: Brigitte Mayerhofer, P. E., Director of Engineering
Lisa Roberts, Assistant Director,
Community Development
Linda Reilley, Engineering Assistant II
Brian King, Deputy Police Chief

Also Present: Lois Abrahamson, 2532 Thornwood
Roland Abrahamson, 2532 Thornwood
John Plante, 1004 Oakwood
Bob Kumaki, 2526 Thornwood
Joanna Ozga, 2531 Thornwood
Linda Relias, 2500 Kenilworth
John Relias, 2500 Kenilworth
Jody Franson, 2327 Kenilworth
Raymond Baxter, 2541 Thornwood

1. Review of Minutes

Chairman Swanson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Motion to approve the February 11, 2004 minutes.

Motion by: Commissioner Lusky

Second: Commissioner Ferrari

Discussion: Modified as noted

Action: **Approved by unanimous voice vote**

2. Bicycle Task Force December 3, 2003 Minutes and Pending Issues

- Chairman Swanson stated the minutes have been previously approved. He also mentioned that several businesses in Wilmette are interested in expanding the coupon program.

3. Petition for Permit Parking (8 a.m. – 10 a.m.) on the 1000 block of Oakwood Avenue

Chairman Swanson thanked residents for attending the meeting and invited public comment.

- The Chairman recognized Mr. John Plante, 1004 Oakwood, who stated that commuters often use Oakwood as an alternative to paying for a metered parking space. He said the parked cars often make entering and exiting his driveway difficult.
- Chairman Swanson stated the parking density counts do not meet the warrants for permit parking.
- A discussion ensued concerning the exception noted in the permit parking section of the Village Code. Chairman Swanson stated he does not believe the exception applied in this case because a written request was not received from the Police Chief and Engineering Director.
- The Commission agreed that exceptions to the Village Code should not be made. Staff was directed to continue to take an inventory of parked cars, including a license plate survey. This information will be reviewed at the next meeting.

4. Traffic Calming on Kenilworth and Thornwood Avenues

- Chairman Swanson recognized Ms. Mayerhofer who provided an update on the Village's traffic calming efforts to date. She presented the revised traffic calming plan, which includes speed humps that are more evenly spaced between the two streets.
- Given the number of speed humps in the proposed plan and the limited budget, the Commission discussed a phasing plan over two years.
- John Relias, 2500 Kenilworth Avenue, stated that a phasing plan would not work. He said something needs to be done, even before the humps are installed and mentioned enforcement as the immediate remedy. He stated the four way stop on Kenilworth is not enforced by the Police Department.
- Deputy Chief King responded by saying that the four way stop is not warranted per the criteria set by federal standards. This makes it

difficult to enforce in court. The Police Department provides as much speed enforcement as possible on Kenilworth and Thornwood, but also has requests from other areas in town.

- The Commission provided the residents other options to Police enforcement, including the speed trailer, radar gun and parking cars on the street.
- Ms. Judith Franzen, 2327 Kenilworth Avenue, asked what car the Police Department used for surveillance. She stated that Police cars are noticeable from a distance and therefore cars will slow down.
- Mr. Bob Kumaki, 2526 Thornwood said there are three times more cars on these streets as there are children at Harper School. Chairman Swanson responded stating most homes in Wilmette have at least two vehicles and the average house generates ten trips per day.
- Mr. Roland Abrahamson, 2532 Thornwood Avenue, asked how many speed humps are on Locust Road, to which the Commission responded “three”. Locust Road also is shorter and has other geometry considerations, which lead to fewer speed humps.
- Commissioner Weaver asked how Public Works responds to plowing the humps. Ms. Mayerhofer stated they have not had a problem with Locust Road and Manor Drive.
- A discussion regarding the process indicated the next step is to send a survey to the residents of the block. The policy requires that 60-percent of the households on the block be in favor of the plan before it is implemented. The Commission will review the results and take additional public comment at the next meeting. The Village Board will then decide if the construction should be funded.

Motion to send a survey to the residents of Thornwood and Kenilworth Avenues regarding the traffic calming plan, including Phase I (three humps east of Cleveland) and Phase II (remaining humps.)

Motion by: Commissioner Ferrari
Second: Commissioner Grosh
Action: **Approved by unanimous voice vote**

- Staff was directed to include the following items in the survey letter: suggestion that residents drive Locust Road and Manor Drive, digital pictures, field markings of the actual locations, statement informing residents that lack of response counts as a “no” vote.

5. PACE Bus Routes

- Chairman Swanson introduced Ms. Lisa Roberts, Assistant Director of Community Development, who provided a history and purpose of the PACE study.
- Commissioner Miller-Girson stated that she believes the bus drivers may not all be tuned in to the train schedule. Commissioner Ferrari recalled that busses are intended to arrive ten minutes prior to the train departures, but often times riders try to catch the previous trains.
- The markets that the rail and bus service serves are primarily commuters, students, day workers and seniors.
- Chairman Swanson stated that the New Trier students prefer PACE over school buses, stating the Lake Avenue connection is important.
- It was mentioned that the condition and number of the PACE shelters could be improved. Commissioner Weaver stated that this is typically the responsibility of the local agency.
- A brief discussion ensued concerning fares and transfer fares.

6. Old Business

- Ms. Mayerhofer provided information about the Municipal Services Committee meeting the night prior, stating that the Committee endorsed the proposal of the Transportation Commission for Green Bay Road Traffic Signal Improvements. The public hearing to continue the discussion is scheduled for April 13, 2004, prior to the Village Board meeting.

The Chairman welcomed Commissioner Clayton Weaver and Commissioner Eileen Miller-Girson who were approved by the Board of Trustees on March 9th.

The April 14 and May 12 meetings were cancelled. The next meeting will be on April 28, 2004 at 7:00 p.m.

Motion to adjourn.

Motion by: Commissioner Ferrari

Second: Commissioner Lusky

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Brigitte Mayerhofer.