

Minutes of the Transportation Commission Meeting held on Wednesday, August 11, 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
Linda Reilley, Engineering Assistant II
George Carpenter, Police Chief
Don George, Parking Enforcement Officer

Also Present: Rick Sweitzer, 219 Sixteenth
Douglas Swanson, 602 Fifth
George W. Randall, 432 Linden
Chris Portele, 606 Fifth
Eric Roderick, 606 Fifth
Cathy Cuccio, 600 Fifth
Jim Barnes, 1120 Greenleaf
Sam Conrad, 112 Linden
Geoff Wilsson, 1232 Central

Chairman Swanson called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

1. Review of Minutes

Motion to approve the April 28, 2004 minutes.

Motion by: Commissioner Lusky

Second: Commissioner Weaver

Discussion: None

Action: **Approved by unanimous voice vote**

2. Petition from residents of the 400 block of Greenleaf and the 600 blocks of 4th and 5th Streets for "Two-hour parking restrictions, seven days a week, except by permit."

- Chairman Swanson recognized Linda Reilley who presented the petition, including a review of past minutes and the existing parking restrictions on Greenleaf, 5th and 6th Streets.
- Chairman Swanson stated that the current use of the Bahaii Home may be reviewed by the Zoning Board, therefore the Commission will not recommend any changes to parking until the zoning review is complete.
- Doug Swanson, 602 5th Street, said this is his second time before the Commission. He is not in favor of any changes to parking on 5th Street, because the current configuration offers some flexibility.
- Chris Portell, 606 5th Street, stated there would be spillover parking if the parking changed on Greenleaf.
- Cathy Cuccio, 606 5th Street, concurred with her neighbors.
- Sam Conrad, property manager for the Bahaii Home, stated the activity level at the Home is reduced from previous years. Mr. Conrad explained that there are three weekend services with approximately six to twenty participants. He said that when the home for the aged was active, there was more traffic because of visitors. The Bahaii Home is opposed to any parking changes on Greenleaf.
- Jim Barnes, 1120 Greenleaf, said that the presumption that the Bahaii Home is causing parking problems is inaccurate. He mentioned there are many other events that cause parking congestion in the area.
- Chairman Swanson thanked the residents for attending the meeting and reiterated that the Commission will not recommend any changes to parking at this time.

3. Request from Rick Sweitzer, 1124 Greenleaf for “All Night Parking” privileges for his tenants

- Chairman Swanson recognized Ms. Mayerhofer who provided a summary of the memo and background information that was provided in the agenda packets.
- Mr. Sweitzer stated that the parking problem has existed for years. He applied for a curb cut and parking pad for a similar property next door that was approved by the Village and installed. When applying for a parking pad at 1124 Greenleaf, he stated that there was a change in Community Development’s process that required him to receive Appearance Review Commission (ARC) approval for a curb cut. He has since been to the ARC twice for approval and denied both times. Mr. Sweitzer stated he appeared before the Village Board to appeal and was told to go back to the ARC with a revised site plan.
- Chairman Swanson asked if the parking pad would be similar to the one next door. Mr. Sweitzer stated “yes.”

- Chairman Swanson asked the petitioner to explain the uses of the two buildings in question.
- Mr. Sweitzer explained that the building at 1128 Greenleaf is single family with an office in the back. 1124 Greenleaf has two apartments in the main building and a garage and apartment in the rear building. There are two parking spaces in the rear of the property.
- Chairman Swanson asked where his tenants park now. Mr. Sweitzer stated the two spaces are used by two of the tenants and the third tenant finds parking in an overnight lot or the 1100 block of Greenleaf.
- Commissioner Grosh asked if the off-site available parking has been working, to which Mr. Sweitzer stated it is unacceptable because there are other available options. He stated his tenant is a mother with children, which makes off-site parking very inconvenient.
- Commissioner Ferrari asked what the process for obtaining a curb cut was. Ms. Mayerhofer explained that the driveway in the right-of-way is approved by the Engineering Department and the driveway on private property is reviewed by the Community Development Department. In this case, the mixed zoning, requires that the Appearance Review Commission review the driveway.
- Commissioner Ferrari asked what the problems were with the curb cut. Ms. Mayerhofer stated that the ARC was concerned with the back end of a vehicle hanging over the sidewalk, the loss of on-street spaces and the pedestrian conflict with vehicles backing across the sidewalk.
- The Commission concurred that the loss of three on-street parking spaces as stated in the ARC minutes was over estimated. Chairman Swanson stated that by his observation, there would likely be only a loss of two spaces at the most.
- Chief George Carpenter stated he was very concerned with the precedent of approving permits for overnight, on-street parking spaces.
- Chairman Swanson stated that he did not believe the Commission had the authority to approve the request being made by Mr. Sweitzer. Ms. Mayerhofer stated that the action would be in the form of a recommendation to the Village Board.
- It was clarified that the petitioner was requesting overnight parking passes for his tenants only. The Commission agreed that this request is difficult to justify because of the precedent involved.
- Mr. Sweitzer stated that there was permit parking all over town. Chairman Swanson explained the purpose of permit parking as defined by the Village Code.
- The Commission discussed other options for Mr. Sweitzer's tenants, including renting spaces from the adjacent apartments and utilizing Village lots.

- Commissioner Weaver asked Don George what the overnight usage was in the overnight lots. Mr. George responded that the lots are approximately 25% occupied.
- Mr. Sweitzer stated there are security issues with walking at night.

Motion to deny the petitioner’s request based on the Commission’s belief that they lack the authority to approve overnight parking passes and are concerned with the precedent such action would set.

Motion by: Commissioner Lusky
Second: Commissioner Weaver
Action: **Approved by unanimous voice vote**

6. Old Business

- Chairman Swanson mentioned the letter from CATS, indicating the Village was successful in receiving a grant for the resignalization along Green Bay Road.
- Ms. Mayerhofer provided information about a resident request to make Pinecrest one-way, given that it is a half right-of-way and only wide enough for one vehicle at a time. In addition, the volumes are extremely low on Pinecrest. Based on this information, the Commission did not state any objections to making Pinecrest one-way.

The next meeting will be on September 8, 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 8:25 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Brigitte Mayerhofer.