

Minutes of the Transportation Commission Meeting held on Wednesday, February 9, 2005 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
Jim Grosh
Amy Panici
Barbara Lusky
Clay Weaver

Members Absent: Eileen Miller-Girson

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

Also Present: Scott Goldstein, 1426 Lake
Megumi Sakaie, 2521 Thornwood
Jamie Kost, 2319 Thornwood
Roland & Lois Abrahamson, 2532 Thornwood
Joe Stoker, 1212 Princeton Place
Lynn Nord, 1221 Princeton Place
Raymond Baxter, 2541 Thornwood
James Cohn, 2511 Thornwood
Helen Franz, 2415 Thornwood
Jeff Kost, 2319 Thornwood

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

1. Review of Minutes

Motion to approve the January 12, 2005 minutes.

Motion by: Commissioner Ferrari

Second: Commissioner Weaver

Discussion: Corrections as noted

Action: Approved by unanimous voice vote

2. Traffic Calming on Kenilworth and Thornwood Avenues

- Chairman Swanson welcomed everyone and asked Ms. Mayerhofer to provide some background on this issue. Ms. Mayerhofer summarized the information in the agenda packets

and stated that the traffic calming plan is being reviewed one final time before being sent to the residents for a vote.

- Ms. Helen Franz, 2415 Thornwood, complained about the lack of parking enforcement on her street and stated there have not been any accidents so traffic calming is a waste of money. Chairman Swanson explained the procedure for being considered for traffic calming indicating this is not an arbitrary process. A request to review speed and volume was made by the residents of these blocks, which resulted in the Village conducting a traffic study. The 85-percentile speeds were documented as seven miles per hour over the posted speed limit (one case as high as 39 miles per hour) and the volumes were greater than 1200 vehicles per day. The results concluded that Kenilworth and Thornwood meet the eligibility criteria outlined in the traffic calming policy.
- Ms. Franz continued to say that she can't see volume as an issue, because the school hasn't changed for a long time. She said her child will not be able to get over the humps with a tricycle and that cars often park near her driveway, blocking her in. Chairman Swanson stated that if cars are parked illegally, the Police Department should be notified so they can send their parking enforcement officer to issue a citation.
- Lois Abrahamson, 2532 Thornwood, recalled that the volumes on Thornwood were in the range of 1600 to 1800 vehicles and that many people cut-through to and from the Edens Expressway.
- Megumi Sakaie, 2521 Thornwood, said that in Great Britain speed humps are being removed because of problems with emergency vehicles. Chairman Swanson stated that to his knowledge, this has not been a problem in the other two areas within the Village where speed humps exist. She also asked about ADA accessibility and increased air pollution. Chairman Swanson explained the humps were approximately one-half of the maximum allowable slope according to ADA regulations and that the slight increase in air emissions is not a good argument for higher speeds on local streets.
- Commissioner Ferrari stated that many of the neighbors on Kenilworth and Thornwood believe that lower speeds and less traffic improves their quality of life.
- A discussion ensued concerning the difference between street classifications and why Lake Avenue is not eligible for traffic calming.
- Commissioner Lusky stated that the Commission is proactive with many traffic-related items, but ultimately they respond to the resident's needs, which is why the Village will send out a household survey.
- James Cohn, 2511 Thornwood, said this is not a new issue, but one that was before the Commission ten years ago.

- The Commission discussed the expected speeds over speed humps. Ms. Mayerhofer presented data from the Institute of Transportation Engineers, which states that 85-percentile speeds of 19 mph were observed for humps 3 ½ inches in height. Humps that were 3-inches in height had typical speeds of 21 mph. She stated that on Manor Drive, the first three humps were 3-inches in height, and that they were not very effective. The additional two humps on Manor Drive and the three humps on Locust Road are all 3 ½ inches high and appear to be more effective in reducing speed.
- Joe Stoker of 1212 Princeton Place believes he should also receive a vote, because he has to drive over them every day. He believes that drivers will speed up in between the humps and possibly use the curb lane to avoid the humps.
- Jamie Kost, 2319 Thornwood, said she opposes speed humps and their installation will reduce her quality of life.
- Rose Abrahamson, 2532 Thornwood, stated there were several homes for sale and vacant. Staff was directed to speak with Corporation Counsel to clarify how their votes would be counted.
- A discussion occurred regarding what happens if one street votes for traffic calming and the other street doesn't. Chairman Swanson stated that the results of the resident vote will be discussed at a future meeting where options would be considered.
- A discussion about adding more humps took place. The "before and after" counts will indicate where additional humps might need to be added. Commissioner Lusky commented that this plan is a starting point, but may need subsequent changes similar to Manor Drive.
- A resident asked if information on speed humps increasing safety could be provided.

Motion to have staff prepare a resident survey for Kenilworth and Thornwood Avenues to install speed humps per the discussed plan.

Motion by: Commissioner Panici
Second: Commissioner Ferrari
Action: Approved by unanimous voice vote

- The Commission reviewed the traffic calming list for new locations and suggested Washington, west of Ridge, may be a possible candidate. Staff will update traffic counts when the spring weather returns.

3. Old Business / New Business

- Ms. Mayerhofer provided updates on the Green Bay Road and Lake Avenue projects.
- Scott Goldstein commented that the proposal on the table for Lake Avenue achieves what the residents want, which is to slow traffic.
- Commissioner Weaver asked staff to look at the intersection of Park and Wilmette Avenues, particularly the southbound and northbound movements.
- Chairman Swanson introduced and welcomed the two new candidates to the Commission: Paul Chouinard and Mark Wagstaff.
- Chairman Swanson also recognized Commissioners Ferrari and Lusky for all that they have contributed to the Commission.
- ***The next meeting is scheduled for March 9, 2005.***

Motion to adjourn.

Motion by: Commissioner Lusky
Second: Commissioner Ferrari
Action: Approved by unanimous voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Brigitte Mayerhofer.