

Minutes of the Transportation Commission Meeting held on Wednesday, April 13, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. in the Training Room at Village Hall, 1200 Wilmette Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois 60091.

Members Present: Alan Swanson, Chairman
Paul Chouinard
Jim Grosh
Eileen Miller-Girson
Amy Panici
Clay Weaver
Mark Wagstaff

Members Absent: None

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

Also Present: Julie Olson, 2828 Blackhawk
Martin McConahay, Business Manager,
Wilmette School District 39
Suzanne Franklin, 905 Ottawa
Mirjam Smeekes, 60 Indian Hill
Kathy Jackson, 918 Locust
Kari Roeber, 2831 Blackhawk
Mimi Brault, 2619 Kenilworth
Raymond Baxter, 2541 Thornwood
Maryann Shafter, 2822 Blackhawk
Jody Franson, 2327 Kenilworth
Teresa Grant, 2836 Blackhawk
David Tingué, 915 Shabona
Suzie Van Cleave, 730 Ninth
Carolyn Rutstein, 910 Locust
Cindy Rawlings, 916 Chippewa
Sally Turner, 2636 Blackhawk
Colleen & Bill Quinlan, 1111 Locust

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

1. Review of Minutes

Motion to approve the February 9, 2005 minutes.

Motion by: Commissioner Panici

Second: Commissioner Weaver
Discussion: None
Action: Approved by unanimous voice vote

2. Review of Bike Task Force Meeting Minutes

3. School Crossing at Lake Avenue and Locust / Illinois Roads

- Chairman Swanson introduced Brigitte Mayerhofer who provided a summary of the information in the packets. Ms. Mayerhofer explained several safety improvements at Lake and Locust have already been implemented, including the “No Right Turn on Red” signage and the school zone/reduced speed limit signs. The County is currently reviewing the idea of installing a two to four second leading pedestrian indicator. Ms. Mayerhofer concluded her comments by saying the focus on the discussions is whether or not a crossing guard is warranted at Lake Avenue and Locust Road.
- Chairman Swanson introduced Ms. Julie Olson, 2828 Blackhawk, who provided a summary of the petition and supporting information in the packets. She described the parent survey conducted by District 39 which had a 75-percent response rate. She stated there are over 2000 students within a very small radius and many of them cross Lake Avenue, which is one of the highest volume arterials in the Village. She said the intersection puts children and cars in the intersection at the same time, which is very dangerous and has resulted in several near misses and one child being hit.
- Maryann Shafter, 2822 Blackhawk, thanked Julie Olson and Sue Franklin for all of their efforts and said crossing Lake Avenue is terrifying.
- Colleen Quinlan, 1111 Locust Road, lives only a couple blocks from school, but does not let her child walk because of the unsafe condition.
- Martin McConahay, School District 39, provided a hand out of households with children in District 39.
- Chairman Swanson asked about the possibility of the school district helping out with a substitute list of crossing guards, in case one was absent. Martin McConahay, School District 39, stated that while school employees are competent at supervising children, they do not have the same confidence with cars and trucks. The Commission concurred that if school employees were utilized, they would have to be adequately trained by the Police Department.
- Mimi Brault, 2619 Kenilworth Avenue, said her child walks out of his way to cross at a location where there is a guard, to avoid the

intersection of Lake / Locust. She also said the sun for eastbound drivers in the morning is a problem.

- Cindy Rawlings, 916 Chippewa, stated the level of traffic continually increases and there is a lot of construction traffic.
- Commissioner Chouinard asked what hours the crossing guard would work because of the staggered start and end times at Wilmette Junior High, Highcrest and Regina. Ron Andrews stated the guard would be present at least 1 ½ hours to 1 hour 45 minutes to cover all the students.
- Commissioner Panici stated the crossing guard policy recommends an age for crossing guards to be present (ages 5 to 9) but does not exclude other ages. She discussed the data collected at the other intersections and concluded that the intersection of Lake Avenue and Locust Road is a unique case and warrants a crossing guard.
- Commissioner Weaver stated that the addition of left turn lanes would be most desirable, but in the absence of public support for structural changes, the crossing guard is the next best option. Commissioner Weaver stated he is concerned that the leading pedestrian indicator may make students targets for cars that are not familiar with the signal delay.
- Commissioners Girson and Grosh expressed concern for the safety of the intersection and their support for the addition of a crossing guard.
- A discussion of how soon the crossing guard could be mobilized took place. The Police Department indicated that it costs the Village approximately \$7500 per year for one guard. The Police Department will review their budget and provide a guard at their earliest opportunity.
- Chairman Swanson stated that the policy does allow for older students to receive crossing guard assistance and that counts should not be the only criteria for determining where guards should be placed. He believes the intersection in question is unique and dangerous enough to warrant a crossing guard. He concluded by stating the leading pedestrian indicator would be beneficial especially if a guard is present.

Motion to institute a crossing guard at the intersection of Lake Avenue and Locust Road in the morning and afternoon to cover the school times for Wilmette Junior High and Highcrest and to be done as soon as possible.

Motion by: Commissioner Panici
Second: Eileen Miller-Girson
Action: Approved by unanimous voice vote

- If funding were an issue for the current school year, Martin McConahay suggested the PTA's may agree to make a donation to the Police Department.
- Commissioner Panici stated that this should be advertised on WCTV, in the *Communicator* and other venues.

4. Review of Traffic Calming Results on Kenilworth and Thornwood Avenues

- Chairman Swanson introduced Ms. Reilley who provided the results of the traffic calming survey. Both streets passed with results just over the required 60-percent. The next step is to take baseline traffic counts before school ends. The humps will be installed this summer. After several months, counts will be taken again and then compared to the baseline counts to determine if the humps are effective.

5. Old Business / Pending Matters / Next Meeting

- The next meeting is scheduled for May 11, 2005
- Agenda will include review of a petition for permit parking on the 300 and 400 blocks of Park Avenue.

6. Feedback

- None

Motion to adjourn.

Motion by: Commissioner Miller-Girson

Second: Commissioner Grosh

Action: Approved by unanimous voice vote.

All those present thanked and congratulated Chairman Swanson on his successful term as Chairman of the Commission and wished him well as a Village Trustee.

The meeting adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Brigitte Mayerhofer.