

Minutes of the Transportation Commission Meeting held on Wednesday, May 11, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. in the Training Room at Village Hall, 1200 Wilmette Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois 60091.

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

Members Absent: None

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: Rita & Kent Heitzinger, 400 Park
Steve Yousha, 418 Park
Kate Thomas, 420 Park
D. Adam Zoghlin, 406 Park

Chairperson Panici called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

1. Review of Minutes

Motion to approve the April 13, 2005 minutes.

Motion by: Commissioner Weaver

Second: Commissioner Grosh

Discussion: None

Action: Approved by unanimous voice vote

2. Review of Bike Task Force Meeting Minutes

- Ms. Reilley provided an update on the events of the Bike Task Force including the Bike to Soccer day which is May 21. Ms. Mayerhofer stated that President Canning read a proclamation naming May as Bike Month at the May 10th Village Board meeting. Chairperson Schofer followed President Canning's comments with a statement on bike safety and the importance of wearing helmets. A discussion ensued concerning the presence

of bikes in the central business district. A retailer expressed concern that riders on the sidewalk were causing conflicts with pedestrians. This issue will be discussed at the Bike Task Force meeting on May 12th.

3. Petition for Permit Parking for the 300 and 400 Blocks of Park Avenue

- Chairperson Panici opened the discussion by asking Linda Reilley to provide a summary of the petition. Ms. Reilley stated she was contacted by a resident in the 400 block of Park Avenue who was seeking relief from having to move his parked car every four hours. There is currently a four hour parking limit on the east side of the 400 block of Park Avenue. The west side of the 300 and 400 blocks is “No parking, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.” The four hour restriction is in place to discourage all-day on-street parking by commuters. Ms. Reilley conveyed that resident permit parking was an option and requested that a petition be submitted. Chairperson Panici asked if the residents had any comments.
- Steve Yousha, 418 Park Avenue, stated he only has a narrow driveway, so he typically has at least one parked car on the street. He said it is cumbersome to have to move his vehicle every four hours.
- Kate Thomas, 420 Park Avenue, stated that she supports her neighbor’s request.
- Rita Heitzinger, 400 Park Avenue, said that whatever the solution, she hopes that commuters are not encouraged to park on the street.
- Adam Zoghlin, 406 Park Avenue, supports the petition, stating that four hour parking is burdensome.
- Chairperson Panici asked Don George about enforcement in the area. Mr. George stated he does not encourage selective enforcement, where time zones are mixed with permit parking. He stated that consistency in parking restrictions is a tremendous help when enforcing parking.
- Commissioner Chouinard stated he did not see any parking restrictions on the 300 block of Park Avenue. Ms. Reilley explained that there are parking restrictions on the west side of the 300 block of Park.
- Commissioner Weaver commented that he is concerned with parking around the curve. He stated that northbound cars are typically in the on-coming lane when traversing around parked cars on the curve. He also stated he was sympathetic to the petitioner’s request.

- Ken Heitzinger stated that traffic slows at the bend and accidents have not been a problem. Chief Carpenter concurred with this assessment, stating the problem is more perception than reality.
- Commissioner Wagstaff stated he would not want to make any changes that might shift parking to another location. In this case, there is an existing four hour restriction, so commuters and long term parkers are not currently parking on these blocks of Park Avenue. After some discussion, it was determined that typically only residents on the block are utilizing Park Avenue for on-street parking.
- A discussion ensued concerning the existing parking restriction on Oakwood. It was suggested that the residents of Park may want to talk to the residents of Oakwood concerning lifting the current restriction.
- Commissioner Grosh stated that parked cars calm traffic on Park Avenue and he believes residents should be able to park in front of their homes.
- Commissioner Miller-Girson stated that safety should be the most important consideration.
- Chairperson Panici continued the discussion by stating she does not believe that parking along the curve is a problem and that parked cars are an effective traffic calming technique. She continued to state that designer parking is difficult to enforce and therefore any changes should be consistent with the area. She offered the suggestion of “No Parking, 8 a.m. to 10 a.m., except by Permit” as an alternative.
- After a brief discussion and clarification of the proposed parking change, the residents expressed their support. Chairperson Panici stated that this change is the first step and that if it doesn’t work, residents can come back to the Commission.

Motion to change the parking restriction on the east side of the 300 and 400 blocks of Park Avenue to “No parking, 8 a.m. to 10 a.m., except by permit, Monday through Friday.”

Motion by: Commissioner Miller-Girson

Second: Commissioner Grosh

Action: Approved by unanimous voice vote

- Ms. Reilly will send a letter notifying the residents of the change. New signage will be installed within the next three weeks.

4. Review of Village-Wide School Crossing Guards

- Chairperson Panici asked Chief Carpenter to provide a summary of the memo prepared by Ron Andrews. Chief Carpenter stated

that Highcrest continues to be a challenge because of the large number of students and geometry of the streets in the area. He praised the current crossing guard team, stating they are hard working and dedicated. Chief Carpenter concluded by stating the Police Department is not suggesting any changes for the 2005/06 school year.

- A discussion of child counts ensued. There are a low number of students crossing at Skokie Boulevard and Wilmette Avenue. Chairman Panici suggested bringing this concern to the attention to the Civics and Safety Committee for Romona School.
- Chairman Panici asked Chief Carpenter how many times throughout the year that officers have to cover a crossing guard shift. Chief Carpenter stated there were 100 police substitutions in the past school year.

Motion to keep the school crossing guard program as described in the memo prepared by Ron Andrews, dated May 3, 2005.

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

5. Old Business / Pending Matters / Next Meeting

- There is nothing pending so the next meeting is tentatively scheduled for June 8, 2005.

6. Feedback

- None

Motion to adjourn.

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Brigitte Mayerhofer.