

Minutes of the Transportation Commission Meeting held on Wednesday, February 8, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. in the Second Floor Training Room at Village Hall, 1200 Wilmette Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois 60091.

Members Present: Amy Panici, Chairperson
Paul Chouinard
Clay Weaver
Jim Grosh
Mark Wagstaff
Rachel Nocera

Members Absent: Eileen Miller-Girson

Staff Present: Brigitte Mayerhofer, P.E., Director of Engineering
Linda Reilley, Engineering Assistant
George Carpenter, Police Chief
Ron Andrews, Police Department

Also Present: John LaPlante, TY Lin International
Rick Dean, 921 Twelfth Street

Chairperson Panici called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

1. Review of Minutes

Motion to approve the January 11, 2006 minutes.

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

2. Review of Bike Task Force Meeting Minutes

- No discussion

3. 900 Block of Twelfth Street—Petition for Permit Parking

- Chairperson Panici welcomed the residents and asked staff to provide a description of the agenda materials. Ms. Reilley indicated the 900 block of Twelfth Street is the only street in the area that is not already permit parking. She stated it is eligible for resident

permit parking because it is within ½ mile of a transportation center (Metra station) per the requirements of the Village Code.

- Rick Dean, 921 Twelfth Street, stated that up until recently, he had been receiving permits to park on his block. The signage does not say that permit parking is available, however.
- Chairperson Panici asked staff why the permits were provided to the residents in the 900 block of Twelfth Street. Ms. Reilley indicated this was done in error.

Motion recommending the 900 block of Twelfth Street be signed as resident permit parking. The existing time zone restrictions will remain.

Motion by: Commissioner Nocera
Second: Commissioner Wagstaff
Discussion: None
Action: **Approved by unanimous voice vote**

4. **First Presbyterian Church Pre-School**

- Chairperson Panici introduced this issue and asked staff to summarize the information in the agenda packets. Ms. Mayerhofer explained that the pre-school petition was referred to the Commission from the Zoning Board of Appeals. The Commission is asked to review the drop-off and pick-up circulation patterns for the school. Ms. Mayerhofer also mentioned there is an existing illegal fence north of the alley that creates a site distance problem for vehicles exiting the alley. The Engineering Department is working with the Code Enforcement Officer to seek compliance.
- The petitioner, Leona Andre, 5757 North Ridgemoor, Chicago, IL, introduced herself and explained some details about the pre-school. She indicated she is licensed for twenty-four students in the morning and twenty-four in the afternoon. The times of the school are flexible, but currently she is planning on 9:00 to 11:30 in the morning and 12:30 to 3:00 in the afternoon. Ms. Andre indicated her preference is to have the parents bring the students into the school, rather than have staff greet the children at their cars.
- Mary Lyman, southeast corner of 8th and Central Avenue, indicated she is knowledgeable about traffic patterns in the neighborhood. She indicated there is an increase in traffic using the alleys. She stated there are significant back ups on Central Avenue because of the new traffic pattern at Central School. She concluded by saying adding another school will make an already difficult situation worse.

- Michael Tobin, 611 8th Street, stated cars speed down the alley. He also said children walk down the alley from time to time. He stated the parking lot is too small to accommodate the drop-off and pick-up for the school. Mr. Tobin recommends that Greenleaf be considered as the primary location for student drop-off.
- Ms. Andre stated she does not have a problem with using Greenleaf for drop-off and pick-up, but is concerned if the Commission makes her meet the students at the curb.
- Chairperson Panici stated the Commission's role will be limited to the best location for the parent drop-off and pick-up, rather than how the procedure will work.
- Commissioner Nocera asked how many parking spaces are available on Greenleaf, to which Ms. Mayerhofer indicated 23 spaces on both the north and south sides of the street.
- Mr. Tobin asked how the drop-off location would be enforced. Ms. Andre indicated she would communicate whatever is decided with the parents and guardians of her students.
- Mr. LaPlante stated that based on his limited knowledge of the school, it is always better to use a street rather than an alley for pick-up and drop-off purposes. He said in general, alleys should not be used for through traffic.
- Mr. Dean asked where the students would be coming from, to which Ms. Andre indicated she does not know yet.
- Commissioner Nocera indicated her experience at Kenilworth Union Church is that parent education is the most important element to making the procedure work properly. Commissioner Chouinard agreed, stating it is vital for the rules to be reinforced with the parents.
- Mr. LaPlante indicated the nice thing about a private school is that if the parents do not conform to the rules, the children can be asked to leave the school, whereas with a public school, this cannot be done.
- Commissioner Nocera asked if there is a crossing guard in the area, to which Ms. Reilley confirmed there is guard at Greenleaf and Ninth Street.

- Commissioner Wagstaff indicated he lives in the area and is familiar with the traffic patterns. He suggested that the parking lot off the alley is not designed to handle significant traffic and suggested that Greenleaf is a better location for drop-off and pick-up traffic because it is a wide street.
- Commissioner Grosh stated he likes the idea of the school staff greeting the kids at the curb.
- Commissioner Chouinard stated he is also concerned with using the alley for drop-off and pick-up traffic. He agrees with directing the school to use Greenleaf.
- Commissioner Nocera agreed with Commissioners Grosh and Chouinard.
- Commissioner Weaver stated he drives through this area every day and agrees that the alley is difficult to traverse because of its configuration. He could see cars double parking in the alley, which would be dangerous and an inconvenience for the residents. He concurs with using Greenleaf as the primary access for the pre-school.
- Chairperson Panici agreed with the rest of the Commissioners and stated the morning drop-off time should be late enough to miss the Central School traffic. She said Ms. Andre should work with the Police Department to determine the best time for pick-up in the afternoon.
- Commissioner Weaver mentioned the agreement that Ronald Knox Montessori School has with their parents. He said this is something the school should consider.
- Mr. Tobin thanked the Commission for reviewing this issue.
- Commissioner Chouinard suggested that signage be added to Greenleaf to indicate a designated pick-up / drop-off location. Mr. LaPlante suggested adding signage later, if lack of available parking becomes an issue.

Motion recommending that the Zoning Board of Appeals make it a condition of their approval that the north side of Greenleaf Avenue be the designated drop-off and pick-up area for the proposed pre-school at the First Presbyterian Church. It should be noted that drop-off and pick-up from the alley should not be allowed.

Motion by: Commissioner Chouinard
Second: Commissioner Nocera
Action: **Approved by unanimous voice vote.**

5. 2006 Traffic Calming --- Hunter Road

- Chairperson Panici introduced John LaPlante who provided a summary of the proposed traffic calming improvements on Hunter Road.
- Mr. LaPlante indicated he changed the plan to encourage parking on Hunter Road, because parked cars serve as a natural traffic calmer. He explained the raised crosswalk can be designed for any speed and will be handicapped accessible. Drainage will also be accommodated.
- Mr. LaPlante explained there would be a barrier median at the north leg of the Hunter Road and Lake Avenue intersection that could be planted with low growing plants. The location of the median could be moved to the north, to accommodate the existing driveway on the south end of Hunter Road as well as to accommodate a turning fire engine.
- Commissioner Weaver asked if cars turning left would use the striped area for staging. Mr. LaPlante indicated this would likely not happen because cars typically pull into the intersection to stage for left turns.
- Chairperson Panici indicated the edge-line striping should extend all the way north to Beechwood.
- Commissioner Nocera asked if the condition of a street affects speed. Mr. LaPlante indicated a street with many potholes will also encourage slower traffic, but a poor road surface is generally not a good way to calm traffic.
- A discussion ensued concerning the center roadway striping. It was determined the striping will end where the parking lane ends (at the east leg of Elmwood), so as not to confuse through traffic.
- Commissioner Wagstaff indicated he thought this was a good plan with well-thought out details. He asked about the offset sidewalk on the north side of the intersection with Lake Avenue. Ms. Mayerhofer indicated there is a change in right-of-way width in this

location. Mr. LaPlante indicated the sidewalk location is not a problem.

- Mr. LaPlante suggested that the Fire Department review the median location with the Fire Department to ensure that they can make the right turn from Lake Avenue.
- A discussion ensued concerning the speed hump size. It was determined that the raised crosswalk should be designed for 20 miles per hour, because of the school zone. The raised crosswalk will be striped with the “ladder” configuration and also have the striping and signage associated with a conventional speed hump.
- It was suggested that the Village’s landscape architect review possible plants for the center median.
- Ms. Mayerhofer indicated the next step is to invite the residents to the meeting in March to comment on the plan. Because there are so many homes with side and rear yard frontages on Hunter Road, it will not be an equitable voting process if the traffic calming policy is followed. Before the resident notice is sent out, Ms. Mayerhofer will talk to the Village Manager regarding the voting process for Hunter Road. It was suggested that once resident input is received, the plan be implemented without a formal vote.

6. Old Business / Pending Matters / Next Meeting

- Ms. Mayerhofer provided an update on the Village’s presentation to the Illinois Commerce Commission as well as the status of several developments in Wilmette.
- George Carpenter provided information about a bicycle accident at Isabella Street and Poplar Avenue and mentioned the passing of former crossing guard Sam Specter.
- Commissioner Nocera asked if the Village ever considered banning cell phone use. Chief Carpenter stated that he views cell phone use similar to other distractions.
- All members of the Commission thanked Chairperson Panici for her service and welcomed Commissioner Weaver as the new Chairman of the Commission.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 8, 2006. The tentative agenda includes traffic calming on Hunter Road and a review of the Trinity Church Nursery School.

Feedback

- None

Motion to adjourn.

Motion by: Commissioner Nocera

Second: Commissioner Wagstaff

Action: Approved by unanimous voice vote

The meeting adjourned at 9:26 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Brigitte Mayerhofer.