

Minutes of the Transportation Commission Meeting held on Wednesday, June 13, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. in the Second Floor Training Room at Village Hall, 1200 Wilmette Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois 60091.

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

Members Absent: Rachel Nocera
Cathy Albrecht

Staff Present: Linda Reilley, Engineering Assistant
Brian King, Deputy Police Chief
Don George, Parking Control Officer

Also Present: Eric Berliner, 1231-1233 Green Bay Road
Joe Fernim, 1521 Greenwood Avenue
Emmett Goff, 1625 Elmwood Avenue
Sue Pelzek, 1501 Greenwood Avenue
Jennifer Gervasio, 1501 Forest Avenue
Mark Fesser, 1466 Lake Avenue
Janet Mizener, 1600 Elmwood Avenue
Steel Bokhof, 1441 Forest Avenue

Chairman Weaver called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

1. Review of Minutes

Motion to approve the May 9, 2007 minutes.

Motion by: Commissioner Miller-Girson

Second: Commissioner Grosh

Discussion: None

Action: Approved by unanimous voice vote

2. Review of Bike Task Force minutes

- Ms. Reilley highlighted the activities of the Bicycle Task Force. She stated that although it is currently open, the Sheridan Road Bike Path grand opening is being planned for some future date this summer. The Transportation Commission will be invited to attend.

3. 1500 block Greenwood Avenue Permit Parking Petition

- Ms. Reilley introduced this item by stating that the residents of the 1500 block of Greenwood Avenue petitioned for “2-hour parking from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday-Saturday except by permit”. Engineering and Police Department staff met to review the current parking restrictions on the 1500 block of Greenwood and neighboring streets. The Police Department stated that there are problems enforcing a time zone mixed with residential permits and 2-hour parking. The 2-hour parking does not fit with the current configuration of the neighborhood in which “No parking 8 a.m.-10 a. m. Monday-Friday” is posted on the 1200 block of 16th Street and “No parking 8 a.m.-10 a.m. Monday-Friday except by permit” is posted on Glendenning. Staff’s recommendation is to deny the current petition and post “No Parking 8 a.m.-10 a.m. Monday-Friday except by permit”. This change would require the residents to submit a new petition which meets the requirements in Village Code Chapter 13-8.21.2 “Residential Streets May Be Posted.”
- Commissioner Weaver recognized Sue Pelzek, 1501 Greenwood Avenue. Ms. Pelzek stated that she was the resident responsible for getting the petition started. Her only concern with the proposed recommendation was that the gas station would take advantage of the no restriction after 10 a.m. and park his vehicles all day on this short block.
- Deputy Chief Brian King concurred that this was discussed at the staff meeting and concluded that the parking control officer will monitor this zone. He stated it is preferred to implement the least restrictive measure first and then evaluate the situation.
- Mr. Berliner, business owner at 1231-1233 Green Bay Road, stated that the parking on Green Bay works rather well.
- Mrs. Mizener, 1600 Elmwood Avenue, lives on the corner of Elmwood and the 1100 block of 16th Street. She is concerned about parking changes on the 1100 block of 16th Street.
- Chairman Weaver replied that we would like to see the neighborhood consistent. Currently, there are no restrictions on the 1100 block of 16th Street and none are being proposed.
- Mrs. Mizener stated that she was glad that this change will not affect her street.

Motion to deny the petition based on the recommendations provided by staff.

Motion by: Commissioner Miller-Girson

Second: Commissioner Chouinard

Action: Approved by unanimous voice vote

4. 2007 Traffic Calming Projects

- Chairman Weaver opened up this discussion by providing some background information on Central Park.
- Ms. Reilley discussed the updated traffic counts that were taken in May, 2007. She noted that the northbound traffic has 812 vehicles and the southbound traffic has 270 vehicles. These counts continue to show a significant imbalance in traffic flow. The geometry of Central Park makes it a natural cut-through route from Evanston. Ms. Reilley passed around an aerial map of Central Park to the Commission. The past studies of cut-through traffic in the Central Park neighborhood support this imbalance in traffic flow.
- Commissioner Chouinard asked how the other north / south streets are different from Central Park. Ms. Reilley indicated the traffic counts on Lawndale Avenue and 17th Street show that the heavier volumes are in the northbound direction. The traffic volumes on 17th Street are 369 vehicles traveling northbound and southbound the volume is 112. Lawndale Avenue has 517 vehicles traveling northbound and 391 traveling southbound. Discussion ensued about the peak volume of traffic and possible traffic calming measures.
- Chairman Weaver stated that the parking is on the west side of the street and suggested staggered parking to create a serpentine pattern that may help in deterring cut thru traffic.
- Commissioner Chouinard asked Deputy Chief King if the Police Department had an opinion or preference on staggered parking. Deputy Chief King answered no, but didn't know how effective staggered parking would be.
- Discussion ensued about the heavy traffic volume northbound and in what direction they are turning on Wilmette Avenue.
- Commissioner Wagstaff stated that he didn't think we needed to do anything based on the data, unless the staggered parking would make the speeds slower and less attractive as a cut through route.

Motion to stagger the parking on Central Park with additional traffic counts to be taken after the parking change. In addition, manual traffic counts to be taken on Central Park at Wilmette Avenue to determine the turning movements of vehicles.

Motion by: Commissioner Grosh

Second: Commissioner Miller-Girson

Action: Approved by majority voice vote with abstention from Commissioner Wagstaff.

- The Commission continued discussions of possible traffic calming on 15th Street (north of Lake Avenue) and the 1400 block of Forest Avenue. Residents commented on concerns related to speed, volume, and pedestrian safety. Traffic counts indicate high volumes and speeds

Approved at the August 8, 2007 Transportation Commission Meeting

on the 1400 block of Forest Avenue and on 15th Street between Lake and Forest Avenues. The Commission tabled recommending a formal plan until a traffic study could be conducted for 15th Street from Lake Avenue to Green Bay Road, and for Forest, Walnut and Elmwood Avenues from Ridge Road to Green Bay Road. In addition, they discussed the following options be considered:

1. A raised crosswalk on 15th Street at Forest Avenue.
2. Returning the 15th Street and the 1400 block of Forest Avenue back to brick.
3. Increase the height of the existing berms.
4. Manual traffic counts taken on Forest Avenue, east of Green Bay Road, recognizing that traffic on the 1400 block of Forest Avenue directly affects the traffic on 15th Street.

4. Old Business / Pending Matters / Next Meeting

- The next meeting is scheduled for July 11, 2007.

Motion to adjourn.

Motion by: Commissioner Wagstaff

Second: Commissioner Grosh

Action: Approved by unanimous voice vote

The meeting adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Linda Reilley