

Minutes of the Transportation Commission Meeting held on Wednesday, September 19, 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
Cathy Albrecht
Jim Grosh

Members Absent: Eileen Miller-Girson
Paul Chouinard
Mark Wagstaff

Staff Present: Brigitte Mayerhofer, P.E., Director of Engineering
Linda Reilley, Engineering Assistant
Don George, Parking Control Officer

Also Present: Stephen Allison, 122 Central Park
Guy Sellars, 104 Central Park
Lara Cleavy, 1709 Lake
Irv Johnson, 212 Central Park
Andrea Bennett, 229 Central Park
Ron Goldberg, 215 Central Park
Forbes Robertson, 1700 Lake
Jeremy Desilva, 219 Central Park
Don Sullivan, 216 Central Park
Michael Glynn, 115 Central Park
Jim Morton, 320 Central Park
Karen Novak, 310 Central Park
David Ouyang, 226 Central Park
Kim Johnson, 226 Central Park
Chris Bischoff, 114 Central Park
Resident, 220 Central Park
Resident, 205 Central Park

Chairman Weaver called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

1. Review of Minutes

Meeting minutes were not approved, as there was not a quorum.

2. Review of Bike Task Force minutes

- Ms. Reilley highlighted the activities of the Bicycle Task Force including acknowledgement of the Bike to Soccer event coming up on September 29, 2007.

3. 17th Street Petition for “No Parking 2 a.m. to 5 a.m.”

- Chair Weaver stated that absent a quorum, the Commission could not vote on any of the agenda items presented at the meeting.
- Mr. Robertson, the petitioner, cited safety as the primary concern for the petition. He stated many children cross the street in between cars and parents cannot park next to the curb to pick up and drop off children.
- Eva Barlys, 1629 Lake, said Mr. Robertson’s justification doesn’t make sense. She suggested that Mr. Robertson does not want her vehicles parked next to his home, which is why the petition was circulated. She provided a detailed account of on-going issues between her and her neighbor. Chair Weaver reminded everyone that social issues are not part of the discussion.
- Ms. Lara Cleary, 1709 Lake, also spoke on behalf of her neighbors at 1707 Lake and Jenny Green, who sent an e-mail. All of them object to the petition because they have a parking hardship. She stated they have small children and relocating cars is not an option. Parking far away on Ridge Road is a safety concern. Ms. Green’s e-mail, attached hereto, was read for the record.
- The parking restrictions in the area were discussed. Most of the area has overnight parking restrictions requested by petition and no parking 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. restrictions during the day.
- Ms. Barys said the public process doesn’t work because streets should be open to the public.
- Parking Enforcement Officer George stated that overnight guests can be accommodated by contacting the Police Department.
- Ms. Cleary stated that the road construction on 17th Street is making the situation worse. She indicated that aesthetic reasons should not be driving the request for overnight parking.
- Commissioner Albrecht asked Mr. George to explain the procedure to address abandoned cars, to which Mr. George did.
- Commissioner Albrecht stated that initially she expected this to be an easy request, but is sensitive to the hardship of the neighbors. She noted frustration for not being able to undo the restrictions previously requested.
- A discussion took place regarding the history of the parking restrictions. Staff does not have knowledge or record of why or when the other parking restrictions were approved.
- Commissioner Gosh suggested the entire area needed to be studied.
- Chair Weaver stated he did not see a compelling reason to change the parking restriction because the issues for the request have nothing to do with the restriction.
- This issue will be reconsidered in November or December.

4. Staggered Parking on Central Park

- Chair Weaver introduced this item by providing a history of the suggestion to stagger the parking on Central Park to try to reduce speed and discourage cut through traffic.
- Andrea Bennett, 229 Central Park, is against the staggered parking because of safety and visibility concerns.
- David Ouyang, 226 Central Park, is new on the block and also concerned for children safety. He believes cars weaving will be a problem.
- Kim Ouyang thought it would be best to give the idea a chance, but did not know how quickly it could be changed if it didn't work. Ms. Mayerhofer said the reversal could be easily accomplished.
- Chris Bischoff, 114 Central Park, stated the serpentine parking eliminates one problem but creates a new problem because of the visual barrier.
- Chair Weaver indicated the speed and volume of the street are close, but do not quite meet the eligibility criteria for traffic calming.
- Dan Sullivan, 216 Central Park, is glad the Commission recognizes the problem and asked about 8th Street. Ms. Reilley stated 8th Street was changed because of emergency vehicles not being able to get through.
- Karen Obek, 310 Central Park, stated the road is already narrow. She suggested speed humps would be a better option.
- Resident at 304 Central Park, said that if the street is on the bubble with respect to being eligible for traffic calming, surely the number of children on the street would compel the Commission to do something to address the problem.
- Steve Allison, 122 Central Park, echoed everyone's concern for the safety of the children. He said southbound traffic yields to northbound traffic, so it is logical that southbound speeds are slower.
- The resident at 220 Central Park, concurred with his neighbors and stated that a street patch needs to be done on his street, so this would be a good time to install a speed hump. Ms. Mayerhofer explained the traffic calming policy and procedure for getting speed humps installed.
- Irv Johnson, 212 Central Park, also echoed the comments of his neighbors.
- Michael Glynn, 115 Central Park, sees this as an immediate problem. He is pleased with the process but concerned that speed humps are permanent and difficult to remove.
- Jim Morton, 320 Central Park, stated that traffic has to go somewhere and if it leaves Central Park, it will be diverted onto alternate streets. He suggested temporary speed humps and video enforcement.
- Ron Goldberg, 215 Central Park, stated the street is already too narrow. He asked if the residents can pay to have the humps installed. Chairman Weaver stated there needs to be consistency in how the policy is administered.

Approved at the November 14, 2007 Transportation Commission Meeting

- The Commissioners concurred that clearly the residents do not want to the change in parking so it will not be implemented at this time. Chair Weaver explained that the residents are welcome to submit a petition signed by 67-percent of the neighbors for the Commission's consideration. Central Park will be considered with the other streets on the traffic calming list.

4. Old Business / Pending Matters / Next Meeting

- The next meeting is scheduled for October 10, 2007.

The meeting adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Brigitte Mayerhofer.