

Minutes of the Transportation Commission Meeting held on Wednesday, September 10, 2008 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
Paul Chouinard
Mark Wagstaff
Jim Grosh
Keith MacKenzie
Eileen Miller-Girson

Members Absent: None

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

Also Present: Andrew Taylor, 201 Sheridan Road
Nancy Schofer, 325 Sheridan Road
Jeanne Comar, 140 Laurel Avenue
Peter Carlson, 140 Laurel Avenue
Mr. DeMar, 35 Linden Avenue
Jeff Brown, 144 Maple Avenue
Ron Stroum, 154 Maple Avenue
Bill Jauss, 246 Maple Avenue
Jean Gram, 228 Maple Avenue

Chairman Weaver called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

1. Review of Minutes

Approval of the May 14, 2008 meeting minutes.

Motion by: Commissioner Grosh

Second by: Commissioner Chouinard

Discussion: None

Action: Approved by unanimous voice vote.

2. Review of the Existing Parking Regulations on Laurel Avenue, Maple Avenue, Linden Avenue and Canterbury Court

- **Ms. Mayerhofer and Ms. Reilley summarized the information provided in the agenda packets, including a description of the existing conditions and options for each location. Chairman Weaver opened the floor for audience testimony.**
- **Jeanne Comar, 140 Laurel, stated there are 22 houses on her block and 22 parking spaces. She would like to keep the**

existing permit restrictions because she is concerned with safety. Sheridan Road residents and overflow parking from Baker school will park on Laurel if the permit parking designation is lifted.

- Commissioner Chouinard asked if the residents can use their driveways, to which Ms. Comar indicated some residents only have alley access. She added Laurel is not signed for no parking on football Saturdays, so Northwestern games are also a concern.
- Nancy Schofer, 325 Sheridan Road, referenced the letter she sent to the Commission. She noted that Sheridan Road construction workers are parking on Laurel and patrons of Baker School also park in the area. She stated that all of the patrons of Baker School are driven, because there is no bus service. Lastly she noted the sight lines are poor because people park too close to the intersections.
- Hale DeMar, 35 Linden, noted the residents on his block want to keep the parking restrictions as they currently exist. He challenged the Commission's reasons for wanting to make changes.
- Chairman Weaver stated there are two primary reasons the Commission is reviewing parking. The first is that unnecessary restrictions require Police resources to enforce unneeded regulations. Secondly, on-street parking is open to the public and residents do not have a right to the spaces in front of their homes.
- Jean Gram, 228 Maple, noted that more people were at the July meeting that was canceled because of lack of a quorum. She believes the parking regulations are fine the way they are and that the existing 4-hour parking on Maple works well for the special events at Baker School.
- Bill Jauss, 246 Maple, stated he is a 43 year resident of the Village. He said the CTA riders should use the CTA lot. He is in favor of keeping the parking as it is, but notes speeding is a concern. He requested the speed trailer be placed on Maple.
- Ms. Schofer stated the Sheridan Road project is causing changes in traffic patterns and suggested deferring review of these issues until the project is over.
- Ron Stroum, 154 Maple, would like the 4-hour restriction removed on Maple. It is a burden to have to move his car every four hours.
- The Executive Director of Baker School addressed the Commission indicating Baker wants to be a good neighbor. He clarified that Baker has started to bus some students and that school pick up and drop off times are scattered throughout the day to reduce traffic congestion. He indicated the peak time

pick up in the afternoon (3:15 to 3:30) only lasts 15 minutes. The morning peak is scattered over a longer period so the traffic impact is less. He is working on a communication plan that will go out to the parents. He echoed the request for more enforcement on Maple.

- **Commissioner Chouinard asked about parking availability to which the Peter Carlson, Baker School, noted there is ample staff and visitor parking.**
- **The Commission asked about Northwestern football parking and it was noted that they have a shuttle service on on-campus parking.**
- **Ms. Schofer provided a picture of Maple Avenue showing congestion during the summer. She noted this was because Baker School rented their space for a summer program.**
- **Chairman Weaver asked for Commissioner comments.**
- **Commissioner Albrecht asked for clarification on existing parking regulations for Linden and Maple Avenues. Linden is a time zone from the CTA tracks to 3rd Street. From 3rd Street to the North Shore Channel, there is no parking on the south side and “no parking 8 to 10, except by permit” on the north side. From the Channel to Sheridan Road there is no parking on the south side and open parking on the north side. On Maple from 4th to 3rd there is no parking on the north side and “no parking 8 to 10, except by permit” on the south side. The block east is 4-hour parking.**
- **Parking Enforcement Officer Don George was asked about the capacity of the Baha’i lot to which Mr. George indicated it was typically full. He noted that he does not believe there is much overflow parking from Baha’i into the neighborhood.**
- **Commissioner Wagstaff stated for the record that his wife is a teacher at Baker School. He asked Mr. George if parking in the area was different when National Louis was active. Mr. George indicated that there was significantly more parking activity in the area. He could typically write between 15 and 20 tickets for illegal parking, compared to only 3 to 5 tickets per week currently. Commissioner Wagstaff asked if it is difficult to enforce this area given the different parking restrictions. Mr., George noted he and his co-worker are veterans of the Police Department so it is not too difficult.**
- **Commissioner Chouinard asked if the no parking 8 to 10 has been effective to which Mr. George indicated it was.**
- **Commissioner MacKenzie asked who uses the on-street parking on Maple to which the representatives from Baker School stated faculty and staff use the parking lot exclusively.**

- The group discussed the CTA lot and it was noted that the occupancy is only 45 to 50-percent full. The exception is if there is a Cubs game in which one is lucky to find a spot.
- Commissioner MacKenzie stated he initially agreed with the concept of reviewing parking regulations that might no longer be applicable. He stated surprise at the negative response to the changes. He believes it is the Commission's role to serve the residents and therefore will not support any changes to the parking restrictions.
- Commissioner Miller-Girson concurs that there is no reason to make changes to the parking if the residents do not support the change. She concurs that the Sheridan Road project exacerbates the problem.
- Commissioner Grosh said his concern is with the CTA parkers. He does not want to make any changes that would encourage CTA users to park in the neighborhood rather than the lot.
- Chairman Weaver asked about CTA parking on Linden west of 5th to which Mr. George stated very minimal.
- Chairman Weaver suggested the area on Maple near the golf course and channel could be changed to no parking 8 to 10. Regarding Laurel, Linden and Canterbury, his perception is that the existing permit parking regulations are not warranted.
- Mr. DeMar stated Linden is a dead end street and that cars have to use driveways to turn around. He again asked the Commission why they would change something that works. Commissioner Albrecht responded that it was a matter of equity and that all streets are for the public's benefit.
- It was suggested that Baha'i should allow parking in their lot on the east side of Sheridan Road.
- Ms. Schofer stated some people might park in this area and walk to Gillson Beach.
- The Commission discussed what constitutes being eligible for permit parking to begin with. Ms. Reilley summarized the Village Code requirements.
- Commissioner Wagstaff suggested this was not a good time to make changes because of the activity in the area. Chairman Weaver agreed noting there is not an operational problem they are trying to solve.
- Commissioner Chouinard pointed out the inconsistency in parking time restrictions on Laurel.
- Commissioner MacKenzie took an informal resident poll about the need for 4-hour parking on Maple. The majority of the attendees desire to keep it the way it is.
- Commissioner Albrecht stated she is considering whether or not these streets would be eligible for permit parking if they were to present a petition.

Motion to table any decisions until the Sheridan Road construction project is completed.

Motion: Commissioner Miller Girson
Second: Commissioner Grosh

Discussion: Commissioner Albrecht agrees that construction has changed the area, but supports changing the restrictions to become effective at a future date.

Commissioner MacKenzie stated he is not in favor of the changes now or in the future.

Commissioner Wagstaff agreed that residents should not have to come back for a third meeting.

Chairman Weaver stated he would like to take action tonight and reiterated that he believes the permit parking designations are not warranted.

Roll Call: Cathy Albrecht, No
Paul Chouinard, No
Mark Wagstaff, Abstain
Jim Grosh, Yes
Keith MacKenzie, No
Eileen Miller-Girson, Yes
Clayton Weaver, Chairperson, No

Action: Motion is not approved

Motion to change the parking restrictions on Laurel and Canterbury Court to “No parking 8 to 10, except by permit.”

Motion: Commissioner MacKenzie
Second: None
Action: No Action

Motion to accept the options in staff’s memo which repeal the permit parking designation on Laurel, Linden and Canterbury and add no parking anytime to one side of the street. Motion to remove the 4-hour parking on Maple east of the channel and make the area west of the channel no parking 8 to 10, except by permit. These changes would become effective after the Sheridan Road project.

Motion: Commissioner Chouinard
Second: Commissioner Albrecht

Discussion: Commissioner Albrecht stated that if the above changes created a hardship, the Commission should be able to review the situation.

Roll call vote: Cathy Albrecht, Yes
Paul Chouinard, Yes
Mark Wagstaff, Abstain
Jim Grosh, No
Keith MacKenzie, No
Eileen Miller-Girson, No
Clayton Weaver, Chairperson, Yes

Action: Motion does not have 2/3 approval.

3. Old Business / Pending Matters / Next Meeting

- Ms. Mayerhofer provided an update on the Green Bay Road Traffic Signal Project, the Sheridan Road project, the 2009 traffic calming budget and Ronald Knox Montessori School.

The next meeting is scheduled for October 22, 2008.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Brigitte Mayerhofer.