



VILLAGE OF WILMETTE

1200 Wilmette Avenue
WILMETTE, ILLINOIS 60091-0040

MEETING MINUTES

TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2008

7:00 P.M.

SECOND FLOOR TRAINING ROOM OF VILLAGE HALL

Members Present: Commissioner Jim Grosh
Commissioner Mark Wagstaff
Commissioner Eileen Miller-Girson
Commissioner Keith MacKenzie
Chairman Clay Weaver

Members Absent: Commissioner Cathy Albrecht
Commissioner Paul Chouinard

Staff Present: Linda Reilley, Engineering Assistant
Don George, Parking Enforcement Officer

Guests Present: Bob Lifton 336 Gregory
Kathy Lifton 336 Gregory
Cindy Dooley 2515 Greenwood
Jeff Gilman 115 3rd Street
Janet Dykstra 127 3rd Street
Fred Watson 1601 Ashland
Nancie Poulos 1601 Ashland
Diana Soman 1215 16th Street
Mr. Crow 1015 Greenleaf
Beth Staehlin 1219 16th Street
Richard Seider 209 4th Street
Florence Banach 116 Dupee
Deena Mitchell 115 Dupee

CALL TO ORDER.

Chairman Weaver called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES; TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 10, 2008

Chairman Weaver directed the Commission's attention to the draft minutes of the Transportation Commission meeting of September 10, 2008.

Commissioner Wagstaff moved that the Commission approve the minutes as drafted. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Miller-Girson. No further discussion occurred on the motion. Action: The motion was approved with unanimous voice vote. **The motion carried.**

II. REVIEW OF THE SEPTEMBER 15, 2008 BICYCLE TASK FORCE MEETING MINUTES.

Ms. Reilley noted the Bike Task Force is focusing efforts on event communication because of low attendance at this year's annual bike event. She mentioned the Task Force is planning a bike event next year on Sheridan Road when it is completed. They are also working with the Village Board on funding for bike education in Wilmette Schools.

Chairman Weaver introduced a resident that desired to speak on signage in Wilmette. Mr Crow, 1015 Greenleaf Avenue, stated that he is concerned that some traffic/directional signs in Wilmette may no longer be applicable. The Village has a track record of installing specialty signage that benefits only a few people. He specifically mentioned the right turn prohibition from Isabella Street to Prairie Avenue. He asked if the conditions that originally warranted this sign still exist and if not, can the necessity for the sign be reconsidered. He suggested that all future signage should have a sunset associated with it. Finally, Mr. Crow asked the Commission to address the train whistle problem in Wilmette.

Chairman Weaver responded indicating the sign at Prairie and Isabella has been in existence for as long as he can remember. He stated the Commission is aware of signage when it may no longer be applicable and has recently reviewed parking signage in neighborhoods where conditions have changed. With respect to train horns, Chairman Weaver commented that the review of quiet zone violations is not the purview of the Transportation Commission, rather something that staff may be able to address.

III. PETITION FOR RESIDENT PERMIT PARKING ON THE 1200 BLOCK OF 16TH STREET (ASHLAND AVENUE TO GREENWOOD AVENUE.)

Diana Soman, 1215 16th Street read a statement indicating that most of the residents of her block have more than one car and there is a common hardship of not being able to park on the street from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. They are requesting resident permit parking so they can park during the morning restriction. All neighbors signed the petition but one.

Ms. Staehlin, 1219 16th Street, indicated the aprons are too narrow to park two cars on and they would like to park in front of their homes.

Fred Poulos, 1601 Ashland, stated there is no parking anytime in front of his house. He asked how the permit system works. Ms. Reilley clarified that if he is on the corner, he is eligible for a permit to park on 16th Street if resident permit parking is implemented. Ms. Reilley further noted that all vehicles with a Village sticker would be eligible for parking permits.

Chairman Weaver asked Don George, Parking Enforcement Officer, if this change would pose an enforcement problem to which Mr. George indicated it would not.

Ms. Staehlin said that 16th Street is close to the Kenilworth Commuter Station which is why the restriction was put in place.

Commissioner Grosh moved to approve the request for “No Parking 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, except by permit.” The motion was seconded by Commissioner Miller-Girson. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote. **The motion carried.**

IV. PETITION FOR RESIDENT PERMIT PARKING ON THE 2500 BLOCK OF GREENWOOD AVENUE FROM 3:00 PM TO 3:30 PM.

Chairman Weaver recognized the petitioner and asked for resident comment.

Ms. Cindy Dooley, 2515 Greenwood stated that the morning parking problem was solved when the Commission approved a prior petition. She stated that she moved to her current home four years ago and that Greenwood is a major thoroughfare for parents who pick up and drop off children at Harper School. She noted there are 25 children on the block and that Greenwood does not have sidewalks. She also noted there is not an adequate turnaround for vehicles which adds to the congestion. Snow removal is also a problem. Finally, she indicated that she asked the PTO and Harper Principal for help, but other than a notice to the parents, there is not much that can be done. She is open to suggestions that will help improve the safety concern.

Chairman Weaver asked what happens in the mornings to which Ms. Dooley stated there is not a problem because of the parking restriction. Chairman Weaver concurred that it is a safety concern more than it is a capacity issue.

Parking Enforcement Officer George indicated that a moderate degree of children walk to school and that cars use driveways to turn around which is a safety concern. Don George referred to the parking study and confirmed that the results do not support the requirements for permit parking. Commissioner Wagstaff asked if making one side of the street no parking anytime would improve safety. Ms. Dooley indicated it would help but that students would still need to walk in the street. Commissioner MacKenzie asked why parents use Greenwood for pick up and drop off to which Ms. Dooley indicated parents may just be avoiding the large queue of cars on Dartmouth.

Commissioner MacKenzie stated he has mixed feelings because he wants to make the street safer but doesn't want to remove the convenience for parents who use the street for pick up and drop off. Chairman Weaver noted parking on both sides of the street poses a problem. Commissioner Miller-Girson asked if she thought the neighbors would agree to no parking on one side of the street.

The Commission discussed the benefits of a no parking sign versus a sign indicating no parking, stopping or standing. Commissioner Wagstaff noted that a petition is not required to sign a street as no parking. Ms. Reilley suggested the side of the street signed no parking would be the side where the fire hydrants are located.

The Commission discussed whether no parking should be established all the time or just from 3:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Chairman Weaver stated the least restrictive option is the best approach. Commissioner Wagstaff noted that the Commission cannot vote on the petition as stated because the thresholds for permit parking have not been met based on the requirements in the Village Code. He continued that the safety concerns, however, could be addressed by making one side of the street no parking.

Ms. Reilley suggested that before a recommendation is made the residents of the block should be given an opportunity to comment. The Commission agreed. Commissioner MacKenzie asked if the Commission has the authority to change the street to no parking, to which Ms. Reilley indicated that no parking has been implemented by both staff and the Commission.

Chairman Weaver asked Ms. Dooley to talk to her neighbors about the option of converting one side of the street to no parking. Chairman Weaver suggested the issue be brought back to the Commission at the next meeting.

Commissioner MacKenzie made a motion to deny the petition based on parking counts not meeting the requirements for resident permit parking in the Village Code. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote. **The motion carried.**

V. PETITION FOR NO PARKING 8:00 AM TO 10:00 AM MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY, EXCEPT HOLIDAYS, ON THE 300 BLOCK OF GREGORY AVENUE (DUPEE PLACE TO 3rd STREET)

Chairman Weaver recognized the petition and asked for resident comments.

Ms. Kathy Lifton, 336 Gregory, indicated that because there are no restrictions for parking on the south side of Gregory between 3rd Street and Dupee Place, cars park there all day. She asked that the morning restriction be put in place. She also noted that there is a sight obstruction because cars park too close to the intersection.

Mr. Lifton stated that accidents are high in this area and that a vehicle recently landed on his property. In addition, he noted that street sweeping, leaf pick up and snow removal operations are negatively impacted because of parked cars. He stated the only people that object to the petition are those who do not live on the block.

Mr. Gilman, 115 3rd Street, stated it would be a hardship because 3rd Street does not have enough parking. He suggested the Village develop a uniform parking code.

Mrs. Burns, 205 Dupee Place, also indicated the new parking regulations would create a hardship because 3rd Street is very narrow and difficult to maneuver down. He stated there are fifteen houses on 3rd Street that need parking.

An anonymous resident indicated Dupee Place has a lot of traffic in the morning and that parents use Dupee Place and 3rd Street to cut through to Baker School.

Another anonymous resident indicated stop signs and speed humps are necessary.

Ms. Gilman noted that parking is hard to find on 3rd Street, so that she has parked on Gregory occasionally. She has even had to pay for parking in the CTA parking lot. She stated that there are many cars that violate the parking restrictions on 3rd Street. She summarized by saying 3rd Street has the parking problem, not Gregory.

Ms. Lifton, 336 Gregory, noted that long term parking is the problem. She said the parking restriction on Dupee Place is causing cars to park on Gregory.

Ms. Banach, 116 Dupee Place, stated that his guests park on Gregory.

Chairman Weaver opened the floor for Commission discussion.

Commissioner Mackenzie asked Don George to define “abandoned” vehicles. Mr. George stated that the definition in the Vehicle Code is cars parked longer than 10 days that are incapable of being driven (flat tire, operational problems, no valid license etc.)

The residents concurred that the CTA commuters do not park in the area.

Commissioner MacKenzie suggested that long term parking is coming from the residents who live on adjacent streets with an existing time zone. He said it may be appropriate to review restrictions in the neighborhood.

Ms. Gilman, 115 3rd Street, asked if there are permits available for Wilmette residents. Chairman Weaver explained the permit process. He further stated that the no parking 8:00 to 10:00 morning restriction could be removed on Dupee Place, but the concern is that long term CTA commuters may start to park there.

The Commission discussed whether permit parking is available for night-time only. Ms. Reilley noted there are specific requirements for overnight parking and that the Village Code does not allow permits for this purpose.

Mrs. Buns, 205 Dupee Place wanted to know if her street could get a permit. Ms. Reilley explained that she would have to submit a petition. Commissioner MacKenzie also noted that certain parking thresholds would have to be met.

Chairman Weaver asked staff to post “No Parking Here to Corner” signs at Gregory and Dupee Place and Gregory and 3rd Street.

An anonymous resident asked when parking surveys were conducted on Gregory, to which Ms. Reilley stated over three different days.

Commissioner MacKenzie moved to deny the petition based on the user occupancy survey results. Commissioner Miller-Girson seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote. **The motion carried.**

VI. OLD BUSINESS / PENDING MATTERS/ NEXT MEETING.

Ms. Reilley discussed the agenda for the November 12 meeting which will be the follow up discussion of the parking changes on the 1200 block of Washington Avenue. She also updated the Commission on the status of the Wilmette Avenue / Green Bay Road crossing work and the Sheridan Road project.

VII. ADJOURNMENT.

At 9:10 p.m., Commissioner Grosh moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Wagstaff. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote. **The motion carried.** No further discussion occurred on the motion.

The meeting was thereafter adjourned.

Minutes Respectfully Prepared by Brigitte Mayerhofer, P.E., Director of Engineering Services