



VILLAGE OF WILMETTE

1200 Wilmette Avenue
WILMETTE, ILLINOIS 60091-0040

MEETING MINUTES

TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 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
Commissioner Cathy Albrecht

Members Absent: Commissioner Paul Chouinard

Staff Present: Brigitte Mayerhofer, P.E., Director of Engineering Services
George Carpenter, Police Chief
Linda Reilly, Engineering Assistant

Guests Present: Cindy Dooley, 2515 Greenwood Avenue
Debora Morris, 1215 Washington Avenue
Ramaa Krishnan, 1217 Washington Avenue
Peter Knobel, 1218 Washington Avenue

CALL TO ORDER.

Chairman Weaver called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES; TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION MEETING OF OCTOBER 22, 2008

Chairman Weaver directed the Commission's attention to the draft minutes of the Transportation Commission meeting of October 22, 2008.

Commissioner Grosh 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 A PETITION FOR “NO PARKING, 3:00 PM TO 3:30 PM , SCHOOL DAYS,” ON THE NORTH SIDE OF THE 2500 BLOCK OF GREENWOOD AVENUE**

Chairman Weaver welcomed back Ms. Cindy Dooley, 2515 Greenwood Avenue, regarding her request for parking restrictions on Greenwood to address pedestrian safety. She noted that after the last meeting, she talked to her neighbors and resubmitted a petition for no parking from 3:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., on school days, on the north side of the street because of the existing fire hydrant. Since submitting the petition, however, one of her neighbors suggested the parking should be allowed on the north side of the street because cars would be oriented to the west for an easy exit.

Commissioner MacKenzie asked if the revised petition was necessary. Ms. Mayerhofer indicated it technically was not necessary, because staff could administer the parking change without a petition. She noted, however, that petitions are always welcome. Commissioner Albrecht asked if a motion was necessary. Ms. Mayerhofer suggested a motion would confirm the Commission’s support for the change.

Commissioner Albrecht asked if the school had an opinion on parents using Greenwood for student pick up and drop off. Ms. Dooley indicated the school has requested that parents not use Greenwood, but they have not followed through with the request. Chairman Weaver reiterated that the parking issue is not related to capacity, but rather safety. Commissioner Wagstaff asked if the street is narrow enough to warrant no parking on one side permanently. Staff did not have the exact width but indicated that it did not seem to pose a safety concern. Commissioner Wagstaff stated he is not convinced that the 30 minute no parking restriction will address the safety problem. He continued to say that he would be supportive of having an all day no parking restriction. On the issue of sidewalk, Commission Wagstaff respectfully disagreed with those who say it’s a safety issue but then do not want a sidewalk. The children are walking in the street, which is the reason the petitioner is asking for parking changes. He concluded by stating a sidewalk will solve the problem in his opinion. Ms. Dooley noted that her neighbors do not support an all day restriction.

Commissioner Albrecht stated that typically the problem is worse during the afternoon pick up. Commissioner MacKenzie asked if the sign would also restrict “stopping and standing” in addition to parking. Staff indicated it would. Chairman Weaver suggested the school should help get the word out to the parents.

Commissioner MacKenzie asked how cars turn around to which Ms. Dooley indicated some parents use driveways, others drive to the end of the street and do a three-point turn. Chairman Weaver noted this restriction may make Greenwood less desirable for parents and as a result encourage them to use the designated pick-up and drop-off zones.

Commissioner Miller-Girson made a motion to sign the south side of Greenwood Avenue as “No Parking, Stopping or Standing, 3:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., School Days.” The motion was seconded by Commissioner Albrecht. Voting yes: Commissioners Weaver, Miller-Girson, Albrecht, Grosh, MacKenzie. Voting no: Commissioner Wagstaff.

The motion carried.

III. **REVIEW OF PARKING ON THE 1200 BLOCK OF WASHINGTON AVENUE**

Chairman Weaver asked Ms. Reilley to provide background on the parking changes and the results of the parking inventory. Ms. Reilley summarized the changes and noted that most of the long term parking on Washington Avenue was consistently used. She noted the 30 minute spaces were slightly less used. The parking on Central Avenue was consistently not used. Ms. Reilley indicated that in general, the parking changes that were recommended last May were effective.

Debora Morris, 1215 Washington, Personal Fitness Training, stated the new 3-hour spaces on the north side of Washington work great. She asked that the 30 minute spaces be converted to long-term parking. She asked how many tickets have been given out for the 30 minute spaces to which Chief Carpenter said he did not have that information available at the meeting.

The Commission discussed the need for the 30 minute spaces and recalled that patrons of the frame shop and Starbucks were the primary users. Ramaa Krishnan, 1217 Washington, Full Bloomed Lotus Studio, agreed that more 3-hour spaces were needed to serve her clients.

Peter Knobel, 1218 Washington, surmised that the Police Department must have a difficult time enforcing parking with so many different restrictions. He suggested uniform parking restrictions. He also requested that the snow plows come early in the morning to remove snow piles so they don't take up valuable parking spaces. Staff indicated they were not well informed on snow removal operations but would discuss this request with the Public Works Department.

Chairman Weaver noted there is merit to keeping the closest spaces for short term parking. Commissioner Albrecht noted that someone looking for short-term parking, will take the first spot available to them, regardless of the restriction. Commissioner MacKenzie stated the long-term parking is nearly 100-percent capacity. Chairman Weaver commented that the north end of Park Avenue is also at capacity. Commissioner MacKenzie indicated he would like to hear from the other businesses.

Commissioner Miller-Girson asked if a change from 30 minute to 1-hour parking would make a difference to which the business owners stated that 2-hour parking is the minimum they need. Mr. Knobel asked about enforcement because he never sees marked tires. Chief Carpenter explained the new method of parking enforcement that does not require physically marking cars.

Commissioner Wagstaff noted that long term spaces are nearby on Central and suggested the businesses utilize them. The business owners were concerned that the distance would be too far

for some of their patrons. Commissioner Wagstaff made a motion to change the 2-hour parking on the 1200 block of Central Avenue to 3-hour parking. Commissioner Miller-Girson seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted in favor of the motion. **The motion carried.**

Commissioner Albrecht made a motion to change three of the five 30-minute spaces on the 1200 block of Washington Avenue to 2-hour parking and that a follow-up review occur in April, 2009. Commissioner Grosh seconded the motion. Voting yes: Commissioners Miller-Girson, Wagstaff, Albrecht and Grosh. Voting no: Commissioners, Weaver and MacKenzie. **The motion carried.**

IV. OLD BUSINESS / PENDING MATTERS/ NEXT MEETING.

Ms. Mayerhofer updated the Commission on the status of the Green Bay Road traffic signal project and the Sheridan Road reconstruction project.

Ms. Mayerhofer provided history of the Greenleaf Avenue roadway striping that was conducted in October. She noted that several residents were very pleased with the result, but others did not like the aesthetics of the striping and believe the striping will cause speeds to increase. Follow up traffic counts will be taken again in spring to determine if the striping has been effective in calming traffic.

Ms. Mayerhofer concluded with mention of her letter to Dr. Crowe as follow up to the October meeting and the petition submitted by first grade students at the Baker Demonstration School.

Chief Carpenter provided the Commission information regarding the Police Department's Accreditation process. Chairman Weaver and the Commission concurred that the Police Department has been a wonderful partner to the Commission by offering support and technical expertise. He will draft a letter of support for the Police Department and submit it to the on-site representatives.

V. ADJOURNMENT.

At 8:30 p.m., Commissioner Wagstaff moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Grosh. 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