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MEETING MINUTES

TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2015

7:00 P.M.

SECOND FLOOR TRAINING ROOM OF VILLAGE HALL

Members Present: Chairman Pat Lilly
Commissioner Brendan McCarthy
Commissioner Michael Taylor
Commissioner Isaac Gaetz
Commissioner Susan Barton
Commissioner Libby Braband

Members Absent: Commissioner Jill Hayes

Staff Present: Brigitte Berger P.E., Director of Engineering and Public Works
Russ Jensen P.E., Village Engineer
Brian King, Police Chief

Guests Present:

I. CALL TO ORDER.

Chairman Lilly called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. and welcomed those in attendance.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES; TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION MEETING OF JULY 23, 2015.

Chairman Lilly directed the Commission's attention to the draft minutes of the Transportation Commission meeting of July 23, 2015.

Commissioner McCarthy moved approval of the minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Braband. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote. **The motion passed.**

III. Petition for parking change on Laurel Avenue between 4th and 5th Streets

Village Engineer, Russ Jensen summarized the petition requesting a change in parking restrictions on the 400 block of Laurel Avenue from "No parking 6 AM to 6 PM Monday thru Saturday, except by Permit" to "N permit parking." Mr. Jensen provide background on the resident permit parking regulations as outlined in the Village Code and how the "Lettered" permit parking works. He discussed the parking survey results and noted there were many days in which there was plenty of parking capacity on the 400 block of Laurel.

Chief King explained the history of resident permit parking and that the Village Code does not have a process for further restricting a street that is already eligible for resident permit parking. He noted the parking surveys indicate residents are from within the neighborhood and likely "p" permit parking holders.

Ms. Berger thanked the petitioners for their patience awaiting staff's review of the request. She indicated this is a new type of request for staff and the Commission to consider.

Commissioner Gaetz pointed out that there are "A" through "X" parking restrictions which suggests this has to be addressed in totality.

Chief King noted unused capacity on 4th Street overnight from Laurel to Greenleaf and unbalanced parking on 5th Street. He suggested further restricting the 400 block of 4th Street would push parkers to other locations, therefore a more global approach should be considered.

Patty Maloney, 427 Laurel, stated spring and summer was slammed for parking suggesting the parking study by staff is not accurate. She said the 400 block is the first place cars park but noted it is not as bad now as earlier in the year. After 6 pm cars park all night long. She also believes the methodology of the capacity is not accurate.

Chief King asked who parks there to which Ms. Maloney said mostly "P" parkers. She said they leave their cars for days.

John Miller, 411 Laurel, lives on the east end and stated he does not see "P" parkers but has CTA employees park in front of his house. He noted the Cubs and Northwestern games are the most troublesome as some folks don't care about the tickets. He thanked the Commission for their time.

Sam Grill, 345 Maple, noted he sent another petition because all of the neighbors have the same issues. He is concerned the displaced parkers will move to his street and indicated a more global approach is the way to go.

Mr. Miller asked if CTA employees have to pay for parking. Chief King noted he would talk to the CTA about allowing CTA employees to park in the CTA lot.

Commissioner Braband believes there has to be a better way to organize parking. Ms. Berger agrees but noted there is currently a delicate balance of parking regulations that work for the neighborhood.

Mrs. Miller, 411 Laurel, said she is concerned that redevelopment opportunities on 4th could exacerbate problems. She believes employees of CTA should park in their lot.

There was a discussion regarding how the CTA lot operates.

Commissioner Lilly summarized the parking challenges. Commissioner Braband moved for staff to look at options to optimize the existing "N" and "P" parking in the neighborhood and provide options to consider in February. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Taylor. **The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.**

IV. OLD BUSINESS

Commissioner Gaetz inquired about enforcement at the new crosswalk on Ridge Road at Walnut Avenue. Police Chief King provided some history on the effectiveness of unprotected crosswalks in locations with low pedestrian volumes. He indicated the Police Department would provide some enforcement.

Sue Barton asked about installing flags similar to what Evanston uses. Chief King indicated the flags are not effective and can create a false sense of safety for children.

V. NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Braband asked staff to review the yield sign at 16th and Greenwood noting there have been several "near miss" potential accidents at this intersection.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Barton moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner McCarthy. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote. **The motion carried.** No further discussion occurred on the motion.

The meeting was thereafter adjourned at 8:11 PM.

Minutes Respectfully Prepared by R. Jensen.