

APPROVED Meeting Minutes
Transportation Commission
Monday, March 31, 2014
Council Chambers - Village Hall

Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Pro Tem Will Gillespie called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Present: Craig Chesney, Will Gillespie, Lee Lazar, Mark Patzloff, Michael Stewart

Excused: Andre Bonakdar, Jack Chalabian

Staff: Tina Brown, Mike Koperniak, Jill Velan

Non-Agenda Item Public Comments

Christian Harris of 1111 N Taylor Avenue spoke on behalf of his cleaning service business. Mr. Harris spoke about how the Village's No Parking 8AM-10AM parking restrictions hamper his business because his workers cannot legally park in front of the homes of his residential customers in order to carry out cleaning services during the morning parking restrictions. Mr. Harris is looking for some kind of remedy to this problem. Staff indicated that Parking Department staff would be in contact with him to address his concerns.

Gary Barnes of 627 S Humphrey Avenue spoke on climate change and its impact on two Village issues. The first issue has to do with the Village encouraging automobile use by having an overnight on-street permit parking system. The second issue has to do with his concerns regarding the Village abandoning the telephone option for calling in for overnight on-street parking passes.

Approval of Tonight's Meeting Agenda

Commissioner Lazar motioned to approve tonight's meeting agenda as presented and Commissioner Stewart seconded the motion. The voice vote was unanimous to approve the motion.

Approval of the Draft February 24, 2014 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Stewart motioned to approve the draft February 24, 2014 Transportation Commission meeting minutes with the following modification:

Modify paragraph 7 on page 3 to read: "Commissioner Stewart praised PACE for providing data for flag stops and posted stops and also mentioned the need for PACE to market (advertise) future changes from flag stops to posted stops."

Commissioner Patzloff seconded the motion. The voice vote was unanimous to approve the motion.

REVIEW PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH STAFF PERMIT PARKING ADJACENT TO THE WEST SUBURBAN MONTESSORI SCHOOL AT 1039 SOUTH EAST AVENUE ON THE HARVARD STREET SIDE

Parking Restrictions Coordinator Tina Brown gave a presentation regarding this item.

Commissioner Gillespie inquired about the limits of the existing and proposed parking restrictions.

Commissioner Lazar commented on the unrestricted parking south of the school and inquired if the Village charges school staff for parking.

Commissioner Patzloff inquired about the school's staffing levels. The school representative responded that the staff has a staggered starting time between 7:00 AM and 11:30 AM. The representative also spoke about: commuters taking parking spaces in front of the school and along East Avenue, the East Avenue pick-up and drop-off schedule, and the need for police enforcement of the adjacent all-way stop sign controlled intersection.

Commissioner Gillespie inquired from Village Staff if the Village's parking policies include a ratio of school staff to students component. Ms. Brown responded no.

Commissioner Chesney inquired if any schools in the Village use staff permit parking. Ms. Brown elaborated on the schools that do.

The floor was opened to public testimony.

Tony Gibbons of 1019 S. East Avenue supports the school's request but expressed concern about exiting the adjacent alley onto Harvard Street and the lack of adequate sight lines, especially with parking on both sides of Harvard Street. He also spoke about speeding vehicles and indicated that ideally, only Oak Park residents would use the parking spaces.

Jodi Talley of 1046 S. East Avenue opposes the request because: private school's shouldn't get preferential treatment for public parking spaces, displaced commuters will move to other non-restricted parking spaces on Harvard Street, customers of this year-round school will be competing for parking spaces with customers of Rehm Park and Pool, Harvard Street traffic is chaotic during pick-up & drop-off times, and there is no staff permit parking for the staff of the preschool on the south side of Harvard Street.

Christine Dame of 1037 S. East Avenue indicated that she works at the preschool on the south side of Harvard and commented on the need for a drop-off & pick-up zone on the south side of Harvard. Ms. Dame expressed her support for the school's request.

The floor was closed to public testimony.

The Commission discussed the following: will displaced commuters move the problem to other blocks, the priority of non-residential commuters versus non-residential school staff, the supply and demand of parking spaces in the area, the safety level for pedestrians and motorists in the vicinity of the school, the dual use of staff parking and student drop-off & pick-up, the possible precedence granting this request would create, the need for adequate sight lines at the alley, the feasibility of other solutions besides all-day staff permit parking, the need for shared parking, the actual hours of required permit parking, and the problem of businesses over-riding a No Parking 8AM-10AM restriction.

Commissioner Lazar motioned to recommend school staff permit parking 7AM - 10AM, Monday - Friday, for five parking spaces on the north side of Harvard Street adjacent to the school. Commissioner Stewart seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

AYES - Commissioners Chesney, Gillespie, Lazar, Patzloff, Stewart

NAYES - none

The motion passed 5 to 0.

OTHER BUSINESS

Commissioner Stewart expressed his looking forward to the Health Department's bike helmet brochure.

The Commission considered rescheduling the April 28th meeting to April 21st.

The Commission briefly commented on the upcoming bike boulevard plan presentation.

Commissioner Stewart indicated that he is not available on April 28th but does very much want to be present for the bike boulevard plan presentation.

Commissioner Chesney inquired about the status of the Jackson Boulevard bike plan. Staff person Velan provided a brief verbal status report. In a related item, the Commission and staff had a brief discussion regarding the life expectancy of the Jackson Boulevard curb bump-outs.

There being no further business, Commissioner Lazar motioned and Commissioner Chesney seconded to adjourn the meeting.

The motion passed unanimously by a voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 PM.

Respectively submitted

Michael Koperniak, Staff Liaison to the Transportation Commission