

APPROVED Meeting Minutes
Transportation Commission
Monday, August 24, 2015
Room 101 – Village Hall

Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Jack Chalabian called the meeting to order at 6:59 PM.

Present: Jack Chalabian, Kyle Eichenberger, Joel Schoenmeyer, Mark Patzloff, Michael Stewart, Will Gillespie, and Craig Chesney

Guest Speakers: Jill Velan, Parking Services Director

Excused: None

Staff: Mike Koperniak, Mary Avinger, Tina Brown, Jill Velan

Approval of Tonight's Meeting Agenda

Commissioner Chesney motioned to approve the agenda as presented and was seconded by Commissioner Gillespie. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Approval of the Draft July 27, 2015 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Schoenmeyer motioned to approve the draft July 27, 2015, Transportation Commission meeting minutes as presented and was seconded by Commissioner Stewart. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

REVIEW OF PETITION TO EXPAND Y4 OVERNIGHT ON-STREET PERMIT PARKING ALONG 408 – 410 SOUTH GROVE AVENUE

Village of Oak Park Parking Services Director Jill Velan reviewed the petition to add spaces to the overnight parking in Y4 Zone and gave a presentation that included the history of this petition which was given to the Village a year ago at the beginning of the study. There are currently 195 spaces in the Y4 zone. The petition would add five spaces in front of the Lu-Viola Condos at 408 - 410 South Grove for overnight parking.

Commissioner Gillespie indicated that the times within the zone are inconsistent and Jill explained that the inconsistencies will be reviewed separately.

Chair Chalabian asked if staff did a parking usage study on Washington for overnight parking. Jill replied that no study for overnight parking had been done but the Y4 zone has been sold out for the last four quarters and it sells out in one day.

Commissioner Chesney asked about loss of parking at Harlem and South Blvd. to which Jill explained that lot 115 is a 24 hour lot and has sold out for the last five years. She also spoke about replacement parking that will be needed when the parking lot site is redeveloped.

Jill continued the discussion with the Commissioners explaining that the signage in the area will be looked at after the study is done to make it uniform and eliminate the confusion between daytime, nighttime, two hour parking, etc., and the staff's view on adding the new spaces. However, no staff recommendations would be made at the meeting tonight. The timeline for the new spaces is that it would go to the second Village Board meeting in September for approval then implementation of the permits in November. Jill also spoke about shared parking and in response to Commissioner Schoenmeyer's inquiry regarding gaps in parking restrictions, Jill explained shared parking and meeting the combined needs of the neighborhood.

Parking Restrictions Coordinator Tina Brown summarized written testimony from four letters that were sent to the Village via email or U.S. mail from residents that were not present at the meeting but wanted their concerns heard. The letters are attached to these meeting minutes.

The floor was now opened to public testimony.

Kathy Carpenter of 254 Clinton spoke and provided written testimony asking who the Village expected to serve with the changes that are being considered if they get implemented. She spoke of her safety concerns around Brooks Middle School and the tee-ball field and speeding cars down Randolph and driving through stop signs on surrounding streets. She believes the 200 and 300 blocks of Clinton and Kenilworth as well as the 800 and 900 blocks of Randolph should be considered as a child, student, and resident safe zone. She also believes parking should be limited on those streets and adding safety measures to Randolph and nearby intersections to slow traffic.

Vicky Peterson of 826 S Kenilworth asked how much it cost to do study to add the five spaces and wants the Village to think about using empty spaces on Madison for parking. Thinks the land where Robinson's is could be used as land for future parking options.

Anthony Newell of 935 South Blvd spoke about parking along South Blvd and his complaints about getting tickets.

Gloria Ryan of 408 S Grove spoke about living there for 20 years and she is the one who made the petition to get more parking because it is needed in that area. She is also requesting the same thing on Grove north of Washington.

Vicky Peterson of 826 S Kenilworth spoke again about the difficulties of parking along Madison and Washington.

Anthony Newell of 935 South Blvd spoke again agreeing that the lots on Madison could be used for parking as well.

Melissa Mickleberry of 417 S Grove stated that she supports the additional spaces in front of the Lu-Viola condos because it is a very crowded area.

Public testimony was closed out.

Chair Chalabian asked about shared parking with Sugar Beet and Jill explained that the parking lot is also used for the building's resident parking but the Village is in discussions to use it for night parking.

The Commissioners each gave their reasons for supporting this petition.

Commissioner Chesney made a motion to approve five overnight on-street 9:00pm – 9:00am resident permit parking spaces in front of 408-410 S Grove Ave. with the provision that the time restrictions will be reviewed as part of the parking study. Commissioner Stewart seconded the motion.

The voting was as follows:

Ayes: Chalabian, Schoenmeyer, Eichenberger, Patzloff, Chesney, Gillespie, Stewart

Nays: None

The motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION REGARDING THE Y2, Y3, AND Y4 OVERNIGHT PERMIT PARKING ZONES STUDY

Chair Chalabian gave an intro about why the Commission is doing this study and encourages public participation.

Jill Velan gave a presentation and discussion about the proposed changes to the Y2, Y3, and Y4 overnight on-street permit parking zones. She discussed how the Commissioners are doing walking studies and while they are in the middle of the study they wanted to invite the public for feedback and suggestions.

Parking Restrictions Coordinator Tina Brown summarized written testimony from fifteen letters that were sent to the Village via email or U.S. Mail from residents that were not present at the meeting but wanted their concerns heard. The letters are attached to these meeting minutes.

The floor was opened to public testimony.

Steven Smith of 728 Wisconsin spoke about how he lives in the Y3 area and is worried about continual lessening of parking restrictions, how there seems to be a lot of

private parking, and that there will be an increase in parking once the new structure is built.

Denise Walsh of 320 Home stated she recognizes parking is an issue but it has become more of an issue to park on her own street especially after the YMCA parking lot was sold and 22 new townhomes will be built on the parking lot. They will have parking for them but no parking for their guests. Home Ave is congested and mentioned that there was an article in the Wednesday Journal about possibly selling two levels above Trader Joes for parking and that will cause an even bigger issue.

Anthony Newell of 928 South Blvd spoke about not being able to see the street signs at all and feels signs should be upgraded because they are faded. He says it's difficult to serve the community when he gets tickets all the time.

Brian Lantz of 305 Home spoke about the impact of the traffic signal at Home and Washington. He said that speeding has increased on Home Ave and increased parking will cause problems.

Cristen Vincent of 247 S Kenilworth spoke about parked cars on both sides of the 200 and 300 blocks of South Kenilworth making it difficult for cars to pass.

Mike Connely who owns a restaurant at 1109 South Blvd asked if when the Village does developments if they consider the loss of parking. He is also concerned about his employee parking because his restaurant is open until 1:00am and it conflicts with residential permit parking. He is concerned that too many developments are going on at the same time and that there isn't much coordination.

Vicki Peterson of 826 S Kenilworth said that building owners should notify potential tenants about scarcity of parking. She spoke about loss of federal dollars if census drops below 50,000.

Clarence Ward of 517 S Kenilworth stated he lives on a cul-de-sac block and is concerned about night parking. He also spoke about snow removal issues and how he wants to park in front of his own home.

William Streit of 232 Home said parking signs need to be less confusing. He also spoke about various parking issues on the 200 and 300 blocks of Home including commuter parking and lack of enforcement.

Cassie Seranto of 201 South Maple spoke about the confusing parking restrictions and wants to have two hour parking on the 200 block of S Maple.

Public testimony was closed out.

Discussion by the Commission included how multiple signs and overlap of times add to confusion, the Commissioners observations about confusing signs they saw while out

walking the study zone, how the amount of public testimony indicates that there is a problem.

Commissioner Eichenberger asked if the Village has looked at user-friendly signage and Jill responded that staff has started looking at examples of alternate sign designs.

Commissioner Gillespie added that signage is confusing and conflicting and looks forward to staff recommendations. He also spoke about metered parking and the role it could play along business streets and the benefits of parking meters.

Commissioner Chesney thanked everyone for their comments and said there appears to be underutilized parking in public spaces and mentioned two middle schools. There is a need to develop more parking.

Commissioner Schoenmeyer said he likes that the Commission was able to hear from a wide variety of residents about their parking needs.

Chair Chalabian said he is excited about this study and gave his reasons for a good parking outcome and the need to think about balancing needs. He feels they can come to a consensus and find a solution. Chair Chalabian asked staff what kind of outreach can be done other than sending a letter to residents, and how there is a need to have a specific goal to engage residents and thinks there is an opportunity to fix this problem. Jill explained the next steps in the study.

Concluding comments included a discussion on how to encourage more public participation. Commissioner Chesney asked about the 1200 Woodbine item and what is happening with it. There was a brief discussion about diverters, cul-de-sacs, and speed bumps along the 1200 North blocks in the Village.

A motion was made by Commissioner Gillespie and seconded by Commissioner Eichenberger to adjourn the meeting.

The voice vote was unanimous to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:02 PM.

Respectively submitted

Mary Avinger

Mary Avinger,
Administrative Secretary

>> Submitted written public testimony is attached <<