

APPROVED Meeting Minutes
Transportation Commission
Tuesday, June 9, 2020 - 7:00 PM
Remote Participation Meeting

1. Call to Order

Transportation Commission Staff Liaison Michael Koperniak called the remote participation meeting to order at 7:00 PM

Roll Call

Present: Camille Fink, Garth Katner, Meghann Moses, Aaron Stigger, Robert Taylor, James Thompson, chair Ron Burke

Absent: None

Staff: Village Engineer Bill McKenna, Development Customer Services Director Tammie Grossman, Staff Liaison Michael Koperniak

Other: Trustee Susan Buchanan

2. Non-Agenda Public Comment

None

3. Agenda Approval

Chair Burke made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Katner. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

4. Approval of the draft February 24, 2020 Transportation Commission meeting minutes

Commissioner Taylor made a motion to approve the draft February 24, 2020 Transportation Commission meeting minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Stigger. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

5. A FIRST DISCUSSION ABOUT IMPLEMENTING SLOW STREETS ON RESIDENTIAL STREETS IN OAK PARK FOR SOCIAL DISTANCING

Staff Liaison Koperniak gave a brief presentation on the Slow Streets proposal.

Village Engineer McKenna gave a brief presentation about the current difficulties of sending out adequate public notice and receiving public testimony caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Koperniak read aloud written public testimony from bicycle advocacy group Bike Walk Oak Park supporting the creation of Slow Streets in the Village.

The Commission, Staff, and Trustee Buchanan discussed:

- Street closings for business areas and who has the authority to close the streets.
- Can the Village Board of Trustees give Staff administrative authority to implement a Slow Streets program.
- Trustee Buchanan gave the Village Board's thoughts on street closings and that there was no universal concurrence about residential streets.
- How to quickly implement a Slow Streets program.
- Considered full street closures versus partial street closures.
- Implementing a Slow Streets program given that the Village is considered a bike friendly community.
- The feasibility of implementing a Slow Streets program on a large scale.
- The benefits of phasing in the Slow Streets program so that it could be implemented quickly and to keep the process moving.
- What types of barricades and signage would be used to identify a street as a Slow Street.
- The possibility and pros and cons of removing parking on one side of the street.
- The fact that the Village is not fully enforcing parking regulations during the pandemic.
- How other cities are dealing with closures at street intersections.
- Considered what would be a realistic plan.
- The Village's safety concerns about mixing vehicles, bicycles, and pedestrians in the roadway.
- Considered if closed streets safer or less safe than open streets.
- How to enlighten the public about Slow Streets.

- Considered if bicyclists should be allowed on sidewalks.
- The perils to pedestrians and bicyclists of vehicles making rolling stops.
- Considered what streets to include in the pilot program.
- How to accommodate overnight on-street permit parking on the Slow Streets.

Commissioner Thompson made a motion to: (1): Have the Village implement a Slow Streets pilot program generally on the streets forming a rectangle bounded by Harvey Avenue on the east, Van Buren Street on the south, Kenilworth Avenue on the west, and Thomas Street on the north. (2) Have Staff implement the pilot program as soon as possible and to continue consulting with the Transportation Commission. (3) Implement partial street closures so that local traffic can still drive on the Slow Streets and park there.

Commissioner Taylor seconded the motion.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Ayes - Thompson, Taylor, Fink, Katner, Moses, Stigger, Burke
Nays - None

The motion passed unanimously.

6. Adjourn

There being no further business, Commissioner Taylor made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Stigger. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote and the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Submitted by:

Michael Koperniak

Staff Liaison Michael Koperniak