

APPROVED Meeting Minutes
Transportation Commission
Wednesday, October 28, 2020 - 7:00 PM
Remote Participation Meeting

1. Call to Order

Traffic/Transportation Engineer Jill Juliano called the remote participation meeting to order at 7:01 PM

Engineer Juliano read the following statement into the record:

"The Village President has determined that an in-person meeting is not practical or prudent due to the COVID-19 outbreak during the Governor's disaster proclamation. It is not feasible to have a person present at the regular meeting location due to public safety concerns related to the COVID-19 outbreak during the Governor's disaster proclamation."

Roll Call

Present: Camille Fink, Garth Katner, Meghann Moses, Aaron Stigger, James Thompson, Chair Ron Burke

Absent: none

Staff: Development Customer Services Director Tammie Grossman, Parking Restrictions Coordinator (PRC) Cinthya Calderon, Public Works Director John Wielebnicki, Police Chief LaDon Reynolds, Traffic/Transportation Engineer Jill Juliano, Staff Liaison Michael Koperniak

2. Non-Agenda Public Comment

None

3. Agenda Approval

Commissioner Stigger made a motion to approve tonight's agenda as presented.

Commissioner Katner seconded the motion.

The roll call vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed unanimously 6 to 0.

4. Approval of the draft October 13, 2020 Transportation Commission meeting minutes

Commissioner Thompson made a motion to approve the draft October 13, 2020 Transportation Commission meeting minutes as presented.

Commissioner Fink seconded the motion.

The roll call vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed unanimously 6 to 0.

5. STAFF'S RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING OVERNIGHT PARKING OPTIONS

Development Customer Services Director Grossman gave a presentation. She spoke about:

- The Transportation Commission's recommendations for evening parking restrictions on the 1150 Wisconsin Avenue block, the 1150 S. Cuyler Avenue block, as well as a staff recommendation to install evening parking restrictions on the 1150 Highland Avenue block, are all tentatively on the November 2nd Village Board of Trustees meeting agenda.
- The history of relaxing daytime and overnight parking restrictions during the current COVID-19 health pandemic including the temporary lifting of the overnight on-street parking ban.
- At the request of the Village Board, Staff developed two recommendations:
 1. Expand the overnight on-street permit parking zones.
 2. Expand the overnight parking pass program from 10 passes to 15 passes per month between April 1st and October 31st.
- How the Transportation Commission came to be reviewing Staff's recommendations at this meeting.

- The fact that some overnight on-street permit parking holders have to walk long distances between their car and their home.
- The question of is the overnight parking ban still important to the Village in light of not having it during the pandemic.
- The fact that overnight permit passes never sell out.
- The primary problem appears to be the location of the permit parking spaces in relation to the user's homes as opposed to the lack of quantity of permit parking spaces.

Oak Park Police Chief LaDon Reynolds gave his views on why he supports the overnight on-street parking ban:

- He spoke about the theory and practice of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) and its benefits in reducing crime.
- Streets without parked cars reduce several types of crimes because of police officers being able to clearly see down the street in low light conditions.
- It makes it easier to identify parked vehicles that shouldn't be there.
- Aids in improving quality of life issues in the Village due to open at night out-of-town-businesses along the Village borders.
- The lack of parked vehicles allows for the better positioning of emergency response vehicles during the night.
- The installation of additional cul-de-sacs would not noticeably reduce crime rates.
- It's not easy to quantify if the temporary lifting of the overnight on-street parking ban has caused an increase in crime rates because lots of factors come into play including that there is less foot traffic during the night because there are less people walking during the pandemic.

Public Works Director John Wielebnicki gave his views on the overnight on-street parking ban in relation to providing street maintenance services including year-round street sweeping, the fall leaf pickup program, and snow removal.

- There is a difference in the level of services in areas with the ban versus areas that allow overnight on-street parking.

- Adding additional parking spaces in the overnight permit parking zones will impact the delivery of services.
- He supports the Staff recommendations about expanding the zones but acknowledges that there will be challenges to providing adequate services.
- Providing an acceptable level of service is key and he believes that this can be achieved.
- He gave a brief history of the Village's street lighting system.
- He briefly discussed the composting of the collected leaves and how some of it is returned to the Village as topsoil and provided free of charge to its residents.

DCS Director Grossman gave a brief introductory presentation on the second recommendation to expand the overnight parking pass program to include 5 free and 10 paid passes per month.

DCS Director Grossman and PRC Calderon gave a visual presentation using maps showing the locations of the proposed additional parking spaces in the sixteen overnight on-street permit parking zones.

During the presentation, Staff and the Commission engaged in discussions about:

- Increasing the allowable parking buffer around R7 zoned areas from 500 feet to 750 feet.
- Placing the additional parking spaces in front of multi-family homes and not in front of single-family homes.
- The placement of some additional parking spaces and the reasons for why they were placed where they were.
- The pros and cons of adding overnight on-street parking spaces adjacent to Barrie Park and to Rehm Park.
- Confirmation that Police Chief Reynolds does support expanding the overnight on-street permit parking zones after reviewing the locations with DCS Director Grossman.
- The issue of parking space supply and demand.

- The advantage of a mission statement on the use of cars and bicycles helping this issue.
- The issue of homeowners versus renters in terms of car parking.
- The overnight parking ban has a 50/50 positive/negative feedback rate from recent Village surveys.
- The reasons for and against the ban including that some blocks are fully parked up and residents of the block can't find a place to park, that strange cars park on the block, and that some cars are parked for extended periods of time.
- The pros and cons of extending the lifting of the overnight on-street parking ban.
- The hesitancy on the Commission's part to recommend specific parking locations.
- The Staff recommendations are based in part on received complaints from residents.
- The results of parking restrictions changes in the Parking Pilot Program area.
- The Staff recommendations add approximately 200 parking spaces but do not involve offering any additional parking permits.
- The effects of removing some proposed parking spaces for various reasons.
- How to test a proposal to allow permit holders to park anywhere in permit parking zones and when is the best time to have a discussion about this proposal.
- The Village's past history and future likely hood of purchasing land to expand off-street parking.

Commissioner Thompson made a motion to:

1. Support the Staff recommendation to expand the size of the Y6 and Y7 overnight on-street permit parking zones and,
2. To expand the number of available parking spaces within the overnight on-street permit parking zones except for adjacent to Barrie Park and Rehm Park and except for miscellaneous 1 and 2 space locations after review of these miscellaneous locations by Staff and,
3. To not sell any additional overnight on-street parking permits.

Commissioner Katner seconded the motion.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Ayes - Thompson, Katner, Fink, Moses, Stigger, Burke

Nays - None

The motion passed unanimously 6 to 0.

The Commission recommended but did not include in the motion a proposal to reevaluate the Parking Pilot Program and to consider what can be done to make residents less dependent on automobiles.

DCS director Grossman gave a detailed presentation on the second Staff recommendation to expand the overnight parking pass program from 10 passes to 15 passes per month between April 1st and October 31st. This would include five free passes and ten paid passes per month per license plate.

The Commission and Staff engaged in a discussion which involved the following:

- The reasons behind expanding to fifteen passes and under what circumstances they could be used.
- The passes would be available for any resident or non-resident license plate and could be purchased by anyone.
- The reason why fifteen passes is the preferred number of passes per month.
- The pros and cons of offering five free and ten paid passes versus some other combination.

Commissioner Moses made a motion to support the staff recommendation to expand the overnight parking pass program to fifteen passes per month during the period between April 1st and October 31st except that it should be three (3) free passes and twelve (12) paid passes per month per license plate.

Commissioner Thompson seconded the motion.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Ayes: Moses, Thompson, Fink, Katner, Stigger, Burke

Nays: None

The motion passed unanimously 6 to 0.

PRC Calderon proceeded to read aloud both non-agenda and agenda written public testimony received after the agenda packet was published. This public testimony is attached to these meeting minutes.

6. ADJOURN

There being no further business, Commissioner Stigger made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Moses.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Ayes: Stigger, Moses, Fink, Katner, Thompson, Burke

Nays: None

The motion passed unanimously 6 to 0.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 PM.

Submitted by:

Michael Koperniak

Staff Liaison to the Transportation Commission