

APPROVED Meeting Minutes
Transportation Commission
Monday, April 24, 2017
Room 101 – Village Hall

Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Chalabian called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

Present: Jack Chalabian, Kyle Eichenberger, James Thompson, Roya Basirirad

Excused: Craig Chesney, Michael Stewart, Joel Schoenmeyer

Staff: Mike Koperniak, Jill Juliano, Jill Velan, John Wielebnicki, Deputy Chief Scott Bartelt, Sgt. Dave Jacobson, Mary Avinger

The floor was opened to non-agenda public testimony.

Monica Sheehan of 626 Fair Oaks read her statement about the Village not conducting routine annual maintenance of the community/high school garage and that there is no record of the garage's inspections and completed repairs and no routine repair schedule. Ms. Sheehan stated that she's been contacting the Village since August of 2016 regarding the elevator being out of service and it took six months to repair but learned from teachers at the high school it was inoperable for 18 months. Ms. Sheehan stated the Village should have routine maintenance and repair for all of its garages and the high school is only responsible for daily maintenance. Ms. Sheehan's written testimony is attached to these minutes.

Non-agenda public testimony was closed out.

Approval of Tonight's Meeting Agenda

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

Approval of the Draft March 20, 2017 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Eichenberger motioned to approve the draft March 20, 2017, Transportation Commission meeting minutes as modified by Chair Chalabian and was seconded by Commissioner Thompson. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Commissioner Thompson motioned to move the petition for installation of traffic calming devices on the 1200 blocks of north East and Linden avenues to the first

agenda item and was seconded by Commissioner Eichenberger. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

PETITION FOR INSTALLATION OF TRAFFIC CALMING DEVICES ON THE 1200 BLOCKS OF NORTH EAST AND LINDEN AVENUES

Jill Juliano gave a presentation starting with the history for petitions requesting installation of traffic calming devices on the 1200 blocks of North East and Linden Avenues. Ms. Juliano spoke about the collected parking and traffic data for 1200 East and Linden including vehicle crash history, vehicle volumes, and speed percentiles. The presentation also included information on existing traffic calming devices along North Avenue.

Chair Chalabian asked for confirmation of staff's recommendation for bump-outs on East and Linden and Jill responded.

Commissioner Thompson asked where bump-outs would go and Jill responded just south of the east/west alley.

Commissioner Basirirad asked how parking survey information was collected and Jill responded that staff physically went out to the locations and did it.

Chair Chalabian asked why there are higher speeds and volumes on these blocks compared to adjacent streets. Jill responded with her professional opinion. Chair Chalabian asked about the difference between local and collector streets. Jill responded that residential streets are mainly used for residents to reach their homes while arterial streets like Oak Park, Ridgeland, etc. for through traffic with limited access to east/west streets. Collector streets are streets used to get to arterial streets from local streets.

Chair Chalabian went over previous recommendations from the Commission and asked what happened when it went to the Village Board of Trustees. Jill responded that it didn't go to the Village Board due primarily because of Fire Dept. concerns regarding speed bumps/humps/tables.

Deputy Chief Scott Bartelt explained that speed tables slows emergency response times, certain ambulance patients can't take bumps, and spoke about maneuvering large vehicles.

The floor was opened to public testimony.

Paul DeJarnatt of 1231 N East stated he's lived here since 2012 and has two kids under the age of six and how there are lots of new families with young kids. Mr. DeJarnatt won't let his kids play outside because of the traffic volume and wants a traffic calming device soon and prefers a speed table.

Tom Lindsey of 1235 N East stated he is concerned about the traffic volume and there is lots more traffic than what the residents create. Said there are lots of parked cars at the north end of the block from people walking to North Avenue businesses. Mr. Lindsey said this doesn't fall into the spirit of the comprehensive plan and thinks some parkers could be employees of the businesses because they park longer than two hours. Mr. Lindsey went on to state that there are 22 intersections with 18 being addressed with restrictions and wants the Commission to look into further restrictions. Mr. Lindsey also thinks Commission should look at two hour restrictions and maybe change it and spoke about free parking versus paid meters on North Avenue.

Robert Roscoe of 1209 Columbian spoke about the traffic signal on Columbian and North Avenue and said that anything that happens on East and Linden affects his block even though they have a traffic light. Mr. Roscoe stated if after studies show increased traffic on Columbian then remove temporary diverters.

Julian Foster of 1205 Columbian stated he thinks it's a good idea to have a comprehensive plan but with four streets in a row with access to North Avenue what benefits East and Linden will affect Euclid and Columbian. Mr. Foster also stated there are many young children on his block and the traffic light has been there for decades and is not new. Mr. Foster stated Columbian has higher traffic and speed from drivers trying to make the light.

Phil Hausken of 1220 Columbian stated a petition was sent in 2010 for traffic calming and was told no and traffic still has lots of traffic. Mr. Hausken stated the City of Chicago has put in speed bumps on their side of Columbian.

Tiffany Roberts of 1224 N East stated she has three kids that she can't let play freely on the block. Ms. Roberts stated her youngest has crossed the street without permission and without getting hit. Ms. Roberts is concerned about kids outside and there are at least 20 on the block. She feels people avoid Fair Oaks and Columbian by cutting through alleys and speed down the block from North Avenue.

Audrey Ingersoll of 1223 Linden stated she has three kids and there are over 15 kids under the age of 10 on her block. Ms. Ingersoll feels Linden is a thoroughfare for cars going to St. Giles, not following speed limit, and frequently accelerating down the block. Ms. Ingersoll stated they need a device to reduce speed.

Jennifer Cunningham of 1222 Linden stated she has lived in the Village for 12 years and that Euclid, Columbian, Linden, and East Avenue bear the brunt of North Avenue traffic. Ms. Cunningham spoke about drivers avoiding the light at Columbian and mentioned the new driveway for US Bank that's about to open would force traffic to turn on Linden. Ms. Cunningham also liked the idea of removing parking meters on North Avenue.

Ben DeBruin of 1228 N East stated he is concerned about volume of cars going up. Mr. DeBruin mentioned how Rossell, Elmwood, and Woodbine got traffic calming devices and stated it is not fair to East Avenue when other streets had lower volumes. Also stated East Avenue is used as a thoroughfare between North Avenue and Division with only two stop signs in between. Mr. DeBruin mentioned seeing police in area more often and they had set up speed radar on the block, but that is only temporary.

Rich Schurr of 1209 N Euclid stated he has lived in the Village for 26 years and is concerned about speeding with people going north on Oak Park using side streets to go around traffic. Mr. Schurr thinks with the US Bank about to open, that speeds will increase and supports a holistic solution.

Tom Carpenter of 1135 N East stated he has lived in the Village for 35 years and traffic is a problem. Mr. Carpenter explained that kids used to play in the street and they can't anymore. He stated traffic is a problem and doesn't think East is a residential street. Mr. Carpenter stated there is a volume problem and if the adjoining streets are restricted then cars will go down Columbian. Mr. Carpenter thinks all streets should be opened because people driving down East don't respect the community.

Rebecca Beasley of 1212 N East thinks traffic increased in last two years and that it's because of all the other streets with traffic calming devices. Ms. Beasley stated East and Linden are at the top of the speed and volume thresholds while other streets with calming devices had less traffic when diverters were installed.

Brian Kaunelis of 1136 Linden spoke about similar problems on the 1100 block of Linden with lots of kids. Mr. Kaunelis stated that past actions have affected them now and is concerned about the safety of kids.

Ed Ferraro of 1209 Linden stated he's lived in the Village for 38 years and spoke about motorists having a lack of respect for traffic controls, and trying to avoid traffic signals. Mr. Ferraro stated people will only do right when forced and thinks maybe traffic cameras should be considered.

Janis Smith of 1219 N East stated she's lived in the Village for 30 years and wanted a cul-de-sac 30 years ago on East but was told no by the Village due to emergency services. Ms. Smith thinks Village should consider safety for first two blocks south of North Avenue.

Pam Sheppard of 1234 Linden stated she's lived in the Village 29 years and thinks traffic moves down East because traffic from Natoma in Chicago turns to go down East. Ms. Sheppard spoke about the volume of traffic on Linden from Master Yu Karate Studio on North Avenue in the evenings. Ms. Sheppard doesn't think volume of cars will be lessened; all they can do is calm them.

Public testimony was closed out.

Commissioner Thompson stated residents made good points and that the Village has used band-aid solutions instead of holistic approach. Jill Juliano responded about the traffic calming toolbox and also spoke about Rossell and Elmwood. Commissioner Thompson asked if any traffic calming measures were removed and Mike Koperniak responded speed bumps were removed on East Avenue north of Washington. Commissioner Thompson also asked about speed cameras.

Commissioner Basirirad stated that the 18 of 22 intersections along North Avenue is a lot of traffic calming measures and asked if that was consistent with the comprehensive plan. Jill Juliano responded with information about other traffic calming measures along Austin, Harlem, and Roosevelt.

Commissioner Eichenberger mentioned cars parking on the blocks for longer than two hours on East Avenue and how enforcement should be notified. Commissioner Eichenberger also asked for clarification on the traffic calming budget. Bill McKenna spoke about \$25,000 for traffic calming and how it is first come, first served with budgeting. A discussion about budgeting occurred.

Chair Chalabian stated that in his nine years on the Commission, this is the first petition that wants holistic approach. Chair Chalabian went on to speak about his experiences while living near Roosevelt Road and how the Transportation Commission and the Village Board relate to each other in terms of traffic calming.

Chair Chalabian spoke about the need to do something because this process has gone on long enough. He went on to speak about the comprehensive plan possibly misidentifying East Avenue as a collector street and it should be made a residential street. Chair Chalabian supports bump-outs, feels a need for enforcement efforts and based on his observations, didn't see a parking problem in the area. Chair Chalabian thinks no one uses meter on North Avenue and with the low utilization rates on meters, maybe they should be removed to encourage parking on a commercial street. Chair Chalabian spoke about mobility and access versus quality of life.

Commissioner Thompson advocates bump-outs on East but feels it is another band aid to other band aids.

Commissioner Thompson motioned to 1. Support the staff recommendation for bump outs on the 1200 blocks of North East and on Linden, south of alley, not speed bumps. 2. Recommend increased police enforcement. 3. Look at parking on North Avenue and effectiveness of parking meters on North Avenue and North East Avenue parking enforcement. 4. Do follow-up traffic studies on the 1200 blocks of N East, Columbian, Euclid, and Linden. Commissioner Eichenberger seconded the motion.

The voice vote was as follows:

Ayes: Chalabian, Thompson, Eichenberger, Basirirad

Nays: None

The motion passed four to zero.

UPDATE ON THE VILLAGE WIDE PARKING STUDY

Jill Velan gave an update about the Village wide parking study for parking on and near North Avenue and Roosevelt Road. Ms. Velan explained the process the Village Board directed staff to follow for the parking study.

Chair Chalabian stated the Transportation Commission was under a different understanding from what the Village Board wants. He stated he thought the Commission would be a sounding board for the public and an active participant in the process. Chair Chalabian stated the Transportation Commission would have a more engaging process. Chair Chalabian stated he will follow up with the Trustee liaison about the Transportation Commission's role.

Commissioner Eichenberger knows the Village Board will look at the study components but wants to know when will there be public input.

A general discussion was had about what is the Transportation Commission's actual role in the parking study process including participatory versus being an endorser.

Jill Velan stated the Village Board is the ones holding the public meetings and the Transportation Commission is one component of the process. The Village Board is doing the parking study and wants the Transportation Commission's input.

A discussion about North Avenue and Roosevelt Road recommendations occurred.

Chair Chalabian likes one or the other; No Parking 8am-10am or 3 Hour Parking options and needs to pick one. Chair Chalabian stated enforcement issue is critical and doesn't like time limits because it is difficult to enforce and causes frustration to motorists. He prefers prohibitions because they are easy to enforce and understand and should consider land use and how it affects parking. Chair Chalabian stated if we standardize it, then make it simple.

Commissioner Thompson stated he agrees with Chair Chalabian and also prefers time prohibition versus time limits.

The discussion continued about on-street overnight permit parking along Roosevelt Road and parking along Roosevelt Road was had. The discussion also covered the appearance of maximizing use of meters on North Avenue and on Roosevelt Road.

Commissioner Thompson motioned for 1. Standardizing parking and get rid of daytime parking permits, 2. Maximize effectiveness of parking meters, and 3. Max out overnight permit parking zones. Commissioner Basirrad seconded the motion.

The voice vote was as follows:

Ayes: Chalabian, Thompson, Eichenberger, Basirirad
Nays: None

The motion passed four to zero.

Chair Chalabian wants Transportation Commission to be present when Village Board has its public discussions.

Bill McKenna asked the Transportation Commission if they would like Police, Fire, and Public Works to come back. Chair Chalabian responded that Commission should have one exclusive toolbox meeting and invite them back.

Commissioner Eichenberger motioned to adjourn the meeting and the motion was seconded by Commissioner Thompson.

The voice vote was unanimous to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 PM.

Respectively submitted

Mary Avinger

Mary Avinger,
Administrative Secretary