

APPROVED Meeting Minutes
Transportation Commission
Monday, June 26, 2017
Council Chambers – Village Hall

Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Chalabian called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

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

Excused: Craig Chesney, Joel Schoenmeyer

Staff: Mike Koperniak, Mary Avinger, Jill Velan, John Youkhana, Allison Von Ebbers,

Parking Consultant: Julie Dixon of Dixon Resources Unlimited

Chair Chalabian opened the meeting with an explanation of public comment.

There was no non-agenda public testimony.

Approval of Tonight's Meeting Agenda

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

Approval of the Draft May 22, 2017 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Thompson motioned to approve the draft May 22, 2017, Transportation Commission meeting minutes as modified and was seconded by Commissioner Eichenberger. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

REVIEW OF ORD 17-183 G 022117 (REFERRED BY THE VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES AT ITS JUNE 5, 2017 MEETING)

Parking Services Director Jill Velan gave a presentation going over the history of the parking review and study done in the Y2, Y3, and Y4 permit parking zones, those results, and what staff recommended and presented to the Transportation Commission before going to the Village Board of Trustees. The Village Board passed the ordinance for the recommendation in February 2017 then sent the ordinance back for the Transportation Commission to look at after several complaints.

Commissioner Stewart stated it was a long process to get there including studies and surveys done by members of the Commission.

Chair Chalabian asked how many spaces were in lots 115 & 108. Ms. Velan responded there were 75 – 24 hour spaces in lot 115 and approximately 60 overnight spaces in lot 108. Chair Chalabian also asked what the rate for lot 119 is and Ms. Velan responded \$250 per quarter.

Commissioner Eichenberger asked about utilization in lot 119. Ms. Velan responded the lot sold out in five minutes as well as the spaces on South Blvd.

Chair Chalabian asked when current permits end and Ms. Velan responded on June 30th but the Parking Department currently has an administrative hold on renewals due to Commission meeting.

Chair Chalabian asked about the use of spaces on Mills Park Tower property. Mr. Youkhana stated he spoke to the building manager about other parking options for staff and caregivers and was told it would be difficult, they can't make changes, and limited spaces are for residents with a current 2-3 year wait list if not longer.

Chair Chalabian asked about using valet or shuttle service to help residents and staff and Ms. Velan responded they had not looked into it but the Village had shuttle service years ago and it ended due to its approximate cost of 60k per year.

Commissioner Thompson questioned if the seven spots on Pleasant Place were made unrestricted again what would happen. Ms. Velan responded she can't speak on that but when doing the parking study, it would be first come first served and permit holders still occupy most all spaces throughout the day.

The floor was opened to public testimony.

Tom Dwyer of 1025 Pleasant Place is a resident of Mills Park Tower and stated they are working at a disadvantage because no one in the building knew the hearings were held. Mr. Dwyer spoke about various service vehicles and visitors that come and go in their building and with the seven spots taken that leaves five spaces for them. Mr. Dwyer wants the decision to remove the seven spaces rescinded.

Cathy Estrada of 1025 Pleasant Place stated she is on a three year wait list for a parking space. Ms. Estrada spoke about how most people have some physical problem and she has to constantly move her car. Ms. Estrada spoke on the difficulties for visitors to come and she cannot walk long distances. She stated she can't afford permit parking for herself or her caregiver.

Martin Gaspar of 1025 Pleasant Place stated he agrees with Jill Velan that parking was first come first serve but now it's no come no serve. Mr. Gaspar stated Randolph seems to be open all day and caregivers are getting tickets based on old restrictions and he wants to make sure police know of the changes. He also mentioned cars on

private property at Mills Park Tower are getting tickets and thinks the five spaces remaining are on private property.

Joy Aaronson of 949 Pleasant stated she is disappointed the seven spaces were taken away. Ms. Aaronson said she knows how difficult parking is in the area and wants the 24 hour parking permits rescinded to address the parking situation.

Jay Chatla of 1025 Pleasant Place stated that he believes Oak Park is “no park” because it is difficult to have visitors or caregivers come to the building and the residents are requesting the Transportation Commission does something about this.

Joseph Sarpy of 1025 Pleasant Place Apt 7A stated that reinstating the seven spots won't alleviate problems, just make things easier. Mr. Sarpy explained he has an assigned space at Mills Park Tower and sometimes when he leaves and comes back someone is in his space. He doesn't think there should be an overnight ban and mentioned he had a list of 65 residents of the building who wanted to attend the meeting but were afraid if they moved their cars they would lose their spaces.

Catherine Terrell of 208 S Maple stated she was parking in Holley Court and has two young children, a four year old and 18 month old and understands parking struggles when walking with two young kids home can take 30 minutes or more. Mrs. Terrell stated she pays for one of the seven spaces in lot 119 and needs closer access to her car. She explained her family life, her husband's occupation and how he was robbed in the area. Mrs. Terrell mentioned the Carlton Hotel and other places in the area with parking lots that are mostly unoccupied. She thinks the Village should work with them to see about using some of their spaces.

Chris Donovan of 733 S Elmwood stated he came to the wrong meeting but wanted to let everyone know that state law for meetings says it doesn't have to be posted until 48 hours prior and that even if someone comments at a Board meeting, they won't respond at that meeting.

Eileen Gerges of 1025 Pleasant Place Apt 16C stated she knows three caregivers who do not come anymore because of parking. Ms. Gerges stated she doesn't get visitors anymore. She was on the wait list for a parking space for four years and when it came her turn she couldn't get it due to her medical condition so it went to someone else. Ms. Gerges wants the Commission to look for other options for permit holders.

Elaine Valenta of 1700 River Woods Drive in Melrose Park stated she is the sister to Eileen Gerges and is a registered nurse and had lived in Oak Park for many years. Ms. Valenta feels people don't realize the amount of seniors in Mills Park Tower that have problems. She said a caregiver quit and she cannot visit due to the parking situation. Ms. Valenta stated they (Mills Park Tower residents) need their spaces.

Tyler Tankson of 264 S Marion stated he parks on Pleasant and has to move from spot to spot. Mr. Tankson feels even with those spaces it's going to be a problem. He mentioned he's another parking permit holder.

John Youkhana went over emails sent in as public testimony. Public testimony was closed out.

Commissioner Stewart stated the Commission started looking at zones after the YMCA sold their lot and local residents were looking for other options. He said the Transportation Commission went out and studied the area and saw the unrestricted spaces and around the community spending a lot of time doing the study.

A member of the audience asked if when study was done if the Commission looked at who was parking there and not just at the spaces.

Jill Velan stated notices for every meeting were sent to 4000 people in the area and she has the documentation to prove it. Ms. Velan stated she knows people are busy which is why the Commission does make an effort to go back and relook at things and would like the Commission to make a recommendation.

Commissioner Basirirad asked if staff looked at how much parking buildings have versus the population. Jill Velan responded one reason why there's a parking issue is because Oak Park has built out since the early 1900's when people didn't have many vehicles and parking dynamics have changed over time.

A discussion on potential parking in the new development and options for overnight and daytime parking was had including talking about metered spaces on Marion and changing parking on Pleasant Place. The Commission also talked about a shuttle system for Mills Park Tower from parking garages to the building.

Jill Velan reiterated the Village had a shuttle service and it was very expensive to run. She explained there are unrestricted spaces on Randolph and metered spaces on Marion as well as discounted spaces in the parking garages for employees. They would need to prove their wages to qualify and there are other caretakers that use those permits.

The Commission continued to discuss the spaces being a Village issue versus a Mills Park Tower management issue and that there's a problem that needs to be corrected.

Jill Velan asked the Commission to give staff an idea where other parking spaces they recommend for Mills Park Tower so staff can make sure everyone in area is notified because any changes will affect other people.

Chair Chalabian said staff should look at metered spaces south of Pleasant Place and north to the funeral home.

Commissioner Eichenberger stated the purpose of the recommendation is to address the problem the residents brought to the Commission regarding the seven spaces and motioned to direct staff to look at metered spaces south of Pleasant Place on Marion.

The voice vote was as follows:

Ayes: Chalabian, Thompson, Eichenberger, Stewart

Nays: Basirirad

The motion passed four to one.

INTRODUCTION OF VILLAGE-WIDE PARKING STUDY CONSULTANT, DIXON RESOURCES UNLIMITED

Julie Dixon of Dixon Resources Unlimited gave a presentation on the upcoming Village-wide parking study taking place over the next six months.

A brief discussion was had about marketing solutions for parking, parking dynamics, and parking hierarchy was had.

DISCUSS POSSIBLE ADDITIONAL COMMISSION MEETING DATE FOR 08/01/2017 (or 08/02/2017) REGARDING RUSH HOSPITAL REFERRAL

Jill Velan stated the Village Board of Trustees referred Rush Hospital to the Plan Commission at its July 17th meeting and it would come to the Transportation Commission on July 31st. There would be a possible meeting on August 2nd if discussion doesn't finish on the 31st.

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

The voice vote was unanimous to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:39 PM.

Respectively submitted

Mary Avinger

Mary Avinger,
Administrative Secretary