

APPROVED Meeting Minutes
Transportation Commission
Monday, July 24, 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, Craig Chesney, Joel Schoenmeyer

Excused: None

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

Parking Consultant: Julie Dixon and Jennifer Rentz of Dixon Resources Unlimited

The floor was opened to non-agenda public testimony.

Cathy Yen of 1021 S Grove stated she is a member of the Chamber of Commerce and offered her services to the Transportation Commission to help with communication to the businesses including help with surveys.

Greg Sorg of 510 Augusta stated he's lived in the Village since 1998 as well as managed and owned buildings since 1998 including the redevelopment of the old bank and laundromat at Austin and Lake to the Brew House. Mr. Sorg spoke about getting additional parking on North Blvd near Austin.

Brian Lantz of 305 Home spoke about congested parking around Marion and Randolph, especially on the south side of Randolph between Marion and Home. Mr. Lantz stated with parking on both sides all the way to Home it is very tight and thinks it's a hazard. Mr. Lantz also spoke about the difficulties of parking in front of his house for himself and guests and changes to parking regulations may have devalued his home. Mr. Lantz thinks quality of life is going down and Oak Park is being changed to Chicago between the developments and very dense parking zones.

Non-agenda public testimony was closed out.

Approval of Tonight's Meeting Agenda

Commissioner Thompson motioned to defer the final review and approval of the traffic calming toolbox to another meeting. Commissioner Schoenmeyer seconded the motion but the motion was withdrawn.

A brief discussion was had about deferring the traffic calming toolbox agenda item before Commissioner Eichenberger motioned to approve the agenda as presented and was seconded by Commissioner Chesney. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Approval of the Draft June 12, 2017 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Thompson motioned to approve the draft June 12, 2017, Transportation Commission meeting minutes as modified on page 4/6 and was seconded by Commissioner Stewart. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

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

John Youkhana, Interim Parking Services Director, opened the discussion with a brief review of the history and what happened at the last meeting before explaining staff's recommendations, some of which include making the seven parallel spaces in lot 119 "night" permit parking spaces to free up spaces during the day, and making 10 diagonal spaces in lot 81 to lot 120 for 24 hour spaces.

Commissioner Chesney asked how many spaces were created and sold on Pleasant Place and John Youkhana responded seven spaces were created and sold and went on to explain further staff's recommendations. Commissioner Chesney asked if diagonal spaces on the east side of Marion would be 24-hours and John responded yes.

Commissioner Eichenberger asked John Youkhana to elaborate on metered space recommendations on Pleasant Place and John responded to his inquiry.

Commissioner Schoenmeyer asked about Mills Park Tower respond and John responded that staff asked Mills Park Tower to provide a clear and concise indication of what they wanted and was told that overnight parking is okay but keep parking open during the day.

The discussion continued about on-street parking in the area, parking on Mills Park Tower property, parking restrictions, and how permits are sold.

The floor was opened to public testimony.

David Kelm of 1025 Pleasant Place is a resident of Mills Park Tower and spoke about the meeting he had with 21 residents who voted on what they thought should happen as follows: 1. No change to current #ID spaces for residents – 21 for 2. No meters on Pleasant Place – 18 for/3 against, 3. No overnight parking permits – 18 for/3 against, 4-hour daytime parking restriction – 18 for/3 against, 5. Return Pleasant Place to unrestricted as before – 2 for/19 against. Mr. Kelm also spoke about creating more one-way streets in the area especially on Randolph (make it one-way eastbound) due to

tight conditions. Mr. Kelm thinks a loop around the area would help move traffic - one way eastbound on Randolph from Marion to Home, one way north on Home/Forest north of North Blvd to Ontario, one way westbound on Ontario to Marion and one way southbound on Marion to Randolph.

David Kralik of 526 Highland stated he is the chair of the Oak Park Housing Authority and oversees Mills Park Tower. Mr. Kralik stated he provided letter of support for staff's changes and explained there are 200 units in Mills Park Tower with only 40 permitted spaces on their property with a waiting list. Mr. Kralik stated they are the only public funded housing in the Village and spoke about the lack of abuse of unrestricted spaces in past years. Mr. Kralik stated spaces are used by service providers and visitors for Mills Park Tower residents.

Catherine Terrell of 208 S Maple stated she is a permit holder in lot 119 and spoke about the last meeting and thanked John Youkhana for the good sounding recommendation.

Mary O'Kiersey of 1025 Pleasant Place Apt 9C asked what the parking situation on Maple between Randolph and South Blvd. and Allison VonEbbers, Parking Restrictions Coordinator, explained the restrictions.

Barbara Uniek of 1025 Pleasant Place Apt 8A stated she is concerned about the 4-hour limits when her caregiver stays for five hours, five days a week. Ms. Uniek stated she can't walk far to get to a car and wants to have the street back the way it was.

Public testimony was closed out.

Commissioner Chesney stated he is concerned about changing diagonal spaces and wants to make sure everyone's needs are met. He asked about adding more spaces closer to Marion and closer to Mills Park Tower door and signage being placed on Pleasant Place. John Youkhana stated signs placed according to state mandate.

Commissioner Eichenberger stated he is also concerned about turning diagonal spaces on Marion to 24-hour parking and thinks making it 24-hour parking would reduce backing out maneuvers.

Commissioner Stewart stated he likes the solution John Youkhana found and reduced backing out especially for bicyclists. He is concerned about the loss of parking and was looking for replacement parking. Commissioner Stewart stated people are now dependent on the seven spaces either for caregivers or for 24-hour parking and is concerned that Mills Park Tower doesn't provide short term parking. Commissioner Stewart stated he supports a 3-hour limit on Pleasant Place.

The discussion continued with the Commission on staff's discussions with Mills Park Tower, unrestricted versus restricted time limits, overnight parking permit holders and

daytime parking, mentions of the Commission's own parking study done in the area in 2014, and metered versus non-metered spaces.

Chair Chalabian spoke about the legitimacy of the Mills Park Tower residents, and stated he likes staff's recommendations. Chair Chalabian stated he is concerned with lack of cooperation from Mills Park Tower management and is concerned that YMCA was invited but didn't show up. He also spoke about the dynamic parking changing of the spaces on Pleasant Place and the Commission has opportunities to fix it right.

A brief discussion about 24-hour parking, shared parking, and metered parking systems took place.

John Youkhana spoke about scheduling and timing of presenting to the Village Board of Trustees and the parking permit cycle.

Chair Chalabian stated he lives in the area and knows parking is difficult.

Commissioner Basirirad stated that based on existing parking, metered parking is not the solution for the seniors.

Commissioner Eichenberger thinks they should start with least restrictive and make it more restrictive and wants to know how they can monitor this to record changes.

Commissioner Stewart asked if parking is unrestricted during the day, what would be the incentive for night permit parkers to move during the day.

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.

Commissioner Stewart motioned to swap 24-hour lot from 119 to lot 81, have meters during the day in lot 119 Monday – Saturday 8am – 6pm, and have overnight parking permits for lot 119. Commissioner Schoenmeyer seconded the motion.

The voice vote was as follows:

Ayes: Chalabian, Thompson, Eichenberger, Stewart, Basirirad, Schoenmeyer, Chesney

Nays: None

The motion passed unanimously.

UPDATE ON THE VILLAGE WIDE PARKING STUDY, PARKING NEAR TRANSIT (CTA & METRA LINES)

John Youkhana gave a brief presentation on the update of the parking study touching on previous information and how the Village Board of Trustees wants to take a fresh look at the areas.

Chair Chalabian stated he was concerned they were going to tackle 8 or 9 points but don't have much time. He asked if the Commission were okay with item A – No Parking 8-10am M-F standardizing parking. Chair Chalabian noticed no one in the audience and wanted to know where the public participation is. The Commission was supposed to be conducting public participation. Commissioner Stewart agreed.

John Youkhana briefly went through the bullet points for on-street daytime parking restrictions before turning it over to Julie Dixon from Dixon Resources Unlimited.

Julie Dixon and Jennifer Rentz of Dixon Resources Unlimited gave a presentation about doing a clean slate approach for the Y2, Y3, and Y4 zones. Ms. Rentz spoke about confusing and inconsistent signage and the need for change in ordinances. She went on to speak about resident frustration, ample overnight parking in certain areas, and the lack of consistent enforcement.

Julie Dixon spoke about a pay-station pilot program and license plate recognition. Ms. Dixon also suggested doing hands on stakeholder engagement in August and doing meetings in stages. Ms. Dixon she has spoken to many residents that have approached her while out doing inspections. She also stated she will report to the Commission on a monthly basis.

Commissioner Chesney asked about the increases in parking rates after three hours and John Youkhana responded that it comes from a specific business district.

Commissioner Stewart suggested making sure school is in session when doing the parking study.

Commissioner Eichenberger stated the clean slate approach sounds good in theory but not to get rid of things that are working. Ms. Dixon responded about approach.

Commissioner Basirirad asked if staff knew the number of spaces in each of the zones and John Youkhana responded he will get that information.

A discussion took place about the Village Board goals, the consultant's aggressive approach when only contracted through the end of the year, and the Transportation Commission's part in the community involvement process.

The floor was opened to public testimony.

Peter Morava of 11 Harrison stated he owns two businesses in Oak Park, one of which is in downtown and spoke about the needs of retail businesses for parking. Mr. Morava favors 3-hour parking restrictions. He also stated holiday retail season starts November 1st and with construction that starts in late fall, it impacts businesses – should delay work until December 26th. There should be more transparency for construction in the business community and a timeline should be provided. Mr. Morava said the public

should be educated on projects as customers complain to businesses about parking. He also spoke about educating stakeholders and businesses about lost revenue due to low turnover. Mr. Morava also spoke about the need for better enforcement and the how the 3-hour parking restrictions helped.

Public testimony was closed out.

Commissioner Eichenberger stated that for the 2018 work plan the Commission should look at businesses and how to improve parking for them.

A brief discussion about parking and surface lots in downtown Oak Park being heavily used, driver turn overs, why people don't like to use garages, using pay stations, holiday parking, and construction issues was had.

Commissioner Schoenmeyer stated there needs to be a discussion with businesses about parking during holiday season.

John Youkhana stated they will bring this agenda item back at the August 28th meeting.

TRAFFIC CALMING TOOLBOX, FINAL COMMISSION REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Mike Koperniak went over the history of the traffic calming toolbox with the Commission citing examples in the agenda and the modifications made as requested from the Commission. Mike explained that staff needs the Commission to approve the traffic calming toolbox so it can be submitted to the Village Board of Trustees for approval.

Chair Chalabian asked if the Commission was good with how things were and everyone responded they were good with staff's recommendations before discussing who pays for what.

Commissioner Chesney motioned to approve staff's recommendation and Commissioner Schoenmeyer seconded the motion.

The voice vote was as follows:

Ayes: Chalabian, Thompson, Eichenberger, Stewart, Basirirad, Schoenmeyer, Chesney
Nays: None

The motion passed unanimously.

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

The voice vote was unanimous to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:10 PM.

Respectively submitted

Mary Avinger

Mary Avinger,
Administrative Secretary