



## Agenda Summary

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**File #:** ID 17-484

**Agenda Date:** 5/8/2017

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**Submitted By**

Jill Velan, Parking and Mobility Services Director

**Agenda Item Title**

**On-Street Parking for Austin Boulevard and Harlem Avenue including Adjacent Areas**

**Overview**

At the January 23, 2017 Special Meeting, the Board approved a monthly schedule of topics. May's topic is a presentation of on-street parking for Austin Blvd and Harlem Avenue.

**Anticipated Future Actions/Commitments**

*On-Street Parking Regulations:* Staff is recommending a standardization of daytime parking restrictions and eliminating the 2 hour parking limits on Austin Blvd. In addition overnight on-street permit parking zones should be standardized to have 11 pm - 6 am permit parking hours in all zones along Austin Blvd.

*Technology:* Staff is also recommending that the Village investigate a partnership with online parking technology applications (such as Spot Hero or Park Whiz) to provide a broader platform to assist private property owners to rent available parking spaces. In addition, the Village would facilitate educational seminars for private property owners, residents, and businesses parking topics such as leasing your available parking spaces.

Altering the overnight parking ban or creating a new "alternate-side of the streets" parking option, will require further board discussion at a subsequent meeting.

**Report**

*Board Discussions to Date*

The Village Board Goals for 2016-2017 include revisiting the overall parking systems within Oak Park in a holistic manner and with consideration for neighborhoods and business districts in order to understand the impact on residents, visitors and employees in the community. As a part of this meeting, staff will review the recommended goals for this review and a proposed schedule.

The Board held their first Special Meeting on January 23, 2017. Generally the recommendations discussed and approved included parking restriction changes that would increase resident on-street overnight permit parking by adding 75 spaces. In addition, the recommendations include standardized on-street overnight permit parking hours in the Pleasant Business District and Gwendolyn Brooks Middle School area also referred to as the Y2, Y3, and Y4 Zone to 11:00 p.m. - 6:00 a.m. consistent with the "shared parking" concept used in other mixed use areas which has successfully allowed improved parking for business customers and residents

during the evening hours. The Transportation Commission concurred with these recommendations.

Additionally, staff discussed in more general terms, how each of these Special Meeting sessions on Parking would be organized. The following Goals would be considered as each public parking system is reviewed and changes proposed:

- Parking Ordinances must be simple and user friendly (e.g. language is clear and concise)
- Parking Signage of all types must be standardized and more streamlined so that residents, visitors and employees in Oak Park are able to understand regulatory language that may be required and directional information is clear and concise.
- Parking Technology must support efficient parking administration and operation while also being customer service focused.
- Use the following Guiding Principles per each review: Sustainability, Public Safety, Customer Service

In order to facilitate a comprehensive review of the public parking system, staff recommended a schedule of monthly study sessions be established. In general, each individual session would seek consensus of the Village Board related to the parking policy with a final comprehensive ordinance approval scheduled at the conclusion of the study sessions. Similar to the review of the I-290 Reconstruction, the review of recommendations related to individual public parking policies will take multiple meetings and then comprehensive Board direction can be obtained.

Staff recommended the following Monthly Study Session Schedule:

January	Pleasant Business District/South and Harlem Redevelopment project/Gwendolyn Brooks Middle School, including Recommendations from the Transportation Commission related to on-street resident parking ( <i>this is a time sensitive topic due to pending ground breaking by Lincoln Properties</i> )
February	Parking Technology Best Practices
March	Parking Signage Recommendations
April	On-Street Parking Austin Blvd & Harlem Avenue, including adjacent areas
May	On-Street Parking North Avenue and Roosevelt Road, including adjacent areas
June	Parking near and adjacent to Public Transit/Residential/Mixed Use Areas - Metra CTA Green Line, and CTA Blue Line
July	Parking near and adjacent to Residential/Mixed Use Areas - Madison Street and Washington Blvd
August	Parking near and adjacent to Residential or Mixed Use Areas - Chicago Avenue and Division Street
September	Comprehensive Recommended Ordinance Amendments

While conducting the above area reviews, all of the diverse parking needs would be considered. For example, parking needs of single/multi-family homes, business districts, service providers, schools, parks, hospitals and public transit.

At the February 27, 2017 Special Board meeting, Dixon Resources Unlimited (Dixon) was hired by the Village to review the Village's parking services, permit, vehicle stickers and citation systems to determine requirements for a Unified system that would improve the customer experience. Over the last few months Dixon has been reviewing processes that are shared between the Adjudication, Finance, Information Technology, Police, Public Works and Parking & Mobility Services Departments in an effort to develop a request for proposal that encompasses best practices for a new system.

As part of this process, Dixon presented to the Village Board different parking technologies and parking industry best practices that are currently being used by municipalities throughout the country.

At the March 20, 2017 Special Board meeting the Village Board approved a pilot project for a new consolidated on-street parking restriction sign design. As part of an effort to consolidate parking signage in Oak Park and improve understanding of parking restrictions staff has been researching ideas from around the country. Specifically, there are 10,000+ parking restriction signs posted throughout the Village. As part of the research a new sign design was discovered in New York City. This design is currently being piloted in ten cities throughout Australia, Canada and United States.

Based on comments received from Oak Park residents and businesses, staff believes starting a pilot project with this new sign design may prove successful. One idea that seems to be receiving a positive reaction, is a design by a woman named Nikki Sylianteng who is a former resident of Los Angeles and a current resident of Brooklyn. Sylianteng's came up with an idea to change the traditional text-based design of parking regulation signage in a visual explanation that would answer two main questions: "Can I park here? And for how long?".

This sign design consists of a parking schedule that shows all 24 hours for every day of the week. The times you can park are marked in green and the times you can not park are marked in red.

Currently there are several different iterations of the sign design being piloted in Columbus (OH), Fargo (ND), Los Angeles (CA), New Haven (CT), Washington (DC), Brisbane, Sydney, Montreal, and Vancouver.

It is important to note that in addition to a review of design of parking restriction signage, future Study Sessions will review regulations in order to consolidation/change restrictions in some areas of the Village to simplify parking.

The Transportation Commission reviewed the consolidated sign design at their February 27, 2017 meeting and concurred with Staff's recommendation. In addition the Commission recommended that areas to consider for running a pilot would be a couple streets within the Y2, Y3 or Y4 overnight parking zone area, an area with citation rates, or somewhere near mass transit such as South Blvd.

***Special Meeting # 4 - Austin Blvd & Harlem******Recommendation for On Street Parking Regulations:***

As a part of an effort to consolidate signage and improve understanding of parking restrictions staff has been researching the existing posted signs and regulations. For example, currently Austin Blvd has two layers of restrictions, making parking for residents and customers difficult:

1. Rush hour restrictions of “No Parking 7am-9am” and “No Parking 4pm-6pm”
2. “2 hour time limit” between 9am-4pm.

In addition, every overnight resident permit parking zone along Austin Blvd has various start and end times ranging from 8pm - 10am unique to a given block. Some areas have multiple start and end times even within the same zone. As with prior discussions staff recommends that all the overnight resident permit parking zones along Austin Blvd have a standardized time of 11pm-6am.

The Transportation Commission concurred with staff on these recommendations.

***Technology Recommendations:***

Staff has researched the opportunity to provide additional enclave (off-street) parking in the area and have determined that at Ontario and Austin there is an available parkway to add off-street parking spaces. In addition, there are several private property owners with parking lots/garages that could be pursued for off-street parking. Traditionally, the Village has license agreements for the use of spaces. However, staff is recommending that the Village investigate a partnership with online parking technology applications (such as Spot Hero or Park Whiz) to provide a broader platform to assist private property owners to rent available parking spaces. In addition, the Village would facilitate educational seminars for private property owners, residents, and businesses parking topics such as leasing your available parking spaces.

Currently, Harlem Avenue does not have any daytime parking restrictions and staff does not recommend adding any at this time. There is no Overnight Parking from 2:30-6am. There has been some requests from residents of multi-family dwellings looking for additional overnight spaces in the area. There are a number of private parking lots in the area that would be able to utilize the above mentioned parking technology to rent extra spaces to the general public. Staff will also review a parking area currently located on North Avenue for overnight opportunities as part of the next study session which encompasses North Avenue and Roosevelt Road.

The Transportation Commission concurred with staff on these recommendations.

***Feedback from Transportation Commission & Residents***

As part of this review process, staff meets with the Transportation Commission in advance of each Special Meeting with the Village Board. In addition, the Village website allows for comments regarding parking for the particular area scheduled for discussion one week in advance. Those comments are then emailed to the Village Board the day of the Special Meeting and a hard-copy is presented at the meeting.



# Village of Oak Park

## Parking Study Session

May 8, 2017

# Board Discussions to Date

- January 23, 2017 –
  - Approval of Guiding Principles
  - Pleasant District/South and Harlem Redevelopment
- February 27, 2017
  - Parking Industry Technology and Best Practices
- March 20, 2017
  - Pilot Project for a new consolidated on-street parking restriction sign design

# On-Street Parking Regulations

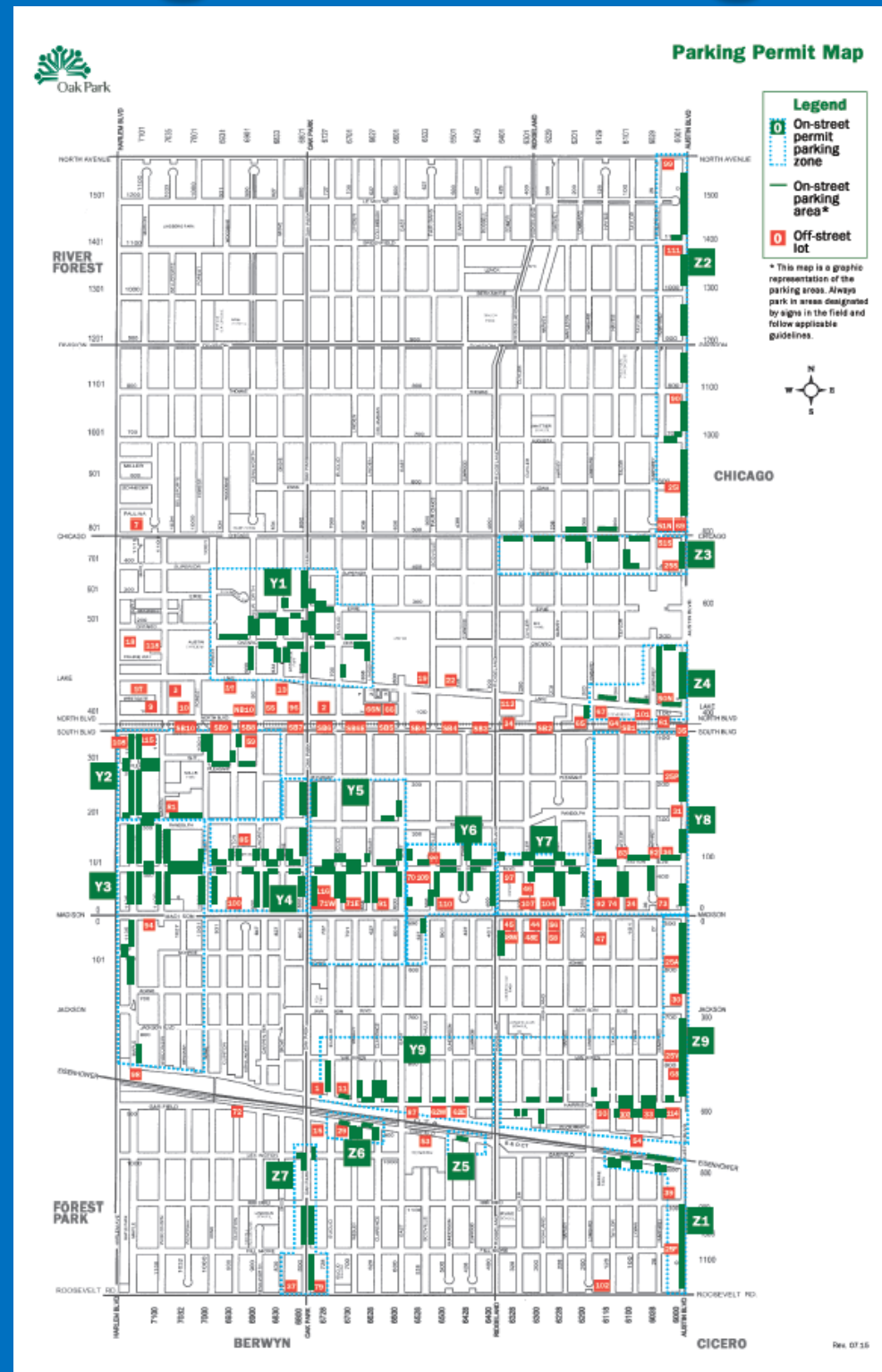
- 2 hour parking limits – Austin Blvd.
- Standardized on-street permit parking zones – 11pm to 6 am on Austin Blvd.
- No Changes for parking on Harlem



# Austin Blvd.



# Overnight Parking - Austin Blvd.



# Technology

- Investigate partnership with online parking technology applications
- Assist and encourage private property rental of available parking spaces
- Educational Seminars for residents and businesses on parking topics
- Buildings

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# Questions?

# Parking Review Public Comments

## May – Austin, Harlem on-street parking

### Comments submitted between May 1-8

#### Parking near Blue Line stations

*Submitted by Eulalia Puig Abril on Mon, 2017-05-01 16:48*

Hello, This comment may not be fully related to the parking situation in the video, but I am out of options as to where to send it. Why is it that Oak Park commuters that use the blue line need to park almost four long blocks away from the Oak Park stations (e.g., Austin)? What does this say about commuting with the train from Oak Park? Why is it so difficult to do one of the most environmentally friendly activities? Why, why, why? We need to find a solution to ENHANCE, FACILITATE, SUPPORT commuters to the blue line—not hinder them. Thank you for listening.

#### Parking on Austin Blvd, Oak Park Side

*Submitted by Josh Jackson on Mon, 2017-05-01 20:54*

I think it would be great if a parking permit wasn't needed to park on the Oak Park side. Since one isn't needed to park on the Chicago side overnight.

#### Parking

*Submitted by Ivan Story on Tue, 2017-05-02 07:21*

I believe parking need to be expanded in Oak Park you haha  
Have overcrowded parking on one block and the next block  
You have no parking allowed over night and the homes have garages  
Garages and drive ways and no cars parked on the street  
The logistics for parking is not good for residents that pay  
For on street parking overnight sometimes having to walk  
Blocks late at night and seeing streets within your grid with open  
Parking spaces but you can't park there.

#### Village parking

*Submitted by Oak Park Reside... on Tue, 2017-05-02 07:35*

Oak Park Village needs to ease parking restrictions for its residents. I pay almost \$90 /month to park in a garage, and I was recently ticketed an additional \$30 for parking at a meter near an Oak Park restaurant that I patronized for 40 minutes without putting additional money in a meter. This is despite the fact that my car is practically covered with Oak Park Village and parking stickers. The Village (whether thru tickets or the ballot box) is constantly trying to gouge its residents. We can only take so much.

## 2h parking

*Submitted by Magda on Tue, 2017-05-02 08:54*

I think Oak Park needs more parking spots that allow parking for longer than 2h. There are several appointments that take longer than 2h and it's extremely difficult to find anywhere to park for longer than 2h, especially in downtown of oak Park.

## Overnight Permit Times in OP Lots

*Submitted by Brian on Tue, 2017-05-02 10:54*

Quick comment on permit starting time in OP lots. I would suggest the "free parking" slice of the day after 6pm still remain free until the restaurants close (11pm?). I parked in the permit lot at a meter that was free after 6 near OP Ave and the Ike to eat dinner and was surprised to get a ticket because I stayed too long into the "permit only" slice of the evening, I believe 8pm. Makes it difficult to have a later dinner out.

## Street cleaning in relation to overnight parking

*Submitted by Julie Samuels on Tue, 2017-05-02 13:13*

Our street has many more overnight parkers and as a result it is rarely if every cleaned. Currently we have 3 inches of mud along the length of our gutter. Please institute alternate side of the street parking so our streets will be swept.

## Street cleaning in relation to overnight parking

*Submitted by Julie Samuels on Tue, 2017-05-02 13:16*

Please institute alternate side of the street parking for this reason. We have many more overnight parkers on our street and as a result our street is rarely if ever swept. The mud in our gutter (near the sewer that is usually stopped up) is 3 inches deep. Thank you for considering this.

## Parking regulations unfairly burden working class residents

*Submitted by J. Cooper on Tue, 2017-05-02 21:05*

Village wide rules prohibiting more than one parking permit per residence discourages working families from living in this community. For many, rent prices necessitate two incomes but it is exceptionally difficult for both members of a household to work if only one has reliable onsite parking/transportation. Although the village allows for additional permits to be purchased, the demand is such that people must take time off work in order to wait at the village hall. For example, permits went on sale 5/5/17 at 8:30am and people were waiting in the village hall at 7am. Soon after doors opened, the line to pay for permits extended throughout the lobby and it took approximately 1.5 to 2 hours to complete the entire process. That is time that residents could otherwise spend providing for their families if they were allowed to purchase permits online. Oak Park strives to be a welcoming and progressive community, but their parking regulations actively discourage working class residents from participating in this vision. If substantive changes are not made, Oak Park will continue to ostracize an essential component of the community, leading to further segregation between the haves and the have nots.



### Overnight parking

*Submitted by Blair Johnson on Wed, 2017-05-03 07:04*

I moved to oak park from Chicago with my pregnant wife and 4 year old daughter for safety and a better neighborhood for my children to grow up in. I was completely unaware of the parking restrictions when I signed my lease. I live in one of three apartment buildings on the 400 block of Humphrey, the only three properties without garages. I find it ridiculous that I'm not able to park in front of my own apartment at night. I have to park blocks away on Austin blvd. in the Chicago area. I work very early mornings which leaves my wife and kids to have to walk blocks away in order to retrieve the car. I pay over \$1000 in rent and I would expect to not have to buy \$100+ parking passes, to not have to get ticketed or go thru these extreme lengths to park in front of my own property. I would like to ask is there a better solution to this problem maybe even removing the overnight parking ban on residential blocks?.

### alley parking

*Submitted by Rita A. on Wed, 2017-05-03 15:23*

I'd like to request that the "comprehensive parking study" create "parking ordinances" for the village that "create ordinances" and "standardize" regulations for parking in alleys, especially on garage aprons. In my alley, parking on garage aprons serves as a substitute for purchasing parking permits.

### Parking on Harlem

*Submitted by (M) Norene Jamieson on Thu, 2017-05-04 09:38*

I have lived on Harlem most of my life and I appreciate the fact that parking on Harlem is available during the day. I would not like to see daytime parking on Harlem restricted. I have an invalided neighbor and it would make it very difficult to transport her. Thank you so much

### Street Parking Permits

*Submitted by Anna Alecci on Fri, 2017-05-05 22:36*

After not owning a car for 15 years, I bought a car when I had a baby last winter to get her to the doctor, grocery shop, etc. However, I am not allowed to park on the side street I live on- the 200 block of Cuyler. It isn't a permit area. The closest parking spot I was able to rent is 4 blocks away. With any child, especially an infant, this is a challenge- particularly in freezing weather, nighttime or in an emergency situation. My street is not busy and my building is the only one on the block without a garage or parking lot. I would urge the city to open up more areas to 24-hour parking permits. I have still never heard an explanation as to why that would be a problem.

### Overnight Parking

*Submitted by Sarah on Sat, 2017-05-06 06:25*

For the amount of money I pay in property taxes I shouldn't have to spend \$130 every three months to park in front of my condo. Which for a 51 unit building only allows 6 spots. All other parking must be done on busy Chicago Ave. this is ridiculous and if I'd know I'd never

have moved to this town. I've spent more in parking than I ever did in Chicago or Schaumburg. I understand the city needs to make revenue but the amount of parking tickets and restrictions is insane. Why can't homeowners have a 1 car limit to park on the street without additional fees? Why do I have to park in Z3 on a dangerous street where my neighbors have been held up at gun point? The parking situation has made me hate living in Oak Park.

### Overnight parking Yes Please

*Submitted by Debbie Holliday... on Sat, 2017-05-06 12:11*

It is clear that parking regulations currently in place north of division on Harlem Ave affects oak park residents in need of parking space in this area. Since night traffic seem to be less congested, allowance for overnight parking on Harlem Ave would greatly benefit the residents in this area.

### Parking

*Submitted by K. Reed on Sun, 2017-05-07 18:19*

I think it terrible to be charged so much to park where you live and i think the number parking passes is ridiculous for any adult who may be in a relationship with someone that stay over more than 10 days within a year.

### Austin parking and OP traffic mgmt

*Submitted by Anonymous OP Re... on Sun, 2017-05-07 18:54*

While I recognize the safety purpose and nature landscape that "road verges" provide (the grass section between the curb and sidewalk)... What if some of those along Austin Ave we're converted to parking spots?! Thoughts? During rush hour Austin must be a two lane road. Also, I think along all major North-South OP streets we need better public transit - particularly Ridgeland and OP Ave - to connect people to rail lines; the Pace busses are often bunched and constantly behind schedule. It's no magic bullet, you but improving those North-South bus routes could help reduce dependency on cars/parking.

### Parking on Austin and Parking Overnight

*Submitted by JC Barber on Sun, 2017-05-07 19:11*

I do not know why the village has restricted parking hours on Austin; since they are not enforced. The traffic from my place down Austin to the 290 entrance ALWAYS has at least 2 parked cars and my commute starts at 715am.

On the other hand; the village gouges its residents for parking passes and stickers and I see no reason why we cannot parking on side streets in residential areas freely with a simple Village Sticker (in the front window) overnight.

### Overnight parking

*Submitted by P. O'Connor on Mon, 2017-05-08 10:41*

A frustrating topic to say the least ! Two of the same offense tickets on my windshield within minutes of one another last month forced me to go to the village hall to rectify the problem .



Speaking with five village employees until a remedy was in place took about an hour . Was my time worth possibly excusing the ticket ?No , not at all ! My vehicle had a dead battery before I left for work before midnight , had to get to work anyway . Called parking services , all automated , no luck . Called front desk and explained , had minimal help . Went back to automated parking services phone line and thought I went thru the process . A ticket waited for me when I arrived home from work . The last problem was a debatable ticket hand-written at 232AM as I arrived at my vehicle at 230AM . All of this occurred within the month . Bad luck or misfortune maybe . User unfriendly and less helpful village employees I think so ! Trying to resolve these issues is time consuming , distractive , and such an energy-waster in such a " progressive " community . Ironical !

### **Oak Park Parkin**

Submitted by Neil on Mon, 2017-05-08 13:03

I moved to Oak Park and found parking to be a hassle. To begin with, there are certain streets you can park until 2am then you have to move your car to a zone spot after 2? What sense does that make to allow parking till 2am but then you have to move your vehicle to somewhere else onward. Also there needs to be more zone parking in the side streets to accommodate all the residents. Its like parking wars looking for a parking spot for your vehicle. We are already paying rent and all the taxes associated with living in the village, why not allow more parking spots?