APPROVED Meeting Minutes
Transportation Commission
Monday, September 25, 2017
Council Chambers – Village Hall

Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Chalabian called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Present: Jack Chalabian, Kyle Eichenberger, James Thompson, Joel Schoenmeyer, Robert Taylor, Michael Stewart

Excused: Roya Basirirad

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

Parking Consultant: Julie Dixon of Dixon Resources Unlimited

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 Schoenmeyer. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Approval of the Draft August 28, 2017 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Stewart motioned to approve the draft August 28, 2017, Transportation Commission meeting minutes as modified and was seconded by Commissioner Thompson. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote

Approval of the Draft September 11, 2017 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Eichenberger motioned to approve the draft September 11, 2017, Transportation Commission meeting minutes as presented and was seconded by Commissioner Thompson. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

UPDATE AND ON-GOING DISCUSSION OF PARKING STUDY

Parking Services Manager, John Youkhana began by informing the Commission about the Parking Department's web pages on the Village website having updated information on Board Meetings and the forums that took place. John also briefly spoke about future forums.

Chair Chalabian asked John why the study area stops at South Blvd instead of Lake Street when people park their vehicles in Downtown Oak Park and John responded about the concerns with doing the pilot program in the area but they should discuss it. Chair Chalabian thinks it should be moved to the north and stated the new garage opening in the near future will impact efforts south of South Blvd and staff should be more proactive.

Julie Dixon of Dixon Resources Unlimited gave a power point presentation on the 2018 Parking Pilot Area. Ms. Dixon spoke about where she started with the pilot program and where they are now after feedback from Village staff. She stated the new focus on the pilot program would now be South Boulevard to Madison Street and between Harlem and Oak Park Avenues.

Ms. Dixon spoke about the key components to consider when addressing the issues including confusion of residents, employees and visitors, lack of turnover, inconsistent signage, enforcement challenges, commuters and employees parking in residential districts, and how police and residents favor the overnight parking ban.

Commissioner Taylor asked about residents being in favor of the overnight parking ban and Julie Dixon and John Youkhana responded speaking about the overnight parking ban in reference to the pilot program and how there is no distinction between single family and multi-family permit spaces. The pilot program will aim to differentiate residents in single family homes, multi-family buildings, and guests parking during the day or overnight.

John Youkhana spoke about why three hour parking restrictions are being suggested in business areas and a discussion about three hour parking restrictions and how to manage it took place.

Commissioner Eichenberger asked about people parking and using the phone app to pay and how they can potentially stay longer than the three hour restriction and Julie Dixon responded about enforcement and the use of license plate recognition software.

A discussion on overnight visitor parking and vehicle registration stickers took place and John Youkhana advised the Commission he will research the history of Village of Oak Park vehicle stickers.

Discussions by the Commission continued about finding loop holes in open parking, over purchasing permits, on-street versus off-street parking lots and using permits in these lots, odd/even parking year-round, license plate recognition, and enforcement.

Julie Dixon continued the presentation speaking about the next steps for the pilot program including stakeholder engagement meetings in the neighborhoods, inventory of the parking spaces in the pilot area, developing a parking enforcement plan using license plate recognition in the pilot area, and following up with Public Works on street sweeping and leaf and snow removal hours.

Chair Chalabian stated that stakeholder meetings should be out in the neighborhoods and not at Village Hall. Chair Chalabian said staff needs to design a plan and ask for feedback because it is more about listening to the stakeholders.

Julie Dixon continued speaking about the next steps and explaining the pilot program with a possible short video and working with the Communications Department on how to get the message out at each meeting. She also spoke about engaging the hospital, schools, and multi-family buildings in the discussions and developing a new brand and signage for the pilot.

Julie stated the proposed schedule would be to complete the inventory in the next two weeks, potentially hold community stakeholder meetings on November 2, 3, and 4, and then present the proposed action plan to the Commission with staff's comments on October 23rd, and recommend the action plan to the Village Board of Trustees at the November 27th meeting.

John Youkhana began a discussion on possibly overturning the overnight parking ban by speaking about an alternative plan Transportation Engineer, Mike Koperniak created years ago and sent to the former Parking Director, Jill Velan. Mike Koperniak gave a copy of his plan to each of the Commissioners and explained how his plan could achieve what the Village does now without the use permits. John Youkhana asked the Commission for their thoughts on removing the overnight parking ban.

Commissioner Schoenmeyer likes the idea of re-looking at the overnight parking ban and thinks they should start with the pilot program process to do it. He stated he does like Mike Koperniak's alternate plan and its flexibility.

Commissioner Eichenberger stated there has been decades of people getting special treatment and questioned who parking is for and who the Village is serving with open parking. He thinks there's an equity issue with renters versus homeowners.

Commissioner Stewart stated neighboring communities like Berwyn and Cicero have no overnight parking bans and cars are always parked up solid next to homes. Commissioner Stewart talked about his experience working at the Regional Housing Center and Village Staff has significantly increased parking for tenants over the past 10 years. He thinks getting rid of lots in the pilot area is not a good idea and asked about cost and length of pilot program study.

Commissioner Thompson stated it is hard to develop a global solution for a small area. Julie Dixon responded why the area was chosen.

Chair Chalabian spoke about how the Commission decided before to keep the overnight parking ban but the community is changing. Chair Chalabian stated there are legitimate concerns but the Village and Commission should possibly postpone looking at the

overnight parking ban until 2019. He spoke about how Mike Koperniak's alternate plan was creative and it should be given a shot.

Mike Stewart spoke about a presentation at a previous meeting by former Parking Director, Jill Velan where she outlined the pros and cons of the overnight parking ban and feels that it very well presented and thought out.

A brief discussion about the length of the pilot study was had before the Commissioners were asked for their feedback on the on the pilot study.

Commissioner Thompson stated overall he is positive about the pilot program but is concerned about when this goes out to residents because he had a little difficulty following the presentation. He thinks it should be simplified how it's presented to stakeholders.

Commissioner Stewart stated the whole plan sounds confusing and questioned who wants to try it. Commissioner Stewart also said the odd/even parking sounds confusing and that the Y2, Y3, Y4 areas are so unlike other areas of the Village. He also went on to say that he thinks it is a waste of effort to propose overnight parking in front of single family homes. Commissioner Stewart is okay with the three hour parking restrictions but concerned about guest passes and the 72 hour rule. He asked about renters that travel for work or extended vacations and John Youkhana spoke about residential rates for garage parking which is currently available.

Commissioner Eichenberger stated that he likes the pilot program and agrees with Commissioner Stewart and thinks people will say parking is still a mess and doesn't understand changes. He also questioned if the Commission has the stamina to make the necessary changes.

Commissioner Taylor stated he heard a lot of good stuff and thinks the Commission should focus on the positives. Commissioner Taylor generally thinks the pilot program makes things easier and likes the ideas presented and communication to the public is important.

Commissioner Schoenmeyer stated he likes a lot of the ideas but is concerned with pricing and supply. Commissioner Schoenmeyer doesn't think parking permits should be subsidized and thinks parking spaces should possibly be auctioned off for off-street parking. He thinks Oak Park talks about environmental sustainability and people will waste a lot of time looking for parking.

Chair Chalabian spoke about the recommendations for the pilot program and that he likes slides one and two, and three if it doesn't oversell spaces. Chair Chalabian spoke about the three hour parking limits and how the idea came to be. Chair Chalabian believes that parkers should pay a variable rate on a demand based model. Chair Chalabian spoke about how to restrictions could discourage people if they get a ticket and questioned the cost of parking in downtown Oak Park. He also reiterated that the

pilot study north boundary line should be moved up and gave his reasons why. Chair Chalabian also spoke more about slide three and went down each bullet point; agrees more spaces should be opened up for overnight parking to maximize utilization of shared parking, spoke about surge pricing, and spoke about odd/even parking. Chair Chalabian spoke about engaging the community stakeholders about the pilot concepts on the Next Steps for Pilot slide and how there needs to be much more marketing and public participation.

A discussion of the schedule for the November community stake holders meetings as well as about expanding the pilot area and the potential consequences took place.

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 9:25 PM.

Respectively submitted

Mary Avinger

Mary Avinger,
Administrative Secretary