

APPROVED Meeting Minutes
Transportation Commission
Thursday, November 9, 2017
Community Room – Gwendolyn Brooks Middle School

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

Staff: John Youkhana, Allison Von Ebers, Tammie Grossman, Delia Tamas, Mike Koperniak, Mary Avinger

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

PARKING PILOT PUBLIC FORUM

Transportation Commission Chair, Jack Chalabian opened the meeting at 6:00pm by thanking everyone for coming and spoke about the parking pilot forum and the importance of public participation.

Julie Dixon of Dixon Resources Unlimited gave a power point presentation on the proposed Parking Pilot Program. Ms. Dixon's presentation went over the proposed updates to the Village of Oak Park's parking rules. Ms. Dixon presented the map of the proposed area, what they are trying to fix, the overall recommendations, including an inventory of parking spaces, residences and parking permits, as well as potential parking options for the proposed area.

The floor was opened to public testimony.

A resident from the 1000 block of Erie stated his concerned about on street parking limits during the day and two hour parking restrictions between 10am and 5pm because he has an in-home caregiver and nannies that require four hour parking but they have to constantly move their cars due to the two hour restrictions. He asked about allowing a person to use a sticker or license plate for extended parking. Julie responded there may be a special use permit for service workers that are providing a basic need. The resident asked if a special permit was currently available and Parking Services Division Supervisor Delia Tamas responded that there is a medical pass that he can get and she will work with him to get it.

A resident from the 400 block of S Grove spoke about her concerns when someone has workers coming to their house and they need to park for an extended time while working. Her concerns were that they shouldn't have to park several blocks away and carry equipment back and forth.

A Resident from the 300 block of South Oak Park Avenue stated she rents cars and asked about parking on Randolph after 9:00pm. Julie responded how residents will be

able to create an online account and how they would obtain a pass using the license plate and can change the plate number within their account as needed.

A resident stated he is interested in residents parking in the 3800 inventoried spaces and asked how they arrived at that number. Julie responded that initially the pilot program was a smaller area and after extending the area is how they came up with the number of spaces. The resident asked if they are trying to make more parking spaces for the residents and that he doesn't understand how this pilot program will solve the problem. He thinks there are single family homes that have claimed public streets and doesn't understand how the program limiting one permit per household would work.

A resident from the 300 block of Wisconsin stated he wants to know under the new plan how someone has people over that want to stay after 11pm and is concerned about parking in alleys and how to get into driveways. Julie responded that guest passes will depend upon which option is chosen for the pilot program. She mentioned that alley parking was brought up at a previous meeting and she will bring that to the attention of engineering and enforcement for the area.

A resident from the 300 block of South Maple stated she has been a resident in the village for over 40 years. She spoke about parking being readily available before and how it isn't anymore. She is concerned about alley parking and how it hinders alley usage. She said there is no parking on Harlem which makes parking on Maple even worse and also spoke about her disabled sister that visits several times a year and was told she could park in one of the parking garages a half mile away. She stated her sister cannot walk that far and it is unfair to ask her to do so. The resident also stated her block is always full of cars and spoke about a new neighbor who recently got a car was told she has to park far away.

A resident from the 600 block of South Cuyler asked what restrictions if any are being made for Sundays. Julie responded that the proposed restrictions would be seven days a week. The resident questioned if due to churches in the area if the rules could be loosened on Sundays. He is concerned that with people coming from other areas to houses of worship they would have a difficult time parking on Sundays and mentioned even Jewish people in the synagogues may have issues parking on Saturdays.

A resident from the 1100 block of Washington stated he is shocked that an odd/even parking proposal is even an option that is being considered with only 1400 spaces. He does not support this option and gave his reasons why. He wanted to know if parking spaces are going to be painted because people do not park correctly. Julie spoke about why pavement markings could be a good idea. The resident agrees with opening up parking and stated he doesn't agree that resident permit parkers who are at home during the day should have to move their car. He asked how the 72 hour rule would be enforced because people could move their car back one space or a few feet. Julie spoke about license plate recognition (LPR) and how it works and explained what a car move is.

A resident spoke about the 72 hour rule option versus the odd/even rule option for multifamily buildings and thinks the 72 hour rule option would be preferable. She also asked how residential permit passes would apply to rental cars and Julie spoke about creating an online account and how it works.

A resident stated he is aware of parking issues as a business owner in Downtown Oak Park and as a resident that lives near Austin. He spoke about putting down pavement lines so cars do not take up two spaces. He spoke about the relationship between consumers and residents and how there should be enough spaces for consumers who want to shop to be able to do so without getting a ticket. He questioned if parking rules are a revenue source or if it's a management issue. He doesn't agree that people should have to pay so much per minute to park in order to shop and that there should be free parking for shoppers with two hour limits. He said the Village has to facilitate parking because when customers get tickets, it discourages shopping. Julie spoke about the technology pilot that just finished up and spoke about restrictions in business areas and briefly spoke about the parking garages near commercial districts. She also explained that rules are also meant to help businesses when there are many residential areas around businesses and spoke about employee parking. The resident also spoke about giving tickets in the business areas and possibly giving first time offenders a break on the fine. He stated he can't see pay by plate machines across the street from his store. Julie spoke about the pay by plate pilot program and also spoke about uniform three hour restrictions in downtown areas.

The resident of the 800 block of Washington stated he's lived in the Village for 12 years and doesn't think the overnight parking issue is about safety. He thinks the Village does street cleaning excessively. He thinks the odd/even rule is a bad option and that he parks in the Y4 zone and the 72 hour rule wouldn't help him. He wants to know what the core nature of the pilot program is. Julie responded that the pilot program is to support overnight parking, leaf removal, and street cleaning.

A resident stated he's lived in the Village for 10 years and has his own garage. He is in favor of opening up parking and lifting the overnight ban. He thinks the odd/even rule is unworkable and that the one permit per household idea is a recipe for frustration.

A resident from the 1000 block of Washington stated there isn't enough parking now and questioned how taking parking away helps. He stated he can't park in front of his house and thinks this program would work in a big city and shouldn't be applied to a small town like Oak Park. Parking Manager, John Youkhana spoke about how the pilot program will increase parking spaces. The resident spoke about his space on Washington being taken away because of the new traffic signal that is going in and John explained the loss of parking spaces is due to state of Illinois standards regarding how close cars can park to an intersection with a traffic signal.

A resident that lives near Erie Street and Oak Park Avenue stated he is against the overnight parking ban and that he doesn't think it is an issue of crime and safety but thinks it's an ordinance issue. He currently parks in the Y1 area and questioned why it

should change. He feels he shouldn't have to worry about anything except moving his car Tuesday and Wednesday for street cleaning and the snow ban. He stated he doesn't agree with moving the car every day and thinks people will forget to move their cars and will get tickets. He is against both options because people's plans will have to get scheduled around moving cars and believes the overnight ban is what is really driving the pilot program. Julie asked the resident how long did he think is too long to park on the street for a resident and he responded whatever length of time it takes to move the car for street sweeping, snow removal, and leaf cleaning. He feels moving the car once a week or every three weeks is fine.

A resident that lives on South Boulevard spoke about overnight parking and how he is new to the town and used to park by the meters and pay for overnight parking. He stated when he moved here and got a permit to park overnight but was given a ticket. He went to court and the ticket was thrown out and was told that he was okay and didn't have to move his car and still got another ticket that he paid because he doesn't have time to keep going to court. He stated when he goes to move his car he walks past a lot of open meters and it's frustrating that he can't park there and that with constantly paying money he feels with the new developments the residents are taking the brunt of it.

A business owner in the 800 block of South Oak Park Avenue spoke about how she would like the Village to look at what's happening across the street at VanBuren where there is a huge empty parking lot. She stated people were able to park there but it is now fenced off and is unsure if it is owned by the Village but if not she thinks they should purchase it to alleviate congestion. She also spoke about cars parking on driveways on VanBuren and how huge vehicles that park in two spaces should be charged a higher rate. The resident also feels the Village should investigate having bus service for village residents to make it easy to shop.

A resident of the 100 block of South Grove stated as a resident she doesn't want to see stripes on the street. She stated the sample parking signs are huge and Julie spoke about how signs would be placed to simplify them and reduce clutter. The resident spoke about living by the train and that she doesn't think the odd/even plan would work. She asked about passes for her employees and Julie spoke about employee parking in the garages and explained how that would also free up some on street parking.

A resident that lives on Harrison asked about the pilot program being a revenue source. Julie spoke about how the system should be sustainable and should pay for itself and that enforcement is to identify compliance and not meant to create revenue source. The resident also wanted to know why the odd/even pilot was chosen over a north/south east/west approach. He spoke about people who live across the street from his business not being able to park and asked about daytime parking restrictions as well as if there could be separate signs for permit holders and visitors. He thinks visitors are confused by parking. Julie responded another approach had not been thought of and spoke about daytime parking and how once an option is decided, they can go over signage.

A resident that lives on south Cuyler stated she doesn't live in the pilot area but is in favor of overnight parking. She spoke about living on a residential block with multifamily buildings and having a problem with leaf cleaning and during winter. She is in favor of odd/even parking so streets can get cleaned and thinks the 72 hour rule is too long. She also thinks one of the biggest problems is enforcement because when cars are not moved for snow it is not enforced.

A resident of the 800 block of Clinton stated he is looking for clarification on the odd/even rule because he thinks it wouldn't work for mothers with small children. He stated he wants to know who is benefitting from this pilot program because he doesn't think residents benefit from either approach.

A resident stated he thinks there is a severe problem north of Madison and not so much south of Madison. He spoke of being a former Parking and Traffic Commission member for the Village and that he studied the area south of Madison twice and people who testified from other communities that had overturned their overnight parking ban said that was done in part because women felt unsafe walking home at night. He thinks the overnight parking ban shouldn't be overturned because it benefits homeowners and multifamily buildings and is concerned this proposal will characteristically change Oak Park.

A resident from Mills Park Tower spoke about spaces that were taken away on Pleasant Place and how residents fought to get them back and he wants to make sure that won't happen again. He thinks that the odd/even rule may hurt them again and stated that if anything changes to parking again everyone from his building will come and speak about it.

A resident that lives in the area of Madison and Kenilworth asked for an explanation of how visitor parking would work with the proposed options. Julie responded she couldn't say because they will have to determine that depending on the option chosen for the pilot program. The resident asked how soon it would happen and Julie responded in early 2018 and explained what will happen with the feedback from tonight's meetings before approval is made. The resident also asked if the Village considered purchasing lots to make parking more accessible and if someone wanted to propose changes how someone would do that and Julie responded and suggested coming to future Transportation Commission meetings and coming to community meetings.

A resident that lives on North Boulevard spoke about being disabled and recently moving to the Village and wants to know where to park her car. She said no one is available to ask about parking at night and when she was given a space it was a block and a half away and she cannot walk that far. She spoke of her daughter who brings her food and wants to visit but cannot park in front of her house. She also spoke about getting three tickets in one week including parking where she was told and still got a ticket. She stated signs don't tell you where you can park and no one tells new residents where they can or can't park.

8:00 SESSION

Chair Chalabian repeated his introduction for the audience attending the 8:00pm public forum.

Julie Dixon of Dixon Resources Unlimited repeated her power point presentation.

The floor was opened to public testimony.

A resident asked for clarification of the odd/even and the 72 hour rules and how they would apply to the area and Julie responded.

A resident stated that when he moved here he did so because there was no overnight parking and no permit parking on his street and wants to know if this program will add permits to areas that don't have any permits now. He doesn't want that to change and he opposes applying rules to all the streets.

A resident that lives on Grove asked about visitor parking from 9am to 9pm and what to do if you have a party that starts at 5pm. She also wants to know how workers could park in front of her house if someone else with the same permit is already parked there. She asked about commuter parking and stated that her block having two hour parking restrictions wouldn't help her. Julie responded what would be possible and how things would change under the pilot program.

A resident from the first session spoke about the inventory and proposed options and about the overnight parking ban and the reasons behind it. Julie responded about the intent of overnight parking and inventory and overnight parking passes and how they are not being properly managed today. The resident thinks enforcement of overnight parking ban is not enough and Julie responded enforcement consistency is an issue. He wants to know what the remedies of situations for people on vacation or long term parking will be and Julie responded.

A resident that lives near Oak Park Avenue and Erie from the first session spoke about being in favor of the overnight parking ban. He spoke about enforcing people that don't move their car for Village services by ticketing and towing. He also spoke about leaving the car on the street for as long as you want and moving it just for Village services. He thinks people who don't move their car should be applauded and that the cost of permits should be whatever it costs to sustain it. He doesn't know why the cost of an on-street parking permit should be related to parking garages. He thinks the Village should raise the cost of the registration sticker to cover everyone and not tie it to how many people park on the street or construction. Julie asked the resident about progressive vehicle sticker rates and the resident responded since he's single he can't answer but he doesn't think it's fair.

A resident that lives on Washington stated there's an inequality between parking in front of a house and in front of a multifamily building and spoke about the City of Chicago

permit parking system. He thinks that people are saying they couldn't park on a residential street because of crime and they are saying that the crime is worse on Washington where condo buildings are. He said people shouldn't have to park several blocks away and wants to know when the snow ban is in effect where can people park and if the Village takes into account traffic flow. He stated with parking on both sides of Randolph there isn't enough room for two cars to pass and thinks the street should be made one way or restricted to parking on only one side of the street. He stated Oak Park has been known as "no park Oak Park". He spoke about the new developments coming in and asked with all the new people that will be coming in where will they go. He spoke about free commercial parking in other towns while the Village charges for it. He thinks the new signs are too complicated and a waste of money. He stated people are encouraged to take public transportation but during the day there is nowhere for people to park and people take a chance parking because sometimes parking is enforced and sometimes it isn't. He thinks there should be a commuter permit. He said he lives three blocks from the train and can walk but questioned where he can park. He thinks the pilot program is not a better system but more restrictive. He spoke about how he pays extra to park in a garage but has two cars and talked about how he has a place to park but if he needs to park during the day he can't. He also agreed with the previous resident that there is no crime on Grove.

A resident who lives on Carpenter asked when the program will start and Julie responded sometime in early 2018. The resident thinks that the program should start after winter. He spoke about living near the blue line and previously having a business on Harrison and didn't realize there is a commuter parking problem and questioned if that was a big issue driving the pilot. Julie responded about commuter parking being one of the problems in addition to employee parking. The resident asked if there was a study near Washington and Grove where there is a high density of people compared to the rest of the area and Julie responded the pilot program is to try to improve the overall experience of parking. He wanted to know if this program is viewed as a revenue loss or gain. Julie responded that they would like to make it revenue neutral and not a loss and that if it ends up a revenue gain it would be used to invest back into the community.

A resident who lives on Wisconsin wanted to get clarification on the two hour visitor parking and if there would be unlimited guess passes. Julie responded they would have to determine the model for the pilot program first and adapt to that. The resident asked about two hour parking for her guests when they can't re-park and what their options are. Julie responded that the program was designed to keep commuters and business employees out of residential areas and spoke about current restrictions. The resident stated she doesn't agree with two hour limits.

A resident from the 1100 block of Pleasant spoke about how when her mom comes to visit she cannot call in for her mom to park overnight in front of her house and would have to park three blocks away. She asked about visitors of people without permits and where their guests can park overnight. Julie spoke about visitor guest passes and how details haven't been worked out yet. The resident stated she has a parking space in her condo building so she doesn't count in the inventory but wants to know if they are

evaluating the actual need. She thinks the program is almost penalizing residents for needing to park and would like to know information on the overnight parking ban.

A resident talked about simplification for a complex issue and is glad the Village is taking an interest in parking for residents. He doesn't think the Village was concerned about zoning when they changed the zoning in the Pleasant District. He also spoke about changes in permit hours on South Boulevard to 6am. He thinks the program will mess things up for the residents of the Village and how he thinks people will pay for the new developments through permits. He stated he lives on the 200 block of south Maple and that contractors parking there are not getting tickets. He talked about increasing supply and that demand will increase to fit the supply. He believes people base their decision on living in Oak Park on parking and spoke about enforcement being an issue. He is concerned about LPR and privacy issues and says that it is subject to Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests. He doesn't want to subsidize permits so other people can park in front of this house and that he's thinking about where to go that doesn't have these issues because this is making his life harder. He doesn't like the parking sign pilot either and stated complexity isn't a bad thing. Julie responded that LPR is not retained for marketing or public uses and explained how it works.

A resident spoke about talking to John Youkhana about the traffic signal going up at Washington and Wisconsin causing the loss of 20-30 parking spaces. He stated the pilot program doesn't address any demographics and that there are four residential structures that border that intersection and there is nowhere to park. He expressed his frustration that he cannot park in front of his condo and it took him over ten minutes to find a space last night. He spoke about his family having multiple cars and how they shouldn't up the price for a household with two cars. He also thinks the pilot program shouldn't start until after winter and asked about how the program will be enforced and Julie responded. The resident stated neither odd/even nor 72 hour rules will work at Washington and Wisconsin.

A resident from the 800 block of Washington stated the two hour parking limits are an issue and asked if the restrictions were on weekends and Julie responded restrictions are seven days a week. He said that commuter parking is a week day problem and maybe restrictions should be limited to Monday through Friday or change the restrictions to three or four hours on the weekend.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20pm due to the need to vacate the school property by 9:30pm.

Respectively submitted

Mary Avinger

Mary Avinger,
Administrative Secretary