

APPROVED Meeting Minutes
Transportation Commission
Monday, October 23, 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, Robert Taylor, Michael Stewart, Roya Basirirad

Excused: None

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

Parking Consultant: Jennifer Rentz of Dixon Resources Unlimited

The floor was opened to non-agenda public testimony.

Christine Gould spoke about living in the same building as the La Bella restaurant and how she used to park in lot 115 before getting kicked out. Ms. Gould then got a permit for lot 119 by Mills Park and got kicked out of that lot. She then got a spot in lot NB 10 which she was told was close to her but it is three blocks away. Ms. Gould spoke about living in the Village for eight years and how guests seem more important than residents. In lot NB 10, the first half of the lot is for commuters then Hephzibah but what about residents who live in other buildings? Parking is getting farther and farther away. Ms. Gould stated parking in the Emerson garage is very expensive, she's very frustrated, and questioned why there is no agreement with developers for parking.

The Commission and Parking Services Manager, John Youkhana discussed what happened with lot 119.

Commissioner Eichenberger asked about YMCA providing parking spaces. John Youkhana responded how parking is accommodating displaced lot 119 permit holders.

Commissioner Stewart spoke about swapping spaces into lot 81 and John Youkhana explained what happened.

David Kelm first thanked the Commission for getting spaces back for Mills Park Tower residents. Mr. Kelm asked if the "No Parking Here to Corner" sign could be put back on Marion. Mr. Kelm mentioned that he's spoken at a previous meeting about one-way streets and about Oak Park being laid out for horse and buggies and that he doesn't think streets are designed for two-way traffic. He stated streets with parking on both sides are very narrow and spoke about North and South Boulevards should be converted to one-way streets between Oak Park and Harlem Avenues. Mr. Kelm spoke

about too many westbound cars on North Blvd. turning left onto southbound Harlem. Mr. Kelm spoke about his experience speaking at a Village Board meeting and his correspondence with the mayor which he handed out copies of to the Commissioners.

Non-agenda public testimony was closed out.

Approval of Tonight's Meeting Agenda

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

UPDATE AND ON-GOING DISCUSSION OF PARKING STUDY

Parking Services Manager, John Youkhana gave a presentation to update the Commission on what has happened since the last meeting.

Chair Chalabian asked John to give a brief overview of what has happened in the past several months. John Youkhana spoke about what has been happening with the parking study, the work that Dixon Resources Unlimited has done, an update to equipment, and revamping the parking system. John also discussed the Y2, Y3, and Y4 pilot parking study area.

Jennifer Rentz of Dixon Resources Unlimited gave a power point presentation with the proposed updates to the Oak Park parking rules. The presentation focused on what they are trying to fix, the overall recommendations for the parking pilot program, and inventory.

Commissioner Taylor asked about license plate recognition and privacy and Jennifer responded how it worked.

A discussion ensued that covered the issue of license plate recognition versus privacy, two hour versus three hour limits, progressive rates, Parking Department's five year CIP plan, visitor parking, seven day restrictions and potential issues on weekends, as well as parking lots with restrictions took place, permit holders and passes and the possibility of no more zones, and all-inclusive passes.

Chair Chalabian spoke about moving the north border of the parking pilot program to the north. A discussion followed regarding the pros and cons of moving the north boundary of the parking study up to Lake Street and the south boundary down to Harrison Street.

Jennifer Rentz continued the discussion speaking about the parking inventory of parking spaces, residences, and permits.

Chair Chalabian stated Downtown Oak Park has always been selfish. Chair Chalabian spoke about construction on Lake Street and improvements on South and North Boulevards. Chair Chalabian stated most businesses are closed by 8:00pm and then parking lots sit empty.

A discussion again occurred about expanding the zone to south as well as north to Lake Street.

Jennifer Rentz continued her presentation speaking about the options to present at the stakeholder meetings. Ms. Rentz spoke about the pros and cons of the odd/even rule and the 72 hour rule and discussed them with the Commission.

Commissioner Basirirad asked if there is parking simulation software and Jennifer Rentz responded there isn't much but prefers real time studies.

John Youkhana spoke about forums and venues and gave reasons why November 8th will not work but November 9th is available and good.

A discussion took place about participation and how to get more participation, and what boundaries to use for the parking study. The Commission voted to move the north border to Lake Street.

A brief discussion about one plan for the Village versus several plans for the Village occurred.

John Youkhana confirmed the stakeholder meeting is set for November 9th and the Commission will get feedback at the November 27th meeting.

DISCUSSION REGARDING TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION MEETING SCHEDULE FOR THE NEXT SEVERAL MONTHS

Mike Koperniak discussed future meetings with the Commission. There will be no meeting in December and the Commission decided to move the March 26, 2018 meeting to March 12th and to schedule the April 2018 meeting on the 23rd.

Chair Chalabian mentioned that he is staying on for one more year.

A brief discussion took place about the Village Board of Trustee's vote against the Commission's recommendation for Forest and Greenfield 5 to 2. The Commission also briefly discussed the next traffic meeting will be in January and how the Traffic Calming Toolbox will be on the November 6th Village Board of Trustee's meeting.

Commissioner Taylor 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 9:30 PM.

Respectively submitted

Mary Avinger

Mary Avinger,
Administrative Secretary