

DRAFT

**TRANSPORTATION AND PARKING COMMISSION**

Minutes

October 14, 2009, 7:00 p.m.

Council Chambers - Village Hall  
801 Burlington Avenue, Downers Grove

Co-Chairman Wendt called the October 14, 2009 meeting of the Transportation and Parking Commission to order at 7:00 p.m.

The commissioners and the public were informed that the meeting was being recorded on Village-owned equipment to aid in the preparation of the meeting minutes. Co-Chairman Wendt led the commissioners and the public in the recital of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call followed and a quorum was established.

**ROLL CALL:**

Present: Co-Chairman Wendt; Members Mr. Schiller, Mr. Stuebner, Mr. Saricks, Mr. Cronin, Ms. Van Anne

Absent: Co-Chairman Gress, Mr. Barry

Staff Present: Public Works: Village Engineer, Mike Millette; Traffic Manager Dorin Fera; Police: Sgt. Harrison

Visitors: Ms. Jill Raci, 5610 Springside; Mr. Chuck Woodward, 5619 Springside; Ms. Claudia Kappel, 5724 Springside; Ms. Marie \_\_, 5538 Springside; Ms. Sandra Kolius (phonetic spelling), 5701 Springside; Ms. Laura Williams, 5705 Springside; Ms. Maria Brummel, 1121 Jefferson Ave.; Ms. Beth Riordan, 1133 Jefferson Ave.; Mr. Michael Cwiakala, 407 Claremont Dr.; Mr. Kevin Luke, 5702 Katrine Ave.; Mr. Geoff Thoren, 5700 Springside; Mr. Ed Wiese, 1137 Jefferson; Mr. Bill Wrobel, 7800 Queens Ct.; Mr. Daniel Loftus and Ms. Linda Kunze, Downtown Management Corporation.

An explanation of the meeting's protocol followed.

**APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 9, 2009 TRANSPORTATION AND PARKING COMMISSION MINUTES**

**MR. SCHILLER MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 9, 2009. MR. CRONIN SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION PASSED BY VOICE VOTE OF 6-0.**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS** - No public comment received at this time.

A change in the agenda followed:

**5. File #20-09 Springside Avenue - Maple to Jefferson - Traffic Calming Review** - Village Engineer, **Mr. Millette**, discussed that since the speed cushions have been put into place, a 10 to 12 mile drop in speed reduction has occurred. Per the chair's question, **Mr. Fera** felt that the issue on this street was due to the fact that it is was a convenient street to get off Maple and the speeds have increased over the years. As to staff having evidence of increased traffic volume on Plymouth during the same timeframe, **Mr. Fera** stated staff did not, but he noted that vehicle estimates on Springside Ave were about 80 to 100 vehicles less. He suspected with the new cushions, vehicles were traveling to Dunham to make their southbound trips. As to the number of vehicles per day on Springside Ave, **Mr. Fera** stated that compared to similar streets in the Village, the numbers were "very low."

**Co-Chairman Wendt** opened up the meeting to public comment.

**Ms. Jill Raci** (phonetic spelling), 5610 Springside, stated she was surprised to receive a letter from the village on this matter and believed better enforcement would be a positive. She did not support the speed cushions and believed property values would be affected by them.

**Mr. Chuck Woodward**, 5619 Springside, did not notice any speeding issues when he moved in. However, with the installation, he noticed it even more. He did not support the cushions.

**Ms. Claudia Kappel**, 5724 Springside, supported the speed cushions, due to them calming down the vehicle noise from one of her neighbors.

**Sgt. Harrison** reported that 54.1 hours were directed in the Springside quarter of the grid system (5 blocks square) and 74 speeding tickets were issued, approximately 84 warning citations were issued. He noted that direct patrol was also provided for 5 hours.

**Ms. Marie \_\_\_\_\_**, 5538 Springside, stated that vehicles slow down initially but then accelerate afterwards. She did not believe the cushions helped and supported more police enforcement.

**Ms. Sandra Kolius** (phonetic spelling), 5701 Springside, believed four cushions was a bit too much and were distracting. She stated that the speeders should receive the tickets but the residents should not be punished for those who are speeding. She supported one cushion over four cushions.

**Ms. Laura Williams**, 5705 Springside, on behalf of her parents, stated she and her family avoid the cushions at all possible. She also understood there was no money in the budget for the speed humps and questioned why the village was wasting its time when there is no money.

In response, **Mr. Fera** stated there was a petition for this project and that the cushions would be removed either by the end of October or the start of November.

A general discussion followed by the **Co-Chairman Wendt** that the village did follow up with its due diligence on this matter and did receive resident input and it appeared that the consensus among residents and the commissioners was to not proceed with this matter. Should the petition die at this commission, **Co-Chairman Wendt** confirmed that no further action would take place and police patrol would continue to take place in the area.

#### **THE CONSENSUS OF THE COMMISSION WAS TO NOT PROCEED ANY FURTHER WITH THIS PETITION.**

**1. File #14-09 Burlington Avenue - Mochel to Washington Street. Parking and Parking Meter Modifications** - Traffic Manager, **Mr. Fera**, explained that a discussion between the Village and future tenant took place and some slight changes to the parking modifications have occurred. The Downtown Management Corporation also provided input into this matter. Dialog followed that the 12-hour per day parking meters brought in \$3.00 per day but those spaces were being moved to the parking deck which had a fee, and basically on the revenue side it became a "wash".

Per **Ms. Linda Kunze**, with the Downtown Management Corporation, she stated size of the proposed tenant space will be 6,000 sq. feet, and with the town growing, she was asking that the new spaces be reserved for shoppers. Questions followed regarding the number of patron

traffic estimated for the project, the parking availability for a prior grocery store, and the fact that other nearby parking areas had two-hour parking restrictions, making the request consistent.

**Mr. Dan Loftus**, Chairman of the Downtown Management Corporation, thanked the commission for considering the request and hoped that the Public Works Department continue to fund a more comprehensive parking study which addresses the needs of the downtown retailers. He believed the modifications should be made as soon as possible, since a lease has been signed. Further questions followed on whether there were enough handicap spaces, which staff confirmed there are.

**MR. SCHILLER MADE A MOTION TO IMPLEMENT THE MOST RECENT PARKING CHANGES, DATED OCTOBER 13, 2009.**

**NORTH SIDE**

**MODIFY NINETEEN (19) "12-HOUR METERED PARKING" SPACES WITH "2-HOUR PARKING", BETWEEN MOCHEL DRIVE AND WASHINGTON STREET; REMOVE PARKING METERS.**

**SOUTH SIDE**

**INSTALL TWO (2) "30-MINUTE LOADING ZONE" SPACES, IMMEDIATELY EAST OF MOCHEL DRIVE;**

- **REMOVE ONE (1) EXISTING HANDICAPPED SPACE NEAR MOCHEL DRIVE;**
- **INSTALL NINE (9) "1-HOUR" PARKING SPACES, ADJACENT TO "30-MINUTE LOADING ZONE SPACES, EAST OF MOCHEL DRIVE;**

**INSTALL ONE (1) HANDICAPPED PARKING SPACE AT 935 BURLINGTON AVENUE , AT FRONT DOOR ENTRANCE;**

- **MODIFY NINE (9) "3-HOUR PARKING" SPACES WITH 2-HOUR PARKING.**

**SECONDED BY MR. SARICKS. ROLL CALL:**

**AYE: MR. WENDT, MR. SCHILLER, MR. STUEBNER, MR. SARICKS, MR. CRONIN, MS. VAN ANNE**

**NAY: NONE**

**MOTION CARRIED. VOTE: 6-0**

**2. File #17-09 Jefferson Avenue - 1100 Block. Parking Modifications** - (Mr. Cronin recuses himself.) **Mr. Millette** explained that the residents of the 1100 block of Jefferson Avenue are seeking relief to a parking issue whereby the residents would like to have permitted parking on the north side of the road. However, there is no north side of the road. The roadway is 14 feet wide which is not passable for two vehicles. Staff met with neighbors recently and did an actual drive by on the block. In researching the background of the matter, **Mr. Millette** stated that the platted Nelson Meadow subdivision was located to the north and the northern half of the **Jefferson Ave** right-of-way was dedicated for public use as a road. However, the subdivision was not started and there was a possibility the plat could be abandoned in total because it was initially platted two years ago. Currently, its status is in limbo. In general, **Mr. Millette** stated that staff did not feel comfortable changing the grassy land north of the roadway to parking status in order to be consistent with other subdivisions. Examples followed.

Discussion followed on the fact that there was confusion as to the parking tickets being issued, i.e., some citations were issued based on vehicles parking on private parking, while the original ordinance to be enforced was based on parking in a parkway. Due to the current circumstances and not knowing when the property ownership is resolved, it was suggested by a commission member that some allowance be made for the residents to use the north side of the road as a relief parking area or place a moratorium on issuing tickets until more information was gathered.

(For the record, **Mr. Millette** clarified that the above comments received from Mr. Saricks pertained to a copy of an email staff received from one resident, **Mr. John Schofield**, regarding correspondence between **Deputy Chief Bluder** and a resident who had been issued a ticket, which was distributed to commissioners on the dais.)

Regarding ownership of the northern portion of the road, **Mr. Millette** stated it was owned by the public and the Village had concerns that the land was not improved and it could revert back. Other concerns raised by **Co-Chairman Wendt** were the fact that there was no direction from Village Council and that the commission could also be setting a precedent. While he agreed the residents deserved a service, he cautioned the commissioners on what to do.

The matter was discussed further with suggestions to encourage the developer to complete the roadway and/or somehow make the roadway safe for the residents in the interim.

**Co-Chairman Wendt** opened up the matter to public comment.

In response to the email (referred to above by **Mr. Millette**), **Sgt. Harrison** responded that the issue was confusing and he recommended holding off issuing citations until clarification of the issue was made.

**Mr. John Schofield**, 1125 Jefferson Avenue, stated the TC-3 has indicated that directions for the Village, although not adopted yet, should focus on the uniqueness of neighborhoods, which he believed this was a unique neighborhood and the petition supported it. He stated the street is very narrow and he believed it was safer to park on the grass and leave the pavement for the traffic rather than vice versa. He also believed the residents would accept any solution which frees up the issuance of tickets. **Mr. Schofield** pointed out that in the Rules of the Road, the rules for rural parking direct that vehicles park off the road and onto the berm for safety purposes, and that is what the residents were seeking. He stated the timeframe for the street improvement of Jefferson Ave had passed.

**Ms. Maria Brummel**, 1121 Jefferson Avenue, commented that her birthing class may have started this issue, given the number of cars that parked in the area to attend her class. She reported that when people do park on the south side of the street and she tries to maneuver around them, it is somewhat hazardous. The other issue is that whatever the council/commission decides, she asked that there be some reassurance that no one will receive a ticket. She supported the above-mentioned moratorium.

**Mr. Ed Wiese**, 1137 Jefferson, stated that he asks his visitors to park on the north side of the street as a courtesy for the remainder of his neighbors. He asked for support for his neighbors and to let them continue to police their own area.

**Mr. Mark Cronin**, 1117 Jefferson, believed the issue was a personal issue between the developer and the residents after the developer had removed 35 trees. He asked for village assistance in the matter.

**MR. STUEBNER MADE A MOTION THAT THE COMMISSION DIRECT VILLAGE STAFF TO REQUEST THAT THE VILLAGE MANAGER DECLARE A MORATORIUM ON ISSUING PARKING TICKETS IN THE 1100 BLOCK OF JEFFERSON AVENUE, EXCLUDING OVERNIGHT PARKING, UNTIL PROPERTY OWNERSHIP IS RESOLVED AND THE PROPERTY IS DEVELOPED.**

**Mr. Schofield**, 1125 Jefferson, appreciated the discussion and noted a petition was before the commission. He hoped the commission would affirm the petition and follow up with an appropriate solution.

**Ms. Beth Riordan**, 1133 Jefferson, acknowledged that her neighborhood was different in that they had half a roadway and there was never an issue parking on the grass until the current builder purchased the property and when residents raised concern about his practices. She discussed the cohesiveness of her neighbors.

**Sgt. Harrison** suggested that legal council review the wording of the petition and the words "permit parking." However, in his own experience, he said the police department has granted parking permission for overnight parking due to the confusion of the area. He stated the residents did not appear to see parking as an issue and he would leave the final decision rest with the Village Council and police chief.

**MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. SARICKS. ROLL CALL:**

**AYE: MR. WENDT, MR. SCHILLER, MR. STUEBNER, MR. SARICKS, MS. VAN ANNE**  
**NAY: NONE**

**MOTION CARRIED. VOTE: 5-0-1 (MR. CRONIN ABSTAINS)**

**3. File #18-09 College Avenue - Katrine Avenue to Walnut Avenue - Permanent Traffic Calming Designs - Mr. Millette** recalled that when this issue was last discussed some refinements were discussed. As to having a raised intersection, **Mr. Fera** stated vehicles will be able to drive over it with the intent to slow them down, especially for westbound traffic. Per **Mr. Fera**, one of the residents who attended the neighborhood meeting volunteered to contact the township and he had not heard from the resident or the township commissioner. **Mr. Millette** confirmed that the township was notified regarding the temporary calming devices but more recently, did not hear back from them. Clarification followed on the village right-of-way boundaries for the intersection. Discussing budget, **Mr. Millette** explained this project would only be a project for 2010 if funding is restored to the Traffic Calming Program in the proposed CIP. Furthermore, he explained the priority process for such projects and how they compared with other similar projects. **Co-Chairman Wendt** felt that this project should be done given the work done by the residents and provided enough money existed for same.

**Mr. Bill Wrobel**, 7800 Queens Court, updated the commissioners on the \$219,000 found by the Village Council for road repair and the fact that it could be found money for the Blodgett Ave traffic calming project and the College Avenue project.

**Mr. Kevin Luke**, 5702 Katrine Avenue, was pleased to see this project moving along and wanted it completed as soon as possible. It was needed for safety purposes.

**Ms. Lynn Godsala**, 2605 College Road, was pleased to see the improvements moving along.

**Mr. Kevin Luke**, 5702 Katrine Avenue, asked that when the humps are installed that they are positioned at the end of his driveway.

**MS. VAN ANNE MADE A MOTION TO INSTALL PERMANENT TRAFFIC CALMING DESIGNS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE VILLAGE'S TRAFFIC CALMING PROGRAM ON COLLEGE ROAD, BETWEEN KATRINE AVENUE AND WALNUT AVENUE, TO INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:**

- 1) RAISED INTERSECTION AT COLLEGE ROAD AND KATRINE AVENUE;
- 2) TWO (2) SPEED HUMPS ON COLLEGE ROAD BETWEEN KATRINE AVENUE AND WALNUT AVENUE AT CALCULATED INTERVALS.

**SECONDED BY MR. SCHILLER.**

**MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE OF 6-0.**

**4. File #19-09 Claremont Drive - Parking Modifications at Traffic Calming Locations - Mr. Fera** explained that staff requested this change due to the recent roadway/median changes done on Claremont Drive and the fact that vehicles could possibly park in the single lane area. Staff felt it was important to designate that single lane area as NO PARKING in order to allow vehicles to pass. Currently the changes there were temporary and, if passed by this commission, would become permanent.

**Co-Chairman Wendt** opened up the meeting to public comment.

**Mr. Mike Cwiakala**, 407 Claremont, stated the median is in front of his house. He has never had an issue with traffic other than some speeding. With the installation of the island, neither the speed nor traffic volume has decreased. He believed it was an inconvenience and expressed concern about emergency vehicles hitting the branches of the trees and the safety of bike riders. He suggested that police enforcement be increased.

In response, **Co-Chairman Wendt** stated this board did, in good faith, attempt to resolve some traffic issues on Claremont Drive. Per **Co-Chairman Wendt 's** question, Mr. Millette stated the speed count studies will continue next Spring.

**Sgt. Harrison** stated his officers were out in the area in excess of 10 hours of dedicated radar control. In September and October, his officers dedicated 5 hours to enforcement and did not issue any tickets. Their perception was that the islands were slowing down traffic.

**Mr. Mike Cwiakala**, 407 Claremont Drive, stated on the north side is a fire hydrant and the NO PARKING sign is two feet from that fire hydrant. If a car parked the two feet from that hydrant, he said vehicles will have to drive on the opposite of the island to go around that vehicle.

**Mr. William Wrobel**, 7800 Queens Court, reminded everyone that this street is a "laboratory" and a learning experience. He commended the commission and told them to discount the human dynamics.

**MR. SARICKS MADE A MOTION TO INSTALL "NO PARKING HERE TO CORNER" SIGNS AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS: 1) CLAREMONT DRIVE AT BLACKBURN AVENUE, WEST SIDE; AND 2) CLAREMONT DRIVE AT OSAGE AVENUE, WEST AND EAST SIDES.**

**SECONDED BY MR. CRONIN.**

**MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE OF 6-0.****OLD BUSINESS**

Discussion was raised by **Mr. Stuebner** regarding the budget and the fact that it may not be large enough for some of the projects coming up the pipeline, as well as enforcement issues being constantly raised by residents. He asked how these matters are brought to the attention of the Village Council. **Mr. Millette** explained how the budget was determined, i.e., comments received from the TCD-3 study, and pointed-out that the traffic calming aspect was not defined as a priority Core Service. As to voicing concerns, **Co-Chairman Wendt** offered that this commission's concerns could be brought to the attention of Commissioner Schnell. He stated that he would contact Commissioner Schnell.

**Mr. William Wrobel**, 7800 Queens Court, stated this Saturday was Coffee with the Council at the new fire station and the topic would be the budget as it pertains to cutting two officers. He invited the commissioners to attend.

**Mr. Millette** stated he and staff were reviewing the current petitions in the queue and considering how some of them can be best served using the non-construction traffic options in the upcoming year. Prioritization of the projects will take place. **Mr. Millette** stated a formal presentation may be forthcoming at the December meeting. He asked commissioners to email their input to him.

**Sgt. Harrison** reported that effective January, 2010 he will be rotating back to line duties and Officer Shannon Gillette will be assuming the position of traffic sergeant.

**Mr. Fera** reported that a new student, Kristin Jeffries, will be replacing Commissioner Barry.

**Mr. William Wrobel**, 7800 Queens Court, as part of the Downers Grove Watch, has a campaign focusing on Ogden Avenue and sidewalk safety. He noted that state money will be coming soon to improve the sidewalks on Ogden Avenue. He left copies of an email and invited members to visit [downersgrovewatch.org](http://downersgrovewatch.org).

**Mr. Millette** responded that he has a preliminary schedule for part of the Ogden Avenue sidewalk improvements, which project begins in the next week or so. Details followed. He also announced the Downers Grove Sanitary District received approximately \$11-\$12 Million in stimulus money which will be used for a several projects, one of which will be a pipe link from Walnut Avenue to Cross Avenue, along Ogden Avenue. That portion of the sidewalk segment will be held off during their construction. **Mr. Millette** discussed some of the challenges with Ogden Avenue right-of-ways and ownership.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

See packet for list of actual communications to village.

**ADJOURN**

**MR. STUEBNER MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. MR. CRONIN SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 9:13 P.M.**

Respectfully submitted,

Celeste Weilandt,  
Recording Secretary  
(as transcribed by tape)