

APPROVED Meeting Minutes
Transportation Commission
Monday, September 28, 2015
Room 101 – Village Hall

Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Jack Chalabian called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

Present: Jack Chalabian, Kyle Eichenberger, Joel Schoenmeyer, Mark Patzloff, Michael Stewart, and Craig Chesney

Excused: Will Gillespie

Guest Speakers: Jill Velan, Parking Services Director

Staff: Mike Koperniak, Mary Avinger, Tina Brown

There was no Non-Agenda Item Public Testimony

Approval of Tonight's Meeting Agenda

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

Approval of the Draft August 24, 2015 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Chesney motioned to approve the draft August 24, 2015, Transportation Commission meeting minutes as modified and was seconded by Commissioner Stewart. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE DRAFT 2016 TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION WORK PLAN

Commissioner Stewart motioned to defer the 2016 Transportation Commission Work Plan to another date. Commissioner Eichenberger seconded the motion.

The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

CONTINUED DISCUSSION REGARDING THE Y2, Y3, AND Y4 OVERNIGHT PERMIT PARKING ZONES STUDY

Village of Oak Park Parking Services Director Jill Velan gave a presentation continuing the discussion for the Y2, Y3, and Y4 overnight permit parking zones study.

Commissioner Schoenmeyer asked about staff reactions to comments and Jill explained that they did not get them until late last week but did not see anything out of the ordinary. Commissioner Schoenmeyer also asked where the highest concentration of parking citations issued in zones. Jill explained that while she doesn't have numbers she believes it is in the Y2 area as it has the most diverse usage due to businesses.

Jill continued the discussion speaking about blanket passes and how they work. These types of passes do not override meters or permit parking zones. One of the biggest complications is out of town visitors that park in here and gets tickets.

Commissioner Chesney indicated the Commission saw consistent issues with signage like around the YMCA and that Madison is not laid out and utilized well.

Commissioner Eichenberger stated there seems to be lots of opportunity to work with businesses. An example is the parking lot for the cleaners at South Blvd and Kenilworth which is never full and seems to be under used. It could be used for people looking for parking. Commissioner Eichenberger correspondingly stated consistent signage is also important.

Commissioner Stewart identified that there are lots of opportunities especially on Madison and the 100 block of South Kenilworth as well as on Madison and by Oak Park Hospital. Commissioner Stewart also said staff should look at combined parking and replacing faded signs.

Commissioner Patzloff agreed that there is consistency in the inconsistency of signage. Hours vary street by street. Also sees Madison and Wisconsin potential for parking. Commissioner Patzloff stated that he's seen how east of Marion along the tracks on South Blvd is underutilized on a Saturday night and maybe there is a way to work out overnight parking with The Carlton.

Chair Chalabian also agrees that the inconsistency of signage needs to be targeted as guests counted 22 different sign types. There are also lots of competing interests between businesses, commuters and residents when parking is not restricted for those who live on the block. Feels there are lots of parking opportunities around Oak Park Hospital and likes the idea of no buffer zones with no restrictions. This is something that could not be worked on all at once in order to get it to work. While it is understood why there is daytime permit parking it will be challenging to implement changes among residents, business owners, and commuters who will have to deal with the impact.

Jill Velan responded to the Commission about their comments on Madison Street in regards to on-street versus off-street parking. Madison is focused on redevelopment. Any overnight parking would be temporary due to developments. On-street overnight parking on Madison would not work because it is a snow route and no one could park there during snow. Looking at businesses is a good idea but they want lots available for their customers. Jill spoke about the example of CVS and explained why they cancelled

their lease. Jill also spoke about metered parking in overnight permit parking zones and how meter times overlap with overnight permit parking times.

Chair Chalabian spoke again about shared parking and wants to start pursuing the possibilities.

Commissioner Chesney said the Village Board need to take ownership. The Board approves developments with less parking and it should be more not less. They should deal with shared parking because the Village needs shared parking.

Jill Velan stated that the Village Board passed new two-year goals and parking is a priority.

Chair Chalabian says Village Board should tell the Transportation Commission exactly what it means that parking is a priority so that the Transportation Commission has proper direction. He wants to know what parking means to the Village Board.

Commissioner Schoenmeyer would like to invite one or more of the Trustees to a Transportation Commission meeting to pick their brains.

Commissioner Chesney feels the Commission should be able to communicate to the Village Board what the Transportation Commission is thinking.

Chair Chalabian wants to know how many different signs are in the Y2, Y3, and Y4 zones.

The Transportation Commission wants to be in sync with the Village Board.

The floor was opened to public testimony.

Lea Larsen of 1028 Randolph manages a 32-unit building and lost 24 spaces in the YMCA lot. She spoke about difficulties in finding replacement parking and the difficulties of parking. She mentioned about No Parking 8-10 Tuesday/Wednesday for street cleaning but has never seen an actual street sweeper. The discussion continued on where guest parking is.

Paula Hazfin of 1030 Randolph who subleases a unit in the same building agreed with Ms. Larsen.

Public testimony was closed out.

Chair Chalabian asked for Tina Brown's opinion. Tina said she feels Y2, Y3, and Y4 has a parking shortage and Y2 has the biggest shortage. She also stated losing the YMCA lot hurt.

Commissioner Stewart thinks that it's okay that Madison opportunities may be temporary. He would like standardized times and history of why the times are the way they are. From his job at the Housing Center, he says that 24 hour parking is important. People want a car regardless of how they commute daily.

Tina stated that most calls are for overnight parking problems.

Jill expressed skepticism about changing parking restrictions on Madison. Jill said the Transportation Commission should look at other options.

Paula Hazfin would like if a person could leave their car parked for several days due to sickness.

Chair Chalabian thinks staff should start to quantify what's on street and Commissioner Eichenberger added quantify demand by area. Having to park too far away is a big obstacle.

Jill Velan says that there is enough turnover that there are always open spaces. She added that it usually takes two quarters for a person to get into the space they want.

Commissioner Stewart feels staff should look at Commission's observations 5.2, pages one and two.

Chair Chalabian stated it is important to standardize signage for overnight permit parking hours and would like to know the thought process of two hour residential parking versus no parking 8am – 10am.

Jill explained reason in having two hour parking restrictions and how without them the businesses will have issues and customers won't be able to get to businesses.

Chair Chalabian stated parking benefits the business districts and wants to look into them for possible future use. Chair Chalabian also wants clarification from the Public Works Director on the No Parking Tuesday/Wednesday 8am – 10am restriction and if streets are not being cleaned. He would also like to know how many times the snow ban was issued from 2013 through 2015.

The discussion continued between the Commissioners regarding parking on Madison Street.

Chair Chalabian would like staff to look into if it is feasible for a person living in one zone to purchase a permit in another zone.

Jill explained on-street parking was supposed to be a backup to off-street parking.

Further discussions included the new cul-de-sac, diverter moratorium, and developing a tool box for traffic calming as well as discussions about upcoming meetings to talk over

the 2016 Transportation Commission Work Plan and the location for the OPRF pool parking meeting.

A motion was made by Commissioner Eichenberger and seconded by Commissioner Patzloff to adjourn the meeting.

The voice vote was unanimous to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:33 PM.

Respectively submitted

Mary Avinger

Mary Avinger,
Administrative Secretary