

APPROVED Transportation Commission Meeting Minutes
Monday, November 27, 2017
Council Chambers, Village Hall

Call to Order and Roll Call

Jack Chalabian called the meeting to order at 6:58 PM

Present: Jack Chalabian, Kyle Eichenberger, James Thompson, Robert Taylor,
Michael Stewart, Roya Basirirad

Excused: None

Staff: John Youkhana, Mike Koperniak, Allison Von Ebers, Dorothy Benson-Baker

Parking Consultant: Julie Dixon

Approval of Tonight's Meeting Agenda

Commissioner Eichenberger made a motion to approve tonight's meeting agenda. Commissioner Stewart seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of the Draft October 23, 2017 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Eichenberger motioned to approve and submit the draft minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Thompson. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of the Draft November 9, 2017 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Basirirad motioned to approve and submit the draft minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Eichenberger. The motion passed unanimously.

There wasn't any non-agenda public testimony.

REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED PARKING PILOT

Chair Chalabian gave background history about the parking charge given to the Transportation Commission by the Village Board of Trustees and why this study is being conducted.

Parking Services Manager John Youkhana gave a brief presentation. He started with the background history and spoke about the public forum of November 9, 2017.

John Youkhana spoke about contents of agenda item 5.

Julie Dixon, of Dixon Resources Unlimited, gave a PowerPoint presentation. She did a recap of the November 9, 2017 forum. Julie spoke about the feedback from the forum and from on-line comments about the various plans.

Ms. Dixon introduced and summarized the “Barry” plan (named after the resident who developed it) and how it was popular with other residents that responded on-line.

Commissioner Thompson inquired if January will be the start date for the new tentative changes and Julie Dixon responded no. She added it would more likely be a spring or an early summer start date.

Commissioner Thompson asked if there will be a six-month study and Ms. Dixon responded yes.

John Youkhana spoke about the unified parking technology system Request For Proposal (RFP) now out.

There was a discussion about working the unified parking technology system together with the parking pilot program.

Commissioner Eichenberger spoke about visitors and service workers using the technology and how it would work with the pilot program.

There was a discussion about the vendor RFP and what is being proposed.

Commissioner Basirirad inquired what is the goal at the end of this program. Then, there was a discussion about measurable goals and quantifiable results.

Commissioner Stewart commented that this is a recipe for disaster should we implement a plan before the technology is installed and tested.

Commissioner Stewart spoke about the “Barry” plan and the need to review it the same as was done for the odd/even and 72 hour plans.

Julie Dixon responded about the “Barry” plan and the need for more feedback about the plan. She agreed there is a need for the technology to be implemented and tested.

Chairman Chalabian spoke about the three plans: odd/even, 72 hour and now the “Barry” plan. He added the Hybrid and combination of two or more of the plans. He then asked what the staff’s preference is.

Parking Consultant, Ms. Dixon, responded that she likes the “Barry” plan and she gave reasons.

John Youkhana favored the Hybrid plan. He spoke about various Village departments and their responses.

Chair Chalabian spoke on the “Barry” plan and how it included not eliminating the overnight ban, but instead, utilizes the parking permit system to overcome the overnight parking ban. Then zones would no longer exist.

Julie Dixon spoke on how the 24 hour lots could be “premium parking” with premium prices and spoke on the inventory that is within the South Boulevard-Harrison Street-Oak Park Avenue-Harlem Avenue (SHOH) District.

Chair Chalabian spoke about the importance of the 3800 parking spaces. He also spoke on street maintenance and about supply and demand.

Chair Chalabian asked about long-term parking of a week or more and how will this be addressed and Julie Dixon responded about creating a program for long-term parkers using Village garages.

Commissioner Thompson inquired under the “Barry” plan, what would be the incentive to get your car off the street and Julie Dixon expressed the importance of developing a long term parking plan to use the Village garages.

There were discussions about posted time limits — 2-hour limit versus 3-hour limit, raising the vehicle sticker fee and how Sundays and holidays would be impacted.

The floor was opened to public testimony.

David Baker read his statement and turned it in with his form. He currently resides at Kinzer Court, a 42-unit development at Washington and Kenilworth and has lived there for 15 years. He has served as president of his condominium association for 8 years. Mr. Baker thanked the Commission for opportunity to speak. He pointed out the lack of parking spaces for residents in his building and his disappointment with the decision for the Village now limiting each household to only one parking permit when it’s clear that most homes have two working adults and each needs a vehicle to travel to and from work. He also recognized that many of the parking spaces included in the new inventory counts are south of Madison. Mr. Baker opposed both the odd/even plan and the 72-hour plan and feels some single family homeowners are opposed to ending the overnight parking ban because they lease their extra parking spaces sometimes up to three times the cost of a permit.

Monique Hudson spoke about parking around Oak Park Avenue and Randolph. It is difficult parking there overnight. Ms. Hudson does not know where to park her car since the rules changed and she can no longer park on Randolph Street.

James Gates, 42 year resident, opposes the pilot program. He also opposes the removal of the overnight parking ban. He gave reasons for his opposition including that

Oak Park would remain quieter, cleaner, and safer if overnight ban is kept. Mr. Gates would like to see a ban on trucks overnight on street. He wants the Village of Oak Park to not become the City of Oak Park and to keep quality of life as it is. Finally, Mr. Gates stated the Transportation Commission is being rushed to make a recommendation.

Clair Mason, 41 year resident, wants to maintain the overnight parking ban. She explained if the ban is removed, cars would fill up her block; however, she is very concerned about the 2-hour daytime parking restrictions not being long enough.

Stewart Goldman, another resident, has spent most of his life here in the Village of Oak Park. He expounded on how this is a complicated issue. Mr. Goldman is concerned that if existing rules are not enforced then why residents should believe that the Village of Oak Park would enforce new rules.

Public testimony was closed out.

Chair Chalabian started a discussion by asking if the Commission should proceed in making a decision or get more needed information.

Commissioner Taylor mentioned he is concerned about the drafts and revisions and about what is being discussed. He talked about prioritizing and opening meter spots for overnight parking and for guests. He also inquired on how the "Barry" plan came about. Commissioner Taylor added that consistent enforcement is the key. He is concerned about 2-hour limit being too short and spoke about progressive rates. He likes the idea of encouraging public garage use, however, he is concerned with Sundays and holiday parking exceptions and how to implement them.

Commissioner Basirirad admitted she does not like the odd/even plan and then she spoke about the "Barry" plan.

Commissioner Eichenberger commented that there is an appetite for change and this is a vehicle for change. The Commission still has to talk about plan details and how they will be influenced by coming technology. In abstract, he likes the pilot program. He commented that it should be first come first served.

Commissioner Thompson suggested that everyone should think outside the box. He continued explaining that the Village could get rid of permits and make the vehicle sticker a permit to park on the street overnight. He added day parking could be broken into 3 hour increments with progressive rates to pay. All of this would require strict enforcement.

Commissioner Thompson further expressed that the "Barry" plan has no incentive to "not" park long term. He believes the Village should get out of the permit business.

Commissioner Stewart expounded that we all have heard about parking accommodations from existing parking rules. He stated there is no blanket solution

because residents still want and need accommodations. The Commissioner does not want to restart past Transportation Commission decisions and stated the Commission must respect decisions made in the past.

Commissioner Stewart spoke about online changing of license plate numbers. He also mentioned that the public seems to be against the odd/even plan; the 2 hour limit is too short and mentioned how the Commission should not shake things up just to make a change. He opposes both odd/even and the 72 hour plan and wanted more information about the “Barry” plan. He had ideas for a 4th plan. (Stewart’s conservative plan).

Commissioner Stewart spoke about the previous Y2, Y3 and Y4 plan and creating 75 new spaces: combining the three zones and adding the Y9 zone; opening up meter spaces, keep 2 hour limit in commuter zone blocks but don’t expand it; keep 3-hour limit on meters in business zones; clean up signage; change street sweeping to every 3 weeks or when machine actually comes about; keep 24-hour lots; keep permit rate the same. This plan can be implemented immediately. It just needs consistent enforcement. The Village needs immediate parking and the Commission has to address current parking problems.

Commissioner Stewart expressed the “Barry” plan encourages more car purchases and he was very suspicious about the “premium” parking rates in the 24 hour lots.

Commissioner Taylor spoke about adding guest passes and how they would fit into Commissioner Stewart’s plan. There was a brief discussion about guest passes.

Chair Chalabian spoke about one group of residents saying we have a parking problem and another group says there is no problem. He recalled arguments about the overnight ban since the early 2000’s.

Chair Chalabian liked several of the suggestions: idea of consolidation; parking at meters after 6pm and overnight; making signage easier; using technology to improve enforcement; and premium parking in lots. He also supports the parking business district and liked the “Barry” plan although it has some details to work out.

Chair Chalabian opposes the odd/even plan; the 72 hour plan has problems too; opposes the 3 hour limits; and is concerned about the 3 hour rule for parking meters.

The Chair spoke on how the Commission has to concentrate on supply and demand and is being rushed to judgement on this plan.

Chair Chalabian spoke on combining the “Barry” plan with the Conservative option and the need for another forum.

Chair Chalabian spoke on how the study goes hand in hand with technology and about the RFP out there.

Chair Chalabian does not want the Commission to make a hasty decision. He reiterated how the Commission is not ready to make a decision now.

Commissioner Stewart asked if the Commission should make a decision on what has been proposed, the odd/even and 72 hour plans.

Commissioner Eichenberger suggested the Village could roll out a perfect plan later or an experimental not perfect plan now.

Chair Chalabian spoke about the public participation.

Commissioner Eichenberger suggested the Village let people park anywhere for one week to see what happens and Chair Chalabian related a Europe study where this was tried.

Chair Chalabian asked for votes on various plans and the tally was as follows:

Odd/Even Plan – Commission vote unanimously against.

Free for all parking plan – Commission voted unanimously against.

72-hour plan – Commissioner Thompson and Commissioner Taylor were in favor, the other Commissioners were against it.

“Barry” plan – Commissioner Thompson in favor, Commissioner Taylor not in favor, all others needed more information.

Combo plan – Commissioner Basirirad in favor. All other Commissioners not in favor or needed more information.

Do nothing plan – Commissioners unanimously voted no.

Thompson plan – Commissioner Thompson in favor, Commissioner Basirirad needed more information and Commissioners Stewart, Eichenberger and Taylor were not in favor.

Commissioner Thompson added the “Barry” plan should be the basis with some tweaking.

John Youkhana commented on the plans.

Chair Chalabian asked Julie Dixon what types of benchmarks are used in parking industry and Julie Dixon responded that sales tax, revenue in business districts and EMT lead times. John Youkhana added that the street width is important and needs to be inventoried and citation numbers are other factors.

There was a discussion on how to move forward. Put the various plans in writing for comparing.

Chair Chalabian spoke on the hybrid plan and conservative plan.

Commissioner Basirirad asked to include supply and demand—increase supply and reduce demand.

Commissioner Stewart spoke about sales tax data. He mentioned if sales tax goes down, businesses might move out.

Commissioner Thompson likes the idea of comparing various plans on paper.

John Youkhana mentioned there will be two meetings in January.

Chair Chalabian spoke about the Open Meeting Act and John Youkhana's survey idea.

There was another brief discussion about how to proceed.

Chair Chalabian asked what happens if the consultant contract ends and we are not done yet. John Youkhana responded that staff will make a decision on the base plan then at the January meeting we can modify plan to present to the public.

Julie Dixon outlined how staff's plan would be developed.

Note: Mike Koperniak will ask Jill Juliano about traffic items coming up.

There will be another public forum, tentatively, at Brooks School on January 22, 2018.

CONFIRM FUTURE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION MEETINGS

All Commissioners agreed upon no meetings in December and confirmed availability for two January 2018 Transportation Commission meetings.

Commissioner Roya motioned to adjourn the meeting and the motion was seconded by Commissioner Stewart.

The voice vote was unanimous to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:08PM.

Respectively submitted

Dorothy Benson-Baker

Dorothy Benson-Baker
Administrative Secretary