

APPROVED Meeting Minutes
Transportation Commission
Monday, December 16, 2019 – 7:00 p.m.
Council Chambers – Village Hall

1. Call to Order

Chair Ron Burke called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

Roll Call

Present: Chair Ron Burke, Camille Fink, James Thompson, Robert Taylor, Garth Katner

Absent: Meghann Moses, Aaron Stigler

Staff: Public Works Civil Engineer/Transportation Commission Staff Liaison Mike Koperniak, Parking Restrictions Coordinator, Jennifer Jones, Recording Secretary Mary Avinger

2. Non-Agenda Public Comment

Doug Chien, a resident of the 1000 block of Highland, spoke about his daughter attending Julian middle school and would like to request No Turn on Red signs and timed, signalized phases at some intersections for pedestrians.

Michelle Gurgas, also a resident of the 1000 block of Highland, supports Doug Chien's requests and would like them to be added to the Commission's work plan.

Commissioner Taylor spoke about evaluating safe routes to schools and Mike Koperniak, Public Works Civil Engineer/Transportation Commission Staff Liaison, responded the Village is already scheduled to work with Julian to revise their safe routes to school maps in the spring of 2020.

The floor was closed to public comment.

3. Commissioner Thompson made a motion to approve the agenda as presented which was seconded by Commissioner Katner. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

4. Approval of Draft Transportation Commission Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Thompson made a motion to approve the draft October 28, 2019 Transportation Commission meeting minutes as presented which was seconded by Commissioner Fink. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

5. REVIEW FEASIBILITY OF REPLACING THREE PARKING SPACES ON THE EAST SIDE OF EUCLID AVENUE NORTH OF LAKE STREET WITH A NO PARKING ANY TIME ZONE

Public Works Civil Engineer/Transportation Commission Staff Liaison Mike Koperniak gave a presentation on staff's recommendation and background information of replacing three parking spaces on the east side of Euclid Avenue north of Lake Street with a no parking any time zone. The presentation included before and after condition sketches of the north leg of Euclid Avenue at Lake Street as well as daytime and night time photographs of Euclid Avenue.

Mike Koperniak read public testimony that was sent in to the Village via email.

The Commission asked questions regarding if this was a staff-initiated request, what parking was like before the construction of District House, and if there was any discussion about parking when the building was in the Plan Commission. There were further questions about parking for the garage at District House, where the rest of the Y1 zone is and if there would be only one Y1 zone space on the block, if any thought was given to the confusion of having only one space on the block and what the daytime parking availability in the area is.

The floor was opened to public testimony.

Bruce Brigell, a resident of the 100 block of North Euclid Avenue, is in favor of the removal of the spaces but suggested maintaining four spaces to the north during the day for caretakers and the elderly who reside in the Mews of Oak Park condominium building.

Paula O'Connor, a resident of the 100 block of North Euclid Avenue, is in favor to remove the three spaces due to the congestion of traffic on the block. She stated the street is very narrow already and feels with increased traffic it is a hazard and an accident waiting to happen. Ms. O'Connor is in favor of removing all parking on one side of the street to help with traffic and leaf collection. She also spoke of her observations of drivers turning around in her and her neighbor's driveways and the entrances of the building which is also causing hazards.

Kevin Friker, a resident of the 100 block of North Euclid Avenue, is in favor of removing the spaces and stated the intersection is very narrow and removing the spaces would relieve traffic. He notices how many people use Euclid Avenue as a cut through to avoid the Oak Park Avenue and Lake Street intersection but thinks the police should monitor the street.

Linda Haley, a resident of the 100 block of North Euclid Avenue, supports removing the spaces and spoke about witnessing drivers turning around in the District House driveway. Ms. Haley has additional concerns regarding illegal parking and that cars parking on both sides of the block narrows the street. Ms. Haley also spoke about cars parking on Euclid Avenue directly across from the District House driveway making it difficult for their residents to pull out onto the street and thinks more enforcement would help.

Leslie Denstaedt, a resident of the 100 block of N Euclid Avenue, spoke of previously requesting the 100 block of north Euclid Avenue to be made resident only parking and it

was turned into three hour parking. Ms. Denstaedt has noticed more parking on the block in recent years and knows people are not paying to park there. She said with the addition of the District House condo building and the Fair Grounds Coffee & Tea Shop business, traffic has increased causing a hazard with speeding cars and kids on bikes in the area. Ms. Denstaedt believes removing the three parking spaces will be a hardship on the residents of the building and suggests moving the three spaces down the block.

Michelle Wheeler, a resident of District House, spoke about problems with cars parking on the block and the additional traffic due to the businesses. She agrees the spaces should be removed but would like to see the three spaces on the west side of the street removed as well. Ms. Wheeler thinks if spaces were removed on both sides of the block it would make a much wider street and thinks it should be parking on only one side of the street.

Wendy Greenhouse, a resident of District House, agrees that the three spaces need to be removed. Ms. Greenhouse spoke of the need for short term parking in the area for the businesses because many people do not want to park in Avenue garage and walk over. She spoke of the busy activity in and out of their garage, drivers using their apron for a turn around, and the difficulties of pulling out of the garage and not being able to see oncoming traffic. Ms. Greenhouse spoke of the dangers due to no alley access and observations of trucks using Euclid Avenue as a cut through. She thinks there should be a way to stop drivers from cutting through, maybe with a speed bump.

The floor was closed to public testimony.

Chair Burke spoke about prioritizing Downtown Oak Park to be a safe, inviting place for pedestrians and cars and talked about the density of the Village.

The Commission discussed:

- The parking situation on Lake Street – metered and short term parking east of Euclid Avenue.
- Possibly changing two hour parking east of Euclid Avenue on Lake Street from two hours to one hour for more turnovers.
- Enforcement of parking.
- Free parking on Lake Street as opposed to paid for parking in garages.
- Pushing the three spots to the north for Y1 zone parking at night and one hour spots during the day.
- Looking at parking on the 100 block of North Euclid Avenue north of The Mews condo building and possibly having no parking at all on one side of the street.
- Parking for caregivers.
- Alternate parking options and/or restrictions for Euclid Avenue and Lake Street.
- Safety issues versus parking issue.

Commissioner Taylor made recommendations (1) for staff to replace three parking spaces on the east side of Euclid Avenue north of Lake Street with a No Parking Any Time zone, (2) evaluate additional one hour parking on Euclid Avenue north of the

Mews condo building, and (3) evaluate additional metered parking on Lake Street east of Euclid Avenue. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Katner.

The voice vote was as follows:

Ayes: Taylor, Katner, Fink, Thompson, Burke

Nays: None

Motion passed with a 5 to 0 vote.

6. UPDATE REPORT ON EVALUATING FOUR KEY INTERSECTIONS FOR PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

Public Works Civil Engineer/Transportation Commission Staff Liaison Mike Koperniak gave an update to the Commission on evaluating four key intersections for pedestrian safety. Mike spoke about the background information on the four intersections and spoke about updated crash reports and included imagery of all legs of the four intersections.

Chair Burke asked about the crash information for the intersections.

Mike continued the presentation with information on planned intersection upgrade at Lake Street and Scoville Avenue in 2020.

The Commission discussed the information provided to them.

7. OTHER ENCLOSURES

Chair Burke would like to recommend when recommended items from the Commission goes to the Village Board, that staff notifies the Commission so they may go to the meeting, if they choose.

8. Adjourn

Commissioner Katner made a motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Commissioner Taylor. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote and the meeting was adjourned at 9:00p.m.

Respectively submitted

Mary Avinger

Mary Avinger,
Administrative Secretary