



VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST TRAFFIC AND SAFETY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, January 16, 2019 – 7:30 PM

A regular meeting of the River Forest Traffic and Safety Commission was held on Wednesday, January 16, 2019 at 7:30 P.M. The meeting was conducted in the Community Room at the River Forest Village Hall, 400 Park Ave. River Forest.

Roll Call and Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM. Present at this meeting were Chairman Rees, Commissioner Gillis, Commissioner Buis, Commissioner Cleary, Commissioner Jayaraman and Commissioner Wade.

New Business – Request by Village staff to make recommended improvements on Park Avenue and Franklin Avenue, just north of Lake Street for the purposes of clearing congestion during drop-off and pick-up times.

Caitlin Hofert lives in the condominiums at 7726 Lake Street. During school hours she can't park in front of her own home. She believes getting rid of parking will force people to walk longer distances. Residents that didn't have issues parking in front of their homes are going to find themselves now with the issue. They are just pushing the problem farther away. Ms. Hofert considers this proposal would negatively impact the surrounding residents and business owners.

Jeff Loster, Village Engineer clarifies that the original request included a parking restriction that lasted from 8:00am to 4:00pm. Subsequent to that being posted some conversations were had internally among staff and District 90. The current recommendation is to have those parking restrictions only between the hours of 7:30-9:00am and 2:00-4:00pm. They are trying to address mostly congestion during drop-off and pick-up. They realized the parking restriction does not need to be in place from 9:00am-2:00pm.

Ms. Hofert still stands by her testimony. She plans running errands around pick-up and drop-off time to avoid being home. The entire block in front of their group of town houses is wall to wall cars.

Chairman Rees asks Ms. Hofert where she parks?

Ms. Hofert replies she has three vehicles, two in her garage and she has a 24hr parking pass for the third. She parks on the street on Lake street when she is running errands. If they remove the parking from Franklin Avenue these vehicles will start to park in front of her home. Ms. Hofert assumes the people parking now on Franklin Avenue and on Park Avenue are the parents dropping off the kids at school during rush hour times, residents and overflow from the businesses on Lake Street.

Jeff Loster, Village Engineer shares from his conversation with District 90 there was some concern from the district's behalf of some faculty parking in this area as well. They have not done a study to verify any of this, it can very well be businesses and parents.

Commissioner Gillis notes the number of parking spaces being lost is twelve. Only six on Franklin Avenue and six on Park Avenue due to the driveways.

Jeff Loster, Village Engineer confirms that in addition adds there are no parking restrictions extended northward up on either of those blocks. Lake Street is all two-hour time limit, then west of the track it becomes three-hour time limit.

Margaret Horstman also lives at 7726 Lake Street. She points out the church is right behind them. They have staff parking in front of the church during the work week. That church has no parking lot other than the street for parking. Ms. Horseman questions the committee if they have a mechanism on how the parents are going to pick their kids up from school? Vehicles usually stand on both sides of the street to wait for their kids to come out.

Jeff Loster, Village Engineer clarifies that if there is No Parking on that block parents will not be allowed to stand around with their vehicle. It would stack everyone to one side of the street leaving a through lane. The goal of all of this is to maintain a through lane either through traffic or emergency vehicles. It's really about four or five vehicles that would get pushed further north, the quantity of what's being displaced should not be that much of an issue. The idea that they can maintain a through lane at all times during the day is something that is worthwhile.

Dan Hollenbach lives at 610 Park Avenue. He states that by adding these restrictions it will allow vehicles to speed even more through this area. Believes the drop off system the school has going on works relatively well. The issue is after the parents drop off the child they are racing out of there. Trusts the residents are more concerned about the high speeds at the end of Park Avenue, not so much about the congestion at the drop off by the school.

Commissioner Cleary notices the objections all have to do with convenience or lack of convenience for people who live there. He shares that he lives in a street with no parking from 9:00am to 5pm Monday through Friday. It's a little inconvenient, but you adapt to it. He thinks safety should be the number one concern. For that reason, he moves to adopt the proposal that looks like a well thought out solution to the problem which has been identified.

Commissioner Cleary made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Gillis to make improvements on Park Avenue and Franklin Avenue, just north of Lake Street for the purpose of clearing congestion during drop-off and pick-up times.

The vote was 6 to 0 in favor of approving the request. **The motion to approve the request passed.**

New Business – Presentation of the Comprehensive Plan by Houseal Associates for public discussion.

Lisa Scheiner, Assistant Village Administrator for the Village of River Forest apologizes for the consultant who was scheduled tonight which was unable to attend. She will take comments or

questions they might have regarding traffic. The comprehensive plan is nearing its final stages; they are one of the last commissions to take a look at the draft. The next step is to presented to the plan commission meeting in February. There will then be a public hearing held for the entire community to come out and comment and review before it goes to the Board for final consideration and adoption.

Chairman Rees responds the commission does not have any comments or questions at this time on the Comprehensive Plan.

Lisa Scheiner, Assistant Village Administrator states that the Comprehensive Plan has not been published online. Once it goes to the Plan Commission she believes then it will be posted, but well in advanced of the public hearing for the entire community to be able to take a look at it. They will get the word out once it is out for public review using the website, social media and email.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 P.M. All commissioners voted in favor of the motion. Motion passed.


Respectfully Submitted:

Signature Line



Jeff Loster, Secretary

Signature Line



Rick Gillis, Chairman (Pro Tem)
Traffic & Safety Commission

Date: 5-15-19