



## VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST TRAFFIC AND SAFETY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, November 15 – 7:30 PM

A regular meeting of the River Forest Traffic and Safety Commission was held on Wednesday, November 15, 2017 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 Valenti, Commissioner Cleary, Commissioner Osga, Commissioner Jayaraman, and Commissioner Wade.

### **New Business – Request to install seasonal speed bumps (or other measures) to improve safety on the 100 block of Keystone Avenue.**

Chairman Rees informs that the Village engaged Kenig, Lindgren, O'Hara, Aboona, Inc. (KLOA, Inc.) to do some counts and measure speed at the 100 block of Keystone. The consultants went out there at different times to identify both the median speed as well as the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile. They concluded with respect to the amount of traffic as well as the speed that it did not justify extraordinary traffic calming measures.

Stewart Weiner at 138 Keystone started the petition to get some type of traffic calming measure. Currently they have close to 30 kids, a lot of them walk to school and to the nearby park. There have been a lot of close calls with kids and vehicles. Mr. Weiner explains kids are kids and they are not going to walk all the way to the corner to get across the street. As parents they are doing the best to monitor them, but there have been some close calls. Mr. Weiner believes it's the traffic coming down Madison Street cutting through to Lake Street. They seem to be avoiding the traffic going down Madison. Vehicles take Keystone all the way to Lake and speed down since there are no stop signs.

Commissioner Jayaraman lives on the intersection of Vine and Keystone. He believes most cars will slow down if you have a speeding trailer with a big neon sign stating the speed limit is 25 mph. The second time the consultants turned off the sign, but kept the speeding trailer blocking half the street. Even if speeding cars went by, they are forced to slow down to get by.

Commissioner Jayaraman contemplates the data might be skewed based on the way it was collected.

Matt Heffner lives at 135 Keystone he moved to the block a year and a half ago. He has a 10 year old and a 7 year old. His block is one of the most populated with children. They have instances where cars are driving by at 40 mph. The biggest worry for them at this time is that one kid who won't look both ways and is hit by a speeding vehicle. Mr. Heffner believes all it will take to slow the traffic down is one stop sign.

Chairman Rees lives nearby on the 300 block Gale Avenue. Recently there was a manhole cover that needed fixing with a saw horse over it. It had the effect of slowing traffic down. Personally he does not favor a stop sign at Vine and Keystone. He wonders if there is some other type of device that can be used to slow traffic. The Village has never used speed bumps and feels there is a lot of resistance to use them. If they consider a stop sign he would have it on Vine not on Keystone. For the purpose of clarifying who has the right of way at Vine and Keystone.

Unidentified Resident lives on the first block of Keystone, he strongly believes there needs to be a stop sign on the corner of Vine and Keystone. He is amazed at how people speed through that intersection. He recalls an accident that happened about two years ago where a car was bounced off to his neighbor's lawn. It's not only a danger to motorists, but to people and kids out walking. Jeff Loster, Village Engineer shares the data collected from the police department. There have been seven vehicular accidents since 2014. All seven of those accidents have been within the last five years. The most recent accident being in May of 2017.

Commissioner Jayaraman would first go with the stop sign going north south on Keystone, second would be a 4-way stop sign. The numbers of the consultant don't support a stop sign, but they know that street has a lot of kids. He believes they have a certain responsibility to those kids. Renee Sichlau lives at 130 Keystone. While a stop sign might help to a certain degree, she knows that at Washington Blvd traveling east west people do not stop. At that busy intersection people ignore and blow through the stop sign all of the time therefore, Mrs. Sichlau feels something else needs to be done to slow the vehicles down.

Commissioner Gillis asks Village Engineer Loster if there are signs that caution drivers of children playing outside.

Village Engineer Loster replies that there are signs available depending on what you are trying to say. There are standard sizes and colors for those signs.

Matt Hefner expresses they do not care what tool is used to slow traffic. He considers a stop sign would be more efficient than a "Caution Children Playing" sign. If they run through a stop sign, there could be a fine as opposed to a sign cautioning about children at play. He thinks the warning sign about the children playing is fantastic and questions why they can't have both.

Village Engineer Loster adds if they are looking for a periodic temporary enforcement effort, perhaps a radar trailer can be used. That is something the police department has, they do a rotation where the trailer is moved from location to location. He is unsure of how frequently they would be able to add it to this specific location. On Park Avenue and Greenfield Street there is a flashing beacon that seems to be popular, but from a staffing perspective they need to look at budgets and placements. The Village also doesn't want flashing lights all over town.

Commissioner Jayaraman made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Wade to put a 2-way Stop sign at the intersection of Vine Street and Keystone Avenue stopping the north south traffic.

The vote was 6 to 1 in favor of approving the request. **The motion to approve the request passed.**

### **New Business – Request to enhance the safety measures for pedestrians at the intersection of Oak Avenue and Franklin Avenue.**

Steve Lefko lives at 719 Thatcher, he travels with his daughters who attend Roosevelt Middle School and Lincoln Elementary School. They travel by this intersection on a daily basis and have seen some close calls on the north side of Oak and Franklin. He became concerned and has spoken to the school and a River Forest Police Officer. They have agreed that this intersection has no traffic safety for children crossing Oak Street. Advises if safety truly is the number one priority of the Village, it's better to be safer than sorry. Mr. Lefko's belief is that there is confusion on that intersection. Most of the close calls he has witnessed are where someone stops to waive kids to cross. Someone from the opposite direction doesn't see this and blows through the intersection. He thinks the crosswalk is excellent because you can see it from a distance. Considers traffic needs to be controlled by adding a crossing guard, a stop sign or some portable signage.

Commissioner Osga thinks that what was done at the corner of Franklin and Linden has worked out well. They have the stop signs north and south, but on each side going east and west there is sign of "Stop for Pedestrians". Consequently making it a 4-way stop intersection. He suggests doing the same at this intersection would work out as well.

Commissioner Osga made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Wade to add four way ladder striping and add signs "Stop for Pedestrians" east west on both Franklin Avenue and Ashland Avenue.

The vote was 7 to 0 in favor of approving the request. **The motion to approve the request passed.**

Mr. Lefko adds that this corner is so congested with kids from both Roosevelt Middle School and Lincoln Elementary. You would think that motorists would give these kids the right of way, but it does not happen. As a result he would like the Village to convey to the school it's recommended to add a crossing guard. Previously they were told the School needs a recommendation from the Village Board to consider adding one.

Commissioner Osga believes that the numbers are not strong in the data to add a crossing guard at this intersection. Since he has been part of this commission he does not recall ever making recommendations to schools about adding crossing guards. Schools typically add them when they see fit. This is the first time he has heard schools need the Village to suggest to them to do so.

**New Business – Parking on the 7900 block of Division Street.**

Commissioner Gillis addresses someone noticed a No Parking sign was missing on the 7900 block of Division. He drove by and noticed that the sign has been installed.

Commissioner Gillis made the motion, seconded by Chairman Rees that "No Parking from here to Corner" be installed at the western limit of existing parking lane.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:16 P.M. All commissioners voted in favor of the motion. Motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted:

*Signature Line*



Jeff Loster, Secretary

*Signature Line*



Doug Rees, Chairman  
Traffic & Safety Commission

Date: 5-16-18