



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

Wednesday, May 15, 2024

A regular meeting of the River Forest Traffic and Safety Commission was held on Wednesday, May 15, 2024, at 7:30 P.M.

### **Roll Call and Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM. Present at this meeting were Commissioner Chase, Commissioner Gillis, Commissioner Hoyt, Commissioner Karrow, Commissioner Osga, & Chairman Rees.

Chairman Rees adopted a motion to approve the minutes from the last Traffic and Safety Commission meeting on January 17, 2024. All were in favor and the minutes were adopted.

Chairman Rees discusses the one thing on the agenda regarding parking with respect to the 1200/1300 block of Park Avenue. Are there other people here for other items besides Park Avenue?

Chairman Rees asks Sean if he is here – asks Sean to take the mike and tell us your name, address and what you are here for.

Matt Walsh, Village Administrator, murmurs to Chairman Rees that this is for a petition that just came in.

Sean Herring, resident at 915 Monroe, indicates that he is here on behalf of residents from the notification area for Monroe and Iowa. They are requesting a stop sign be placed on Monroe Street going north and south. The basis for this request is that there have been a number of accidents that occurred at this intersection. Monroe Street is the first street going west of Harlem. There is a tremendous amount of traffic and speeding motorists. Concerned about safety in the area for kids, elderly & folks walking their dogs. Has a petition that 82% of residents signed in the notification area which he submitted yesterday. Was not able to get on the agenda and that is why I am here.

Chairman Rees asks Sean if he doesn't mind waiting until the end so they can address other items on the agenda like Park. Is that ok with the Commission? When we step back up to this, I am not sure – I know we collected data historically and since it wasn't on the agenda, we haven't looked at the old data. I have some notebooks of the old KLOA Study as well as the TEG Study. So, it is possible that we will have data that was collected before, but not the most current.

Talk amongst Commission regarding percentage of residents that signed petition and that this will be on the next agenda and not addressed this evening.

Chairman Rees indicates to Sean that it is up to you if you want to wait around as this was not on the agenda. But we want to make sure we get the notice out and collect the accident data and speed information that was collected so we can have a discussion at the next meeting.

Sean indicates that there has been a lack of notice of transparency regarding issues in the Northeast Quadrant. I would rather not speak to you individually but rather address the public constituents at Monroe and Iowa at the same time, so everybody is part of this conversation.

Chairman Rees indicates that is where we are going to end up Sean. Would you rather just wait for the next meeting?

Sean indicates yes and inquires what the next process is.

Chairman Rees indicates that the next process will be that 1, we will put this on the next agenda, 2, then we will have your petition which we don't have yet and 3, we will see what data can be collected in advance of the next meeting plus notice to the affected people in case other people want to show up and speak to it. This way we will be able to address this with the proper notice.

Commissioner Chase addresses Sean and indicates that she did not catch his last name and asks if he has the signed petitions so they can get copies for the next meeting.

Chairman Rees indicates that the item on the agenda is parking with respect to the 1200/1300 block of Park. We have some information on the agenda regarding the history of this block. I don't know if there is someone else on the Commission who maybe has studied that and would like to summarize that. I will be glad to take a shot at that or Matt or anybody else.

Commissioner Gillis indicates that when we looked at this back pre-COVID, they made a couple of different recommendations. One was removing the two-hour...

Chairman Rees indicates that the report was May 26, 2020.

Commissioner Gillis indicates that there were 3 recommendations. The first one was for free parking included on Division and Park. The second one was paid parking for those two locations. What was the third one?

Talk amongst Commission what the third one was - go back to the two- hour. The third one was the meter.

Chairman Rees indicates in the historical background that previously there was parking on the west side of Park, and it was limited to two hours. There was no parking on the east side. In July 2020, the Village Board adopted an Ordinance, based on the recommendation of a Study that had been done, and that was to remove the two-hour restriction and allow parking on the west side of Park but continue not to allow parking on the east side. That happened. After that happened, COVID hit so parking was probably depressed during COVID. Now, with students back at Dominican, parking has increased. My understanding is that I think some neighbors complained and the Village through the police somehow but up Temporary Resident Only Parking on the west side of the street that is currently marked as Temporary Resident Only Parking by Police Order – with continued no parking on the east side. With that being the current

status quo, it was put on the agenda for us to discuss various options which could include anything and whether we would maintain a temporary resident only parking on the west side which might require a change of Ordinance. Stick with the current Ordinance which is to allow parking on the west side and remove the current police temporary restriction. One thing that might be on the table is whether we would consider resident only parking on the east side. Right now, on the east side of the street is no parking. Obviously if you had parking on both sides of the street, it would be tight- compressed area but would also slow down traffic. That's kind of the status quo as I understand it. We have some people who have signed up. Should we hear from people who have signed up?

Commissioner Gillis indicates that I know that parking on the east side, we would not be able to do that as that is the fire truck route.

Chairman Rees indicates that there is a reason to keep that open so Firefighters and EMT's can proceed north on Park. Why don't we have some people who signed up – first name is Cheryl Starks at 1243 Park.

My name is Cheryl Starks. I live at 1243 Park Avenue, directly across from Dominican. We've been there for almost 30 years. We had to endure false fire alarms, loud music, fighting in the parking lots, the usual stuff. The most annoying is the parking. Talks about Park Avenue being very narrow especially for emergency vehicles as they cannot park on street and would have to pull in someone's driveway. Difficult getting out of their driveway when cars are parked there. Has enjoyed the temporary no parking. Did not receive notice in 2020 when they removed the two-hour restriction, we did not get notice, so they were not there but did get notice that the parking has been changed. The two-hour parking was not enforced as we had to call and have the police come by to write tickets. They told me to go out and get the registration number, license number and make and model. I told them that I was not going to do that. Now that the two-hour restriction has been removed, now cars are parked overnight. Feels that she should not have to do police job and it is annoying. I would recommend resident parking only. Recommends that every vehicle should have a city sticker by law. Dominican should reduce their parking fees to their students as several years ago they were charging students \$100 per month. My biggest concern is that the parking is not being enforced. Should be residential parking between certain hours. I would appreciate enforcement.

Commission Gillis makes a comment about enforcement that the Village has a cool machine now which is the minivan that drives around that is the Community Service. It has license plate readers on it, so it knows what the parking is, tracks the license plate. Two hours later if they drive by it will say stop and give that person a ticket. This has been for the past 3 or 4 years.

Commissioner Chase indicates to Mrs. Starks that Dominican has this beautiful parking garage. I did not realize that they charge for parking there.

Cheryl Starks indicates that is part of the problem as if I were a student there, I would find free parking. The amount they charge is outrageous for students.

Chairman Rees indicates let's get through the rest of the Public Comment please. Shannon Miller, would you like to speak?

Hi everyone. My name is Shannon Miller. I live at 1241 Park next door to Stark's and can sympathize with everything Cheryl has said. When that street is filled up with cars, it is complicated to get out of your driveway. I would like to request that we find some middle ground. If we do move away from the current state that we have only resident parking so when we do have guests, they have somewhere to park. On the Greenfield side of Dominican, is two hours between 8:00 and 5:00 which is when most of the students are taking classes. If having a two-hour restriction during the daytime hours could serve as that middle ground. Would be open to resident guest sticker. Having flexibility on evenings and weekends would be much appreciated.

Commissioner Gillis indicates that he thinks Greenfield has no parking during the week. Monday through Friday from 8:00 until 5:00 no parking.

Chairman Rees indicates that today he was driving up in some of the Northeast Quadrant between Le Moyne and North. We have some two-hour parking restrictions on those blocks. I am not sure if they are two-hours all the time or two hours between certain hours. Does anybody know?

Commissioner Gillis indicated that it varies by block. I was looking at that today. A lot of them were from 9:00 to 5:00, Monday through Friday. Some were just two hours or not two hours but 9:00 to 5:00 but didn't say Monday through Friday but would have been for seven days a week.

Chairman Rees asks Shannon if there is anything else. How about Mark.

My name is Mark Titzer. I represent Dominican University. I am here with my colleague Dan Opels. Hello to our neighbors on Park Avenue. I would just like to point out a few things for context and thank you for having this meeting. As you noted, the two-hour restriction was removed four years ago. There has been no parking restriction on the west side of Park for four years now. This came back to light when some of the neighbors reminded us as leaders, that we needed to reinstall a gate on the north side of campus in keeping with the plan development from many years ago that would restrict traffic flow between the west and east side of campus. So, those exiting the parking garage wouldn't be exiting through the back campus and onto Park Avenue. We have done that in compliance with our planned development commitment and believe that's working just fine. In terms of context or perspective, I would challenge a resident only restriction because it has been pointed out that there are about nineteen houses on the 1200/1300 block of Park. They all do have driveways. It seems like the residents have a place to park for each of those nineteen houses. In terms of visitors, as you noted, the east side is no parking, but the west side could provide that for visitors or visitors to Dominican. We have visitors for athletic competitions who might not live or work at Dominican. Our gymnasium is in the back of campus there as you know. I suppose the Village can add back a two-hour restriction, but an exhaustive parking study concluded that that two-hour be removed. So, we've been four years without that. So, it makes the question why would we put that back on and I would argue why we would put on a – pardon?

Chairman Rees indicates that my understanding is that one reason it was removed was to encourage people – first of all, it's adjacent to Dominican and second, it's to encourages people to park closer to campus rather than farther away into the rest of the neighborhood.



Mark Titzer indicates that is a good reason for that. I apologize for the proximity of your homes to our campus but – I would also like to clarify that we do have a parking garage that was part of our 2008 planned development. It has about 550 parking spaces in it. We charge faculty and staff \$50.00 per year to park there. The resident students who will be parking overnight who live at Marie Mazzuchelli Coughlin Hall, they pay \$100.00 per year to park in that open lot all night long. We have campus safety officers. We believe it is a nominal fee for parking. I don't believe it is a deterrent to pushing people out into the street. There has been anecdotal feedback that our parking garage is not full, our parking lot is not full. We have statistics to suggest otherwise that indeed our parking garage is quite full. We are restricting access, so it doesn't spill out onto Park Avenue per the planned development. I do think there are both landscapers for both the residents and for Dominican who park along Park Avenue. There might be a bus from an intercollegiate competition who are going to park there and drop students off with volleyball, basketball equipment, etc. I suppose there are some cars that stay there overnight for long periods of time. I don't know what to say about that. But I think it would be quite unwelcoming to say residents only or no parking when again a parking study had concluded to remove that two-hour and maybe it was an enforcement issue or whatever. That has been gone for four years now. So, to say we should put it back, I would question that. I would like to clarify that we do encourage and require our faculty and staff to park in our parking garage as it is \$50.00 per year and our resident students do pay \$100.00 as they park overnight in our east lot.

Chairman Rees directs his comment to Mark and indicates that anecdotally between your garage and your lots, your view is that you're close to capacity, you don't have a lot of excess capacity? Am I understanding you correctly on that?

Mark Titzer answers yes and I think somebody that goes to campus every day can always find a spot. I usually come in early in the mornings, so it is easy to find a spot, but if I leave for lunch, sometimes I have to go up to the third or fourth floor of the parking garage. Contrary to what many institutions like Dominican are facing right now, is that our enrollment is strong, and I think the vibrancy of additional students coming to Dominican is a good thing. Yes, we are a non-tax paying entity, I acknowledge that, but I think a vibrant campus with a lot of attendance is good for River Forest rather than a place that is not well attended.

Commissioner Hoyt asks what they charge commuter students/day students for parking?

Mark Titzer indicates \$50.00 to park as a commuter, faculty or staff member or students which means not overnight in the garage. Overnight parking is \$100.00 for resident students.

Commissioner Hoyt asks non- resident students like commuter students?

Mark Titzer indicates \$50.00.

Commissioner Hoyt confirms \$50.00 a year?

Mark Titzer answers yes mam. It would mean that you would not leave your car overnight if you are paying the \$50.00.

I would just like to ask the Committee to consider the traffic study that was commissioned four years ago and to revert to that status. We will endeavor to be good neighbors as I hope we are.

Somebody in the audience asks a question about the study.

Chairman Rees indicates it was conducted for the Village by KLOA. I don't know if you have it. It is available and is a very lengthy report that was prepared in May of 2020. Without the exhibits it is almost 200 pages.

Commissioner Osga asks if he is reading this wrong? Right at the end of the report, it talks - speaks to the garage itself at Dominican with 1,102 spots.

Mark Titzer replies that he thinks that includes surface lots as well. It's about 550 in the garage and elsewhere we have an east lot and west lot. About 1100 total.

Commissioner Osga indicates ok. The reason I bring this is up as it wasn't too long ago that I was studying for the Bar Exam at Crown, believe it or not. I have spent time on campus and raised four kids in this town. According to this study from four years ago, it goes by time from 7:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m. You are 75% of 1100 which is 775 spots with 250 spots available. Then we start to get almost full around lunch time. I remember being a college student we would schedule our classes around 11:00 or 12:00 just in case. So, I am looking at 94/92 11:00 a.m., noon, then it jumps a page. By 2:00 p.m. we are back down to below 80% and then 60% and 40%. I don't know with your capacity argument and the fact that the west side of Park Avenue from 12 to 1300 is going to really accommodate a lot of cars. Then you said that \$50.00 a year – I understand that being a college student that \$50.00 a year a kid is not going to try and skirt. Dominican has a lot of diversity, but the people that are driving to Dominican are going to be able to afford – I don't think that University itself is pushing students away from the garage. I think it is an ease play for them to park on Park Avenue. Those cars, 15 cars on Park Avenue, are certainly at all times of the day going to fit in that garage. Is there an elevator in that garage?

Mark Titzer replies yes.

Commissioner Osga indicates so people don't have to walk down five stories?

Mark Titzer replies no, it is handicap accessible.

Commissioner Osga indicates good. So, with that being said, I am just formulating an argument for our discussion later. I just want to point that out at the end of the study, so we have something to talk about as we get into it. I will let Chairman Rees take over.

Talk amongst Commission about the argument and referring to page 23 and discuss parking at Dominican.

Commissioner Gillis indicates that there are enough empty spots on campus according to the study. Students choose to park on the street instead of on campus to avoid the parking permit cost.

Commissioner Osga indicates if they can afford the car, they can afford the \$50.00.

Mark Titzer indicates that again on that study, the intent, with all due respect to the Starks and the proximal neighbors, the intent was to confine the on- street parking that may be a spillover

from the University to the adjacent streets, rather than two streets east toward Willard, right? We have students who are going to try and save \$50.00 and park somewhere else in River Forest to save the \$50.00 and walk a couple blocks. It is regrettable but I think that you are going to push this problem further south and east.

Commissioner Osga indicates I don't think we are going to do that. With that being said, we are the Traffic and Safety Commission of River Forest. So, we are here for the constituents, the neighbors. Obviously, we want to work well with our colleges, but there are a lot of issues mentioned. It is an emergency route. Our neighbors, the east side of the streets have issues going on – in out, who's in front, who's not. What's the best way to be safe? One of my counter arguments to myself, if we remove the cars on the west side of the street, what happens? Kids with cars can go faster so we think about that as well. There is a safety component in addition to the traffic component and this issue a parking component. Those are my thoughts thus far and I will let Chairman Rees take over.

Chairman Rees indicates that he would like to let the rest of the Commission comment.

Commissioner Karrow has a question for Mark. Regarding two-hour parking, are the commuter students coming in at 9:00 a.m. and staying until 4:00, or are they coming in for a class? I don't expect you to have statistics on this, but do you know what the average parking tenure per day is for a commuter student?

Mark Titzer indicates I guess I would offer that limited parking might address students that would want to come in for a class or come after 5:00 p.m. for a basketball game to see their son or daughter, but they can't leave their car there all day/night.

Commissioner Karrow indicates that it does seem to him that we have taken big action that it doesn't go that well. I feel like incremental steps are usually better than big steps. The thing about two-hour parking is that it would accommodate university and residential use. There would be a place for Amazon trucks, landscapers, students, residents and visitors.

Commissioner Hoyt indicates that she is going to read the statement also from page 23 of the study. It says that the street parking adjacent to the campus on Park Avenue, which is regulated with a two-hour parking time limit, obviously this is their review prior to 2020, is lightly utilized during the day at less than 30% capacity. Peak of 12 cars parked in 40 space zone. So, it is 40 spaces? I guess prior to 2020 was not that utilized with the two-hour parking.

Chairman Rees asks if anyone knows, I don't know that we have anecdotal evidence, over the last 4 years what the utilization's been on the west side of Park on that stretch? Has it been fully utilized, half utilized during the day?

Commissioner Gillis indicates that he lives near there and my observation, since we've removed the two-hour, seems to be pretty full most of the time especially Division is packed.

Chairman Rees asks if that is your – you guys live there, and I don't know if you folks from Dominican...

Mrs. Starks interrupts and indicates I live there so I know. There are students that come and go when there is a two-hour parking and leave space for other students to come there if they are not parked all day long with unrestrictive parking. My biggest problem is not enforcing the parking all day long and overnight as well.

Chairman Rees asks if anybody here can tell him what the utilization has been – how many people are parked daily on the west side of Park during the day?

Mrs. Starks indicates that the whole block is taken up on a daily basis.

Chairman Rees asks if that is the consensus? Shannon, is that your observation as well?

Shannon Miller indicates that at least 70% full.

Chairman Rees indicates that we don't have a great data set about the utilization of that block. We are being asked to change something that has been in place for four years based on highly anecdotal information that is not very specific. We don't really know how heavily utilized those blocks are Monday through Friday from 8:00 until 5:00 – if it is 60%, 70% or 100%.

Commissioner Osga indicates with that being said, I am of the opinion that if I can remove student cars to student parking, in favor of emergency vehicles passing by residents of River Forest having space on their street to park their workers, that's kind of where I'm going. I think David started this wave here. Dominican has the space in the garage. If it's a matter of cost, I'm sure Dominican can figure that out - \$50.00 a year if a student comes in and somehow has a car but can't afford a \$50.00 parking pass for the year. Maybe they can get some sort of subsidy for the \$50.00. Just to reiterate, I'm thinking about the traffic flow, the neighbors and 40 student cars that would fit into the garage anyway with an elevator, ADA compliant to the campus. That might be the little nudge that you are talking about, and we would request if we did something over there in terms of hourly and request that it is enforced. That might be the little nudge where we don't have to reinvent the wheel which started this in the northeast quadrant.

Commissioner Karrow indicates that he wanted to address the fact that we are looking at this and are being asked to do something based on anecdotal observations. I think we do that from time to time and I think about putting up stop signs. Usually when we put up a stop sign, the traffic study says you don't need a stop sign there as it is not good for speed control. Enough people in the area say they need a stop sign there. Then we put up the stop sign. More often than not, to my knowledge is generally a hit or a non-issue in the area. I'm not opposed to doing something based on anecdotal information if there is enough of it and if it is echoed by enough of the neighbors saying there is something that should be done here. It doesn't have to be like no parking but some sort of community endorsed plan would be ok even if we don't have enough hard evidence.

Chairman Rees asked if have a petition?

Commissioner Karrow indicates not to my knowledge.

Chairman Rees indicates that he doesn't know how we had this police restriction in place without anything coming into this Commission without being a petition. I object to that, but I



see how those things maybe happen. I agree with what Dave is saying. We do have some anecdotal evidence and we can take as a given that that block is being used by people attending Dominican. The question on the table is that do we think it is being used primarily from 8:00 to 5:00, 9:00 to 5:00, 8:00 to 8:00? The suggestion on the table is that it is kind of potential to our parking restriction as we just noted. In that area, some blocks have a two-hour restriction period without any time frame and have two-hour restriction during certain times of the day.

Commissioner Hoyt asks what is the cost of the ticket for violation if more than two hours?

Commissioner Osga indicates \$50.00.

Commissioner Hoyt asks Matt if he knows what it is?

Matt, indicates \$45.00. It was previously \$30.00 and recently within the last two months it was raised.

Chairman Rees indicates that there sounds like there is some additional tools in the River Forest Toolbox for enforcement which maybe didn't exist four years ago.

Commissioner Osga asks if it was mentioned on Greenfield, did you say that two-hour parking 8:00 to 5:00 on both sides of the street Monday through Friday?

Chairman Rees asks Cheryl if she had some information to add?

Mrs. Starks asks when the study was done.

Chairman Rees indicates that the study was done before COVID in 2020. The study was published in May of 2020.

Commissioner Osga indicates that according to this it was conducted in November 2019. We are all neighbors. I don't want this to be us versus them. We are trying to facilitate something that works for all of us. How do we get more kids to park in the parking lot and what can we do to make sure Park Avenue is open and accessible to neighbors? This is us working together.

Commissioner Hoyt asks if there is a way we can find out how it changed to temporary resident only parking?

Matt Walsh says Mark Titzer did mention that it was brought to the Village's attention that one of the conditions of the Plan Development that was approved back when the garage was approved back in 2006 or 7 to block that east/west circulation road on the north side of the campus that was removed several years ago. No one knows how it happened, and that condition lasted for several years. Some of the nearby residents on Park Avenue brought that to the Village's attention. We worked with Dominican and that recently was reinstated. That was part of the Plan Development – as part of the KLOA recommendation to cut down on circulation. That was replaced...

Commissioner Hoyt interrupts and indicates that was the gate or the driveway that goes onto Park...

Matt interrupts and indicates it was internal to the campus. There's a gate at the entrance on Park Avenue into the parking lot, it is not that gate as that gate has always been there and it is open as the students need to park there. It's further west in the campus to keep folks from cutting through Park Avenue to the parking garage or vice versa.

Somebody in the audience asks about Thatcher.

Chairman Rees indicates Thatcher and Division.

Matt indicates correct yes and then during that conversation is when we had residential parking signs. I agree that is not a tack tic that we try to use very often. We wanted to act in the interim when that was still being worked out at Dominican. That's why they were put into place and there was discussion at the end of the school year to discuss a permanent decision or a longer lasting decision to confirm the no restriction that was recommended and adopted by the Board four years ago or some other compromised version of that.

Commissioner Gillis indicates that his thought is that we need more data. School is out. We can remove the signs as no one will be parked in front of the house right now, the streets are empty, Division was empty today. In the fall, we can start monitoring again with the Village truck that comes by and track the plates as to how long they are parked. What was it four years ago again?

Chairman Rees indicates that the west side was restricted to two-hour parking and KLOA recommended removing that restriction. The questionnaire done was late 2019 when most of the questionnaire answers were in December 2019. COVID hit in early 2020 so I think a lot of the data was being collected just prior to COVID. By the time this recommendation came around we were into COVID. You have some overlap there, but I think they have the recommendation to remove the two-hour restriction and open it up. I am assuming, we were all assuming that during COVID parking was probably depressed. Now we have some indication that parking has ticked up in that area and that is why we are addressing this issue. One suggestion that Rick has put on the table is we are in the summertime now, parking is not going to be as utilized by students now. I don't know how many students are attending in the summer, but one suggestion is that we table this, remove the resident only, we open up, maintain the status quo what it is under the Village Ordinance which is to not restrict parking on the west side of Park for now. In the fall, when students are back in session, to collect some data about how that is being used if we want to do that. I am not saying we have to.

Commissioner Hoyt indicates hypothetically, let's say we did that, and we found that it was 100% utilized through the study. Would that change our thoughts on that being partially utilized?

Chairman Rees indicates or even if it 60% utilized, would that change our thoughts?

Commissioner Hoyt indicates that I just asked the question because if the reason is that the two-hour limit was removed, was to move student parking more toward Park Avenue and away from other ancillary streets...

Chairman Rees interrupts and asks to keep it farther - from spilling closer to Willard, right?

Commissioner Hoyt indicates right and if it was a 100% utilized and utilized all by students, it is doing that, so are we ok or not ok with that? I also think that maybe there is some education that can happen to the Dominican students about the parking ticket being \$45.00 or something in comparison to \$50.00 and somehow get the students to understand that there is another option for them. If we found out it was 100% utilized is that going to be something to change our perspective if the intent is to have the students park there?

Chairman Rees indicates I don't know if this is a related question but let's assume that there is high utilization of parking on the west side of Park. If we were to change that to two-hour parking with some education those students would be encouraged to park on campus in the lot. It is more likely that they will skip the lot and garage and park another block farther east. It is hard for us to anticipate what the consequence would be if we were to impose a two-hour restriction. Is this going to cause people to park on campus or going to cause people to move and park where they can?

Commissioner Osga indicates that if we do this, with less students going to Dominican, wouldn't we want to try and start moving them onto campus parking now? I am leaning towards doing a two-hour parking with enforcement now because we have less students going to Dominican. They may start utilizing the parking because they only park on the first or second floor. They will know after the two-hours after enforcement, they will be getting a \$45.00 ticket when they can pay the \$50.00 for the whole year there. Then it gets to our objectives of opening Park Avenue up for emergency vehicles, residents, neighbors, and so on. I am going to fight you a little bit on that as now is the time to do something as there is less of a student population over there.

Chairman Rees indicates let's say we impose a two-hour parking limit and let's assume it causes people to park on Franklin. Do we care or would we wait to see if people start to complain about Franklin and then address that?

Commissioner Osga agrees but didn't we already do two-hours on Keystone, Park...

Chairman Rees indicates it goes Forest, Park, Franklin and Ashland.

Commissioner Osga indicates that we did two-hours on all those streets, right?

Chairman Rees indicates I don't know.

Commissioner Gillis indicates that prior to this - I am at Keystone and Augusta. When we had the two-hours, there was a whole slew of cars that would park on Thomas every day because they were there longer than two hours and could walk that block down to the university. They are gone now as they are now on Division and Park. In the fall we monitor and educate and have the university look to see if they have River Forest stickers and then if they don't have a Village Forest sticker, then you put something on their windshield that says that you buy a parking pass, or you will be ticketed.

Mark Titzer is talking in the background.

Commissioner Osga indicates that we can do a time limit that should start September 1, or September 6, unless it is in August. We can say that starting January 1, if you are out here for more than two hours, you will be getting a ticket that costs the same as you getting a parking pass. Might as well buy the permit and move into the garage.

Commissioner Gillis indicates that they should be told if you can't be good students, good neighbors, then we are going to change it to two hours and will need to buy a permit anyway. Something like that may work. I drive down Park quite a bit and I drive Division every single day. It is full now and that was the purpose. The people that would park on Thomas are now on Division.

Commissioner Osga indicates that the garage will handle all these cars. Are you saying that you want no restrictions on Park?

Commissioner Gillis indicates that he would like to wait and study and recommend to these people that are parking on Park to buy a permit.

Commissioner Osga indicates that he thinks this needs to be a directed statement.

Commissioner Hoyt interrupts and asks is our goal not to have any students park on that street?

Commissioner Gillis indicates that the actual goal was to have them park on the street.

Commissioner Hoyt indicates, I know. Is today's goal – or is it not our goal. That is more of a question.

Commissioner Osga indicates that our goals have changed.

Chairman Rees indicates that the goal is to have students park on campus. The reality is that the number of students who park on Park are just as likely to park on Franklin or another block and not park on campus. We have to understand that is the risk that KLOA was trying to avoid by allowing parking on the west side of Park. So, students would park adjacent to campus and not park further east.

Commissioner Karrow indicates that he has a process question for you or Matt. If we make a recommendation, then the neighbors get a mailer that says it's going to be discussed at the Board of Trustees meeting or...

Matt Walsh interrupts and indicates there were postcards sent out in advance of this meeting.

Commissioner Hoyt asks what those postcards say that we were just discussing it?

Matt Walsh indicates yes that there will be discussion of the parking regulations on the 1200/1300 block of Park Avenue with this meeting date and time. It was sent to the 1200/1300 block of Park as well as a portion of Greenfield as well.

Commissioner Chase indicates that she likes Rick's idea of collecting data in the fall, but I also like John's idea of starting the process now with the two-hour parking to get the summer students



use to the fact they are going to get a ticket. I like the two-hour idea but to start it sooner than September.

Commissioner Osga indicates to Patricia, with everything that we have spoken to, my idea is to incorporate a lot of what all of us said and my motion would be to go back to 2019 for a lot of reasons and institute the two-hour parking rule on Park Avenue with the idea that our objectives have changed. We want to encourage the kids to park on campus. If we just let them park on Park Avenue and Division that's not encouraging anything. I say we do the two hours and then if we want to incorporate education into it or data mining in the fall semester, we can do that. They will see the signs and start getting tickets. Maybe enforce, we educate in the fall semester about moving to campus. I would rather get started early on this rather than late.

Commissioner Hoyt indicates that we have two opinions here from two residences, but we don't know if the other twenty residences would agree. We are going on what our feeling is as we do not have a petition. I would like to know what the residents want before I would be comfortable approving a recommendation to change it.

Chairman Rees indicates if there are visitors to the campus for a sporting event or for some other event, what parking is available to visitors on the street and to visitors on campus. I have been there for evening events, and I park in the parking lot. If somebody comes during the day, can a visitor park in the parking lot or in the garage. Those are both available – ok. Then with respect to street parking, Division has street parking, correct – and currently the west side of park. If we were to restrict the west side of Park to say that there is some sentiment of two-hour parking, then that will have some kind of knock-on effect for students that have to be there longer than two hours. They are either going to have to park on Division, on campus or some other adjacent street. We can access this in the fall if we have a lot of people parking on Franklin. If we trust what drove KLOA they thought, there was evidence that people were parking farther east and that is why they recommended allowing parking on Park. We have to anticipate that if we restrict the west side of Park to two hours that we are going to see some parking on adjacent streets, we will have to be prepared to decide we are going to address that when it happens.

Commissioner Chase asks whatever we decide tonight is just a recommendation to the Board? Am I correct?

Chairman Rees answers yes. Whatever we recommend is a recommendation because there is an Ordinance now and it is my understanding that they would have to change the Ordinance to impose the two-hour restriction. Do you know if that is that's the case Matt?

Matt indicates correct. In order to make that a two-hour restriction or to replace that, it would be to take a Board Ordinance.

Chairman Rees indicates what we do here is a non-binding recommendation. At the end of this evening, if someone makes a motion, we will vote on it. By a majority vote, if we propose a restriction, that would be a non-binding recommendation from our Board, then you will be encouraged to support or impose the recommendation to go to the next Board meeting. The Board would hear your comment and vote and decide if the Ordinance would be changed to impose a two-hour restriction.

I think to your point Cheryl, if we were to suggest a restriction, we would most likely couple it with a request for enforcement of that restriction. We heard what you were saying that a restriction is not good unless it is enforced.

Commissioner Hoyt indicates just to clarify, where we are today is temporary resident only.

Chairman Rees indicates right now today, by police order, you drive there is a sign if you are southbound on Park, you will see an orange sign that says Temporary Resident Only Parking by Police Order.

Commissioner Hoyt asks if we would say to change it to a two hour we are telling the residents, of which we only heard from two of them, that you right now have residents only and we would change it to two- hour open.

Chairman Rees indicates correct and the suggestion we have been discussing is not resident only it would just be two-hour parking restriction which would be consistent with other blocks up in that area.

Commissioner Karrow asks how long has it been police order?

Matt indicates that those signs have been in place since early April. It is only a few weeks before the end of the school year.

Commissioner Karrow indicates that he hasn't heard from other blocks thus far that have said everybody now is parking on our blocks.

Chairman Rees indicates because we are now in the summer.

Matt indicates not that I've heard but I think that it was close enough to the end of the school year that it had the impact.

Commissioner Osga indicated that maybe they all just parked in the parking garage.

Commissioner Hoyt indicates that she would like to know what the other twenty residents would like. Did this get on the agenda just from one resident bringing it up?

Matt indicates there was an email chain with a group of residents, there were about a dozen folks on that email. There were different opinions among that group that had reached out to myself, Dominican and Village Board Members that brought that to the forefront. We were trying to see if there would be a compromise among that group and recognize that was a small sample size. We thought that this would bring more interest to it with the postcard to the folks. I do not know the block dynamics there.

Chairman Osga asks that somebody said to the Board I have had enough of this, put up a sign that restricts parking to residents only and that happened.

Talk amongst audience.

Commissioner Osga asks Ms. Starks before 2019, when it was two-hour parking, what is your opinion then of the ability to park on Park, because you have been here for thirty years, before it became a free range?

Ms. Starks replies there were students that were coming or going, and some people were parking all the time.

Commissioner Osga asks if it was worse or better than the last four years?

Ms. Starks indicates that it was the parking overnight.

Commissioner Osga says thank you for answering his question.

Commissioner Gillis asks Matt if we were to do the paid parking, which was Option 2, how difficult is that to implement?

Commissioners talk about how paid parking is implemented and who is required to pay.

Matt indicates the more complicated the regulation is and breaking it up like that the harder it will be to enforce would be my first reaction to that. I am sure there are ways to implement that. The recommendation from this study is how those regulations came along the Metra and the Green Line Stations. I am not sure this would be a similar situation...

Commissioner Hoyt interrupts and indicates that those locations they weren't in front of residences like they are here and here residences have guests and people that come visit them are not going to want to pay. Where on the Metra, they are on a street where there is no residence, only parking.

Chairman Rees indicates that I think the thing is it a logistical question is it feasible on that stretch to impose putting up signage and impose a paid to park regime that would be \$5.00 an hour or \$2.00 an hour, whatever number. That would be an alternative.

Commissioner Gillis indicates which then push them onto campus because even if you charge \$3.00 a day, it is still cheaper to park on campus.

Commissioner Chase indicates that if we do the sign thing, which is a great idea, then we have to make it high enough so they would see it is cheaper to park on campus.

Commissioner Gillis indicates that the once by the train station is 6:00 a.m. to only 2:00 p.m. or something like that where you can do something similar – 7:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. so residents can park in front of their homes after 2:00 for no charge. It would only be across the street.

Commissioner Osga indicates that we can accomplish that without charging a quarter an hour or getting an app going with an 8:00 to 5:00 two-hour parking restriction. I think this would gently persuade people to – I am completely against metering.

Commissioner Gillis indicates that you have to look at the revenue too as we just lost one million dollars thanks to the State.

Commissioner Osga indicates that he doesn't know if he is interested in breaching that subject. Right now, there is a temporary ban on parking except for the residences. Do we go back to the Ordinance which is free range or do we make a motion now to change it. There is so much parking in that garage between the hours – 24 hours a day except for 10:30 until 1:30.

Commissioner Karrow asks if are you saying resident parking only during those times or two-hour parking during those times?

Commissioner Osga indicates I was thinking between 8:00 and 5:00 it would be two-hour parking enforced. We can educate as we enforce. We can send out emails as you guys have the ability to do that. We give them a fair warning over summer or maybe even the first semester a fair warning and if they are in there for more than two-hours we can do this.

Chairman Rees indicates to Mark's point, we may all have our own opinions regarding the KLOA Study and how well supported their conclusion was, I think there is a valid point in that there was a recommendation, the recommendation was adopted and that has been the status quo for four years. Have we heard a basis tonight to change it? I think we should take this seriously to whether or not we think there is a basis to change it tonight.

Commissioner Karrow agrees with Commissioner Hoyt that a couple residents here that said we would like something to be done. Even then, it is not that quite clear. There might be more of a diversity of opinion on that block than we know. It would feel better making a recommendation having a better sense of how people felt.

Chairman Rees indicates that his recommendation would be to remove the current temporary restriction that is the Resident Only Parking by Police Order. We restore no restriction on the west side of Park, and we reassess this issue whenever we have a meeting in October, November, whenever our meeting falls. We put this back on the agenda, we give notice to the residence that we are going to discuss this again in our October, November meeting and at that time we would know if parking is continuing to be heavily utilized on the west side of Park. Let's assume that it is, then the question would be if we are going to put on the agenda if we are going to propose a two-hour restriction. I would suggest that we put this on the agenda so that is a specific remedy that we are going to discuss at the meeting. I think the people on Franklin should get notice because of the potential knock-on effect causing people to move from Park to Franklin. That would be my recommendation, at least as of now.

Commissioner Chase asks Matt how long can we leave the signs that are there? How long are we allowed to leave them there since the Village Ordinance says there is no parking.

Chairman Rees indicates that the Village Ordinance is that there is no restriction. This is a temporary exception to have temporary signage, unless Matt tells us otherwise...

Matt indicates that it is a grey area. I think it is easier to move on to this recommendation. Right now, less students have less of an impact than a noticeable impact. This might affect the guests or the contractors that are going there more now than students.



Commissioner Hoyt wants to clarify the reason that we are even discussing this is Dominican raised it, correct?

Matt indicates no. This topic was initially raised by residents on Park Avenue. It came in reference to the parking gate on the campus.

Commissioner Hoyt indicates the agenda says Dominican brought it to the Village and following the discussion between Dominican and the Village, the Village decided it would be appropriate for us to discuss this.

Matt indicates yes. Once the signs were implemented, there was internal discussion at the Village about proposing an Ordinance for the Village Board to consider. Dominican was made aware of the signs by seeing them. We had a conversation with officials from Dominican recognizing that there was disagreement on that potentially having impact on their students. There was additional conversation with that emailed group of residents about the regulations and we recognize there wasn't a consensus and wanted to go about it through the appropriate process.

Commissioner Hoyt indicates that she needs to hear from the residents on Park Avenue. Not saying two hours or nothing but give us an open opinion about what they are seeing.

Commissioner Osga indicates that he is now in agreement with that motion you made or suggested. Now, I think it is prudent as someone we know made a phone call and got what they wanted. That's not following procedure. Changes were made that affected lots of people, some positively, some negatively. Perhaps, we put it back to where it was with what the Ordinance says, we live through the summer in peace, and we go forward with hearing from the residents and maybe a traffic count of Dominican. Working in good faith here, Dominican could put out an email or text whatever they do now, stressing the importance of the garage to offset environmental collapse outside the building or whatever you guys talk about over there. We will decide after we hear from the neighbors, more neighbors that are here, if we are going to help nudge with a restriction in the future.

Mark Titzer indicates to be clear; we were made aware we were not in compliance with the planned development. At the same time, there was a phone call, and temporary signs were put up. That was our objection. The Village collectively let the neighbors decide that should be a restricted parking on that side of the street. It is a whimsical request for the agenda.

Chairman Rees would like to make a motion and we can discuss the motion of need be. I am going to move that we number 1, remove the Temporary Resident Only Parking by Police Order. Number 2, the parking would revert to what it is currently under the Ordinance which is no restricted parking on the west side of Park. Number 3, we put this issue on the November agenda.

Commissioner Hoyt indicates unless enough residents come to us beforehand and want to bring it up.

Chairman Rees indicates my only concern is if we meet in September it is going to be very early as we would be new into the school year. I am not opposing it being on the September agenda. I am not putting in my motion at least to have a formal count. I am suggesting that if we put this

on the agenda in September, the agenda would be to discuss potential whether to change from the current no restriction to imposing some kind of restriction on the west side of Park. It could include a two-hour restriction or other restrictions. To prepare for that meeting, I don't know if we need any formal counts, but I am going to assume once school starts there is going to be more parking on that side of the street. If you all feel we want a count, but I don't feel it's needed.

Commissioner Osga indicates if somebody goes by there at noon Monday through Friday the first week of school, I think we will get all the data that we need and we will have more neighbors here to chime in as well and give us more to think about.

Chairman Rees indicates that maybe we can get more information without paying for a consultant to do a formal study. If residents are telling us that it is being fully utilized, we can accept that information. This would all be helpful as part of the mix for us to discuss. If we think we can discuss this at the September meeting in a meaningful way, I am okay doing that. If we don't have enough, we table it for the next meeting. The idea here, as part of this motion, is to go ahead and put it on the agenda for the September meeting as we do meet on the third Wednesday of the month and maybe by then we will have some more information.

That is my motion. Number 1, to remove the temporary resident only parking. 2, to continue with the current Ordinance which is no restriction on Park. 3, to put this on the agenda at our September meeting and to notify the residents, including the residents of Franklin, that at the September meeting we are going to discuss potential parking restrictions on the west side of Park. For that meeting to get whatever information we can get about current parking habits at least on the west side of Park.

Commissioner Hoyt seconds the motion.

Chairman Rees asks if there are any questions?

Commissioner Chase asks how do the signs come about?

Chairman Rees asks can we get this motion resolved?

Commissioner Chase indicates that her vote is going to depend on the answer. How did the temporary signs come about? Did one person call?

Matt indicates no. There was a group of residents that sent an email with a few issues. One is the gate that has been rectified. Two was about speeding issues enforcement and the amount of cars that were parked on the block. As a result of that, Dominican rectified the gate and around that same time, police did step up and enforce one of the movable message signs there to help address the speed trailer on Park Avenue and the temporary signs were put up as well.

Chairman Rees asks if there is any other discussion or questions about the motion? Alright, can we go ahead and vote on the motion?

Commissioner Chase indicates to remove the signs completely and go back to what we originally had.

Chairman Rees indicates correct and put this on the September meeting with whatever information we can get. Then notify the residents that live on Park, folks at Dominican and people on Greenfield. I want to make sure the people on Franklin get notified. Let's go ahead and vote.

Vote is taken.

Commissioner Chase – yes. Commissioner Gillis – yes. Commissioner Hoyt – yes.  
Commissioner Karrow – yes. Commissioner Osga – yes. Chairman Rees – yes.


Motion passes.

Chairman Rees thanks everyone and wants to make sure that the suggestion is not binding and will go to the Village Board. If they accept our suggestion, then this will be back on the agenda in September. September 18<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30 p.m.


A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. All commissioners voted in favor of the motion. Motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted:

*Signature Line*

  
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Jack Bielak, Secretary

*Signature Line*

  
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Doug Rees, Chairman  
Traffic & Safety Commission

Date: 9.18.24

