



VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST TRAFFIC AND SAFETY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, September 19, 2018 – 7:30 PM

A regular meeting of the River Forest Traffic and Safety Commission was held on Wednesday, September 19, 2018 at 7:32 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 7:32 PM. Present at this meeting were Chairman Rees, Commissioner Gillis, Commissioner Buis, Commissioner Cleary, Commissioner Osga, Commissioner Jayaraman and Commissioner Wade.

New Business – Request to install stop signs at the intersection of William Street and Iowa Street.

Chairman Rees addresses the room to inform that the Village has been working on a Safe Route to School Project. This committee is likely to have another meeting of this on October 17th where this intersection will be part of it. The Village is looking at areas around the schools to determine what kind of signage and crosswalks are required to assure they are safe routes to school.

Normally what is done at these meetings is hear from the public, hear comments from the commission, then at the end if they think it's appropriate they might make a motion to the Village Board to consider their recommendation. The commissioners will have to decide whether to make a recommendation or to wait and see if what they are recommending is consistent with what is being recommended in the Safe Route to School Project.

Mary Fitch from 842 William has been in the Village for twenty years, and in this home for ten. These unmarked intersections have been a concern for her since the beginning. Her kids are now grown, but her neighbor's kids just started riding their bikes on their own. That is what made her start the petition with her friend and neighbors.

Chairman Rees notes that the Village does employ a traffic consultant firm. As a result, they look at the intersection, take traffic counts and pedestrian traffic. In this case the consultants concluded the stop signs are warranted. They are recommending to place the stop signs east west on Iowa Street.

Cheryl Cargie lives at 938 William Street, her biggest concern with the intersection at William Street and Iowa Avenue is that from Lake Street to Augusta Street it is a straight shot. She would like to see the stop sign on William Street to control the speed on that street. Her block has seventeen kids and vehicles tend not to stop on this intersection.

Ray Muccianti lives at 914 William Street, he believes on the contrary to the study to have a stop sign east west would encourage drivers to go faster. He has observed the fastest vehicles going down William Street.

Tina Baird of 901 William Street has lived there over a year. She has witnessed three accidents that have all ended up on the sidewalk. One of the accidents was between three and three thirty in the afternoon, at the time kids are walking home from Roosevelt School. This is a huge concern for her since two of her children walk home from school.

Jacquelyn Jancius also lives at 914 William Street. She would like the stop signs to be placed on William Street as well. There are young kids out on bikes and playing by the street. It is important for them to slow those vehicles down to protect the kids.

Elena Nekrasov of 922 William Street adds that she works from home and has heard some of the accidents that have occurred at this intersection. Also agrees that the north to south traffic should be controlled.

Commissioner Cleary questions why not add a four way stop at this intersection? Commissioner Buis agrees.

Chairman Rees responds there has been reluctance in the Village to add stop signs in every block. When there are stop signs in every corner often times people go through them more. He is not prejudging if a four way might not be appropriate, but they might decide to do one set of controls to see how they work. Later if it is warranted to add an additional set of stop signs they can always add them.

Chairman Rees would not be in favor of a four way at this point. His inclination would be to depart for the recommendation of the consultant and recommend a north south control on William Street. One question remaining is whether there is value in doing that now or waiting until they have the Safe Routes to School Project report.

Commissioner Wade made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Buis to install a stop sign north south at the intersection of William Street and Iowa Street.

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

New Business – Request to install a No Parking zone at the north end of the 1500 block of Ashland Avenue.

Chairman Rees announces the request from the River Forest Fire Department to install a No Parking zone on the north end of the 1500 of Ashland Avenue. They are having issues getting through that area with their vehicles.

Sean Toohey lives at 1526 Ashland Avenue. He thanks the commission for the letter they sent the Immediate Care Center in regards to their employees parking in the street instead of using their parking lot. He advises that the letter worked for less than six months. The employees are back to parking on Ashland Avenue. Given that the fire department goes multiple times a week to the Immediate Care Center, he is surprised it has taken them this long to request a no parking zone. In

addition, Roy Strom the refuse company has a difficult time trying to make a right hand turn to go south on Ashland Avenue from North Avenue. Mr. Toohey supports the recommendation of adding the No Parking zone on the east side of the street, but he would like something further to get the employees to stop parking on the street. He suggests possibly doing No Parking for a time period Monday through Friday.

Karin Danganan has lived on the block for fifteen years, and never had any parking issues. She went to the meetings of when the Immediate Care was first being built. There were verbal promises made that there would be adequate parking accommodations for patients and staff. Neighbors were assured parking on their block would not be an issue. The first couple of years parking was not an issue, she is not sure if there was a transfer of knowledge of this agreement. She addressed the issue with an employee that parked in front of her home, he informed her the facility manager instructed them to park on the street to keep the lot open for patients. This is in complete disregard with the agreement that was made with the neighbors before the building was put up. Mrs. Danganan feels that having a parking limit for example eight to ten, Monday through Friday might discourage the employees from parking there. Leaving room for the fire trucks to get through.

Ramamoorthy Sundaresan lives at 1534 Ashland Avenue and she is one of the most affected by the parking on this block. She has tried to communicate with the manager at the Immediate Care, but they have been anything but unhelpful. She prefers for there to be restricted parking all the way to LeMoyne Street from eight in the morning to whatever time. Furthermore, adding something to encourage them to use the parking lot they have.

Janet Stompor from 1507 Jackson Avenue is off the corner of LeMoyne Avenue. She is not affected as much, but witnesses what goes on at this block. She points out that the Immediate Care Center is the worst tenant that has occupied this space. If you make the turn off North Avenue going south onto Ashland Avenue you have to be very careful because someone is going out, then you got cars parked on either side.

Jeff Loster, Village Engineer notes that there are two different conversations going and only one item on the agenda that requires a vote on for the board. He notified the whole block about this meeting, however not on adding any additional parking restrictions for the entire block. To vote anything tonight might do a disservice to those not aware this conversation is taking place.

Chairman Rees reminds that the issue on the agenda is the No Parking zone on the east side by North Avenue. They can consider the question of some expanded restriction on the rest of the block. Granted the people on the 1500 block of Ashland Avenue were notified of this meeting, they were advised of the No Parking restriction, not specifically of some additional restrictions throughout the rest of the block.

Commissioner Jayaraman made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Wade to install a No Parking zone on the east side at the north end of the 1500 block of Ashland Avenue.

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

Chairman Rees recommends they address the additional restrictions on the block on a later meeting. In the mean time they can notify the neighbors again. This can be added to the agenda for the November meeting.

Commissioner Osga still considers sending the facility another letter requesting they use the parking lot. The Village used a letter before and it worked for a while, if they send the letter next week it will work until November.

Village Engineer Loster will be issuing the letter to the Immediate Care Facility.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 P.M. All commissioners voted in favor of the motion. Motion passed.

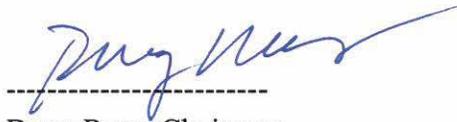
Respectfully Submitted:

Signature Line



Jeff Loster, Secretary

Signature Line



Doug Rees, Chairman
Traffic & Safety Commission

Date: 3/20/19