

VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST TRAFFIC AND SAFETY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, March 20, 2019 – 7:30 PM

A regular meeting of the River Forest Traffic and Safety Commission was held on Wednesday, March 20, 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

Minutes

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

Old Business

Chairman Rees asked for a motion to approve the minutes from September 19, 2018 and October 17, 2018 Traffic and Safety Commission Meetings. Commissioner Gillis made the motion and Commissioner Osga seconded the motion. All commissioners present voted to approve the minutes.

New Business – Request by Village Staff to install recommended parking restrictions in and around the 200-blocks of Thatcher Avenue, Gale Avenue, Keystone Avenue and Forest Avenue.

Veronica Auvinen lives at 241 Gale Avenue, the entrance to her home is on Linden Street. She noticed a higher number of cars are now parking on Linden. Currently they are only allowed to park between Gale Avenue and Thatcher Avenue, also on the 200 block of Gale Avenue. One of the recommendations would not allow cars to park on the north side of Linden Street, but would allow them to park on the south side of Linden Street between Thatcher Avenue and Forest Avenue. If that goes forward essentially all those commuters will be parking in front of her house. Since her home faces Linden Street about eight vehicles would be blocking her entire front.

Jeff Loster, Village Engineer clarifies that those zones on Thatcher Avenue, on both sides of her property are Resident Permit Zones. Only residents within these areas get the permits to park in this area. Therefore, commuters from other parts from the Village will not be able to park there.

Ms. Auvinen thanks the committee for the clarification and for their time.

Commissioner Cleary made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Wade to install recommended parking restrictions in and around the 200-blocks of Thatcher Avenue, Gale Avenue, Keystone Avenue and Forest Avenue.

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

New Business – Request by Rachel Glick of 703 Bonnie Brae to install some form of traffic calming measure at the intersection of Bonnie Brae and Oak Avenue.

Mark Christensen from 632 Bonnie Brae Place has lived there for sixteen years. He begins by stating how Oak Avenue and Bonnie Brae Place are used for purposes other than vehicles. Oak Avenue is the community Broadway for joggers. Both streets are used as recreational bike paths for residents of all ages. Mr. Christensen is certain the curb extensions create a gauntlet that forces runners and bicyclists into a narrow area competing with cars. He considers how the volume of traffic has increased at this intersection due to the restrictions of movement of cars on adjacent arterial streets. Mr. Christensen lives in the cut through speed way of River Forest, calming the intersection without addressing the underlying cause of the volume of traffic will only result in traffic backing up. Trusts the traffic evaluation in regards to the volume of traffic is not comprehensive. Safety can be achieved with striping and aggressive police enforcement. Clarifies he is opposed to the addition of stop signs as well as to curb extensions which narrow the roads.

Rachel Glick resides at 703 Bonnie Brae Place, she is concerned about the volume and speed of the cars driving through Oak Avenue and Bonnie Brae Place. In the petition she created she asks for some method of calming measure to slow down vehicles. Find a way to help them understand what to do in this slightly confusing intersection. Inquires what can be done to increase the safety at the intersection of Harlem Avenue and Oak Avenue. There are many motorists making illegal left turns leading to constant accidents.

Daniel Lauber from 7215 Oak Avenue, he has lived in River Forest for thirty-one years. He is addressing the intersection of Bonnie Brae and Oak Avenue as well as Oak Avenue and Harlem Avenue. He thinks it's a good practice to use the least drastic means to achieve goals. The goal being to slow traffic and promote safety. Mr. Lauber suggests implementing the two least drastic recommendations and allow six months to a year to see how it works. He is very concerned with the idea of narrowing the streets. Vehicles are getting wider and larger making it tougher to get around. Enhanced lighting at this intersection could aid the cause. Considers Harlem Avenue and Oak Avenue to be a more serious intersection. Drivers are constantly making left turns coming out of McDonald's or Chase Bank. Even though there is a "No Left Turn" sign when you exit. Mr. Lauber proposes the committee considers making Oak Avenue a right turn only. Furthermore, replacing the "No Left Turn" signs with "Right Turn Only" and adding arrows to the right. Suggests installing some red-light cameras to catch all the drivers making the illegal left turns.

Shalondon Christensen lives at 632 Bonnie Brae. There is a lot of traffic in the mornings and in the evenings at this area. Believes the biggest issue is Harlem Avenue. Motorists cut through when traffic backs up while someone is trying to make that left turn on Oak. She hates going down Chicago Avenue, she thinks it's very dangerous with the narrow streets. Ms. Christensen would hate to see those new curbs on Bonnie Brae and Oak Avenue, it would change the neighborhood.

Megan Hunkele from 700 Bonnie Brae states they have more crosswalks than most streets. In her opinion the western and eastern most crosswalks are the least used. People are most likely to use the crosswalks that do not have the stop signs or striping, making it more dangerous. Ms. Hunkele advises putting a small sign under the stop sign reading "staggered four way stop" which can alert drivers of a stop sign coming up. In addition, she is against the narrowing of the street, considers this can make everything more hazardous.

Veronica Auvinen doesn't live around this area, but does drive around the area frequently. She has noted driving on Bonnie Brae north that drivers on Oak Avenue do not stop. She has made hard stops before because drivers do not see her. Whatever the committee can do for risk mitigation for the residents and the drivers would be greatly appreciated.

Daniel Lauber suggests eliminating the crosswalks being used the most that are presently not striped on the 700 block of Bobbie Brae. This would steer the people away to use the regular crosswalks.

Commissioner Osga tells Mr. Lauber that he is in agreement with his original statement of starting slow and using the least aggressive methods first. Agrees any decrease of the size of the roadway is a bad idea. Striping is a great start, it will automatically do something over in that intersection. Considers incorporating signage stating "Oncoming Traffic does not Stop" west and east bound on Oak Avenue and Bonnie Brae.

Chairman Rees questions the commission if there is a greater interest in striping all of the crosswalks, rather than eliminating the farther east and west crosswalks on Oak in favor of the interior crosswalks?

Commissioner Gillis has the idea of striping all the crosswalks the way it sits. Add to the stop signs on Bonnie Brae some wording "Traffic from Right does not Stop". On Bonnie Brae below both stop signs add "Traffic on Right does not Stop". On the Oak Ave side add "Oncoming Traffic does not Stop".

Commissioner Wade made the motion, second by Commissioner Osga to add four striped crosswalks on Oak Avenue.

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

Commissioner Gillis made the motion, second by Chairman Rees to add crosswalk signage as viewed in alternative one.

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

Commissioner Osga made the motion, second by Chairman Rees to add signage to the stop signs "Oncoming traffic does not Stop" at Bonnie Brae Place and Oak Avenue.

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

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:52 P.M. All commissioners present voted in favor of the motion. Motion passed.

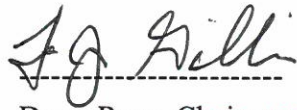
Respectfully Submitted:

Signature Line



Jeff Loster, Secretary

Signature Line



~~Doug Rees, Chairman~~

Traffic & Safety Commission

RICK GILLIS

Date: 9/18/19
