



VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST TRAFFIC AND SAFETY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, July 17, 2019 – 7:30 PM

A regular meeting of the River Forest Traffic and Safety Commission was held on Wednesday, July 17, 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 Buis, Commissioner Gillis, Commissioner Osga and Commissioner Wade.

New Business – Request by Rita Perisin-Johnson on behalf of Elan, Hair Body & Sole (7761 Lake Street) to increase the current 2-hr time limit parking zone on the south side of the 7700-block of Lake Street to a 3-hr limit.

Donna Slepicka lives in River Forest and she also owns River Forest Chocolates. She is accompanied by her neighbor and tenant, which owns the handbag store next to her establishment. Both are in agreement with the extended parking time limit.

Commissioner Gillis questions if the other business in the block are also in favor of the time limit extension?

Ms. Slepicka answers that three hours is approximately the time it takes to get hair color and a cut. The bank owns roughly six to eight spaces behind them, therefore parking currently is not an issue for them. The medical office has no problems since they have their lot.

Commissioner Wade made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Buis, to increase the current 2-hr time limit parking zone on the south side of the 7700-block of Lake Street to a 3-hr limit.

The vote was 4 to 1 in favor of approving the request. **The motion to approve the request passed.**

New Business – Request by Commissioner Buis to discuss the UP Third Rail/Metra Expansion Project.

Commissioner Buis begins by stating the homeowners affected by the Main Line Expansion Project are going public on a number of issues. He wants this Commission to be informed about it, as he believes it is a matter of traffic and safety. Particularly as people have lost their lives and been injured due to the access that leads to the tracks being unsecured. While it affects 42 families adjacent to the tracks, the noise impinges on a wider range. A meeting was held here by the River Forest Traffic Pollution Protection Group Limited nearly two weeks ago; they presented their concerns to two officials of Union Pacific. The PR and Project Engineer, both had no leverage or ability to take any of the concerns forward. The meeting itself generated a high amount of dissatisfaction towards Union Pacific. The expansion is coming to an end early next year, this

segment of River Forest is the last segment of the project. The tracks have become unsecured, the fencing is nonexistent, the access road which was originally stated as being temporary subsequently have become permanent. This has given access to people, kids go up to play, someone even fled from the police up those tracks. Of greater importance is the sound issue. An application was submitted to the federal and local authorities regarding this expansion. It gives a table of the sound impact in the environment, overall the existing noise level measured at 77/78 decibels. According to the Federal Transit Administrations Noise and Vibrations Impact Assessment of 2006, a level of 75 decibels is designated as an "unlivable" level of noise. Meaning when the documentation was submitted as high, but no impact. Union Pacific is violating the Nation Environmental Protection Act by attempting to avoid responsibility for this unlivable level of noise. Federal regulations stipulate they should be mediating in cases where unlivable level of noise is detected. Union Pacific must consider an eight-foot tall barrier made out of concrete, brick or acoustic fencing to protect this neighborhood. The barrier needs to be situated along the rail bed and tall enough to prevent climbing. Commissioner Buis wishes the Commission consider making a recommendation and that this issue is given serious consideration by the Board of Trustees.

Chairman Rees states he raises a serious issue and believes it's an appropriate matter for the Board of Trustees. Questions if it's an issue suitable for their Commission. The function of the Traffic and Safety Commission is to review transit, parking and potentially hazardous traffic matters. Matters of hazard and noise were raised; he questions that what they do is not binding. He is sympathetic to the issue, but personally not in favor of this Commission taking it up.

Commissioner Gillis shares he was at the meeting, and President Adduci made it very clear this is a priority for her. She will try and get another meeting on August 27th with UP Representatives. President Adduci showed a little frustration with Union Pacific due to them not being prepared and showing no compassion. Commissioner Gillis also agrees that the Board of Trustees should consider this issue. As of now, the Village President has committed to get the appropriate State Representatives in a room with the appropriate people from the railroad.

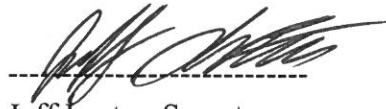
Jeff Loster, Village Engineer cautions the group about the potential issue of having too many conversations in a vacuum. They previously had the neighborhood meeting with President Adduci, residents and Union Pacific officials. If this committee is going to take this on as an issue to discuss, now that's a probable separate conversation. Perhaps this meeting doesn't take on the same directive as the neighborhood meetings. Now we have two separate conversations going on in two different places.

Commissioner Wade recaps this is a serious issue, but not an appropriate matter for their Commission to address.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:23 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: 1-15-20
