



VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST TRAFFIC AND SAFETY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, September 20, 2017 – 7:30 PM

A regular meeting of the River Forest Traffic and Safety Commission was held on Wednesday, September 20, 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 Osga and Commissioner Jayaraman.

Old Business

Chairman Rees asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the July 19, 2017 meeting. Commissioner Gillis made the motion and Commissioner Valenti seconded the motion. All commissioners present voted to approve the minutes.

New Business – Request that consideration be given to convert one parking space in front of the business at 7605 ½ W North Avenue to ADA and to add 2-hr time limit on the remaining 3 spaces.

Jeffrey Leef is with his wife Teresa McKenzie, MD who is the primary care physician at this location and practice manager Jennifer Stange. Dr. McKenzie bought that building 14 years ago. A large portion of the patients are elderly and a percentage of those have some form of mobility handicap. They currently have four parking spots in front, which are first come first serve. There are vehicles that park all day long. Most likely these are employees from the surrounding businesses like Loyola Urgent Care. Elderly patients end up being dropped off in front while the cars are left double parked on North Ave. Mr. Leef hopes we can turn those four parking spots in front into 2-hr parking. Of those four hopefully one can be a handicap spot. Overall the benefit is getting the patients in and out of the building safely.

Commissioner Gillis shares that the police department did a parking survey on the 7600 block of North Avenue. They monitored it twice a day for a ten day period. Nine of the ten days involved the same vehicles being present all day.

Commissioner Osga believes that parking on North Ave should be for the people who are utilizing the businesses. Not for the employees of the surrounding businesses. He is for a 2-hr slot parking in this area. However, he is against the idea of making one a handicap spot. Parkers who utilize the two hour spots can't use the handicap spot. Essentially what we would do is shrink four spots to three, this is a really bad idea to do on North Ave. He is almost positive that if they make all four spots 2-hr parking it will eliminate the problem. They should start with 4 spots at 2-hr parking for everyone. If down the road they find the need for the handicap spot it can be added in the future.

Commissioner Osga made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Gillis to create four spaces at a two hour time slot per space on North Avenue without the addition of an ADA spot.

The vote was 5 to 5 in favor of approving the request. **The motion to approve the request passed.**

Staff Update

The letter sent out to Loyola Urgent Care concerning their employees parking on the 1500 block of Ashland seems to have worked. Without having to put up restrictions and restrict the residents that live on that block.

Jeff Loster, Village Engineer was in contact with IDOT in regards to pedestrian safety at the intersection of Lake Street and Keystone. The only options per IDOT include striping and the standard green diamond crosswalk signage. Crosswalk signage with a flashing beacon and permanently-mounted "Stop Here for Pedestrians" sign within the pavement are not allowed at this location. The Village would take care of the striping and IDOT would install the signage they find appropriate.

Commissioner Gillis states if IDOT allows the installation of double signs we could place one on the north east corner of Keystone, and the other on the south west corner. People on both sides will see a respective sign.

Commissioner Valenti made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Osga to improve the existing crosswalk striping. In addition request for IDOT to erect crosswalk double sided signage and advanced signage on Keystone and Lake.

The vote was 5 to 5 in favor of approving the request. **The motion to approve the request passed.**

Village Engineer Loster touched base with the consultant about creating bike lanes along Chicago Avenue. Per the consultant it cannot be done, there isn't sufficient width. The standard lane width for just a vehicle is 12 feet wide. Standard dedicated bike lane is 4 feet wide. Now we have a 7 or 8 foot parking lane, the two traveling lanes for vehicles are eleven and a quarter. We technically don't have enough room for vehicles to be adding a shared lane for bikes.

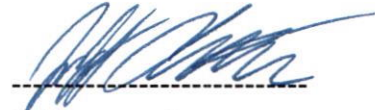
In addition, Village Engineer Loster was also in contact with IDOT about the timing of the light signal at Chicago and Harlem. The response was that something is wrong with the detector on the east side over in Oak Park. They seem to think that the detector might not be picking up right turns across the street. Therefore giving us a shorter green on our side. IDOT believes that might help when that is fixed. Then they will reanalyze the situation and make adjustments at that time.

Commissioner Valenti asks if the board did anything about the recommendations made for Chicago and Bonnie Brae. Village Engineer Loster responds that the board approved all the bump outs that were recommended. The striping to not block the intersection on Bonnie Brae was rejected.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 P.M. All commissioners voted in favor of the motion. **Motion passed.**

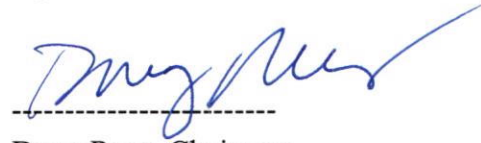
Respectfully Submitted:

Signature Line

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jeff Loster", written over a horizontal dashed line.

Jeff Loster, Secretary

Signature Line

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Doug Rees", written over a horizontal dashed line.

Doug Rees, Chairman
Traffic & Safety Commission

Date: 5-16-18