



VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST TRAFFIC AND SAFETY COMMISSION MEETING

Wednesday, September 15, 2021 – 7:30 PM

AGENDA

Physical attendance at this public meeting is limited to 20 individuals, with Committee members, staff and consultants having priority over members of the public. Public comments will be shared with the Committee. You may submit written public comments via email in advance of the meeting to: jloster@vrf.us. You may listen to the meeting by participating in a Zoom conference call as follows: dial-in number: 312-626-6799 with meeting ID: 833 5423 1951 or by clicking here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83354231951>. If you would like to speak during public comment or if you wish to participate in-person, please email jloster@vrf.us by 4:00 PM on Wednesday, September 15, 2021.

1. Call to Order/Roll Call
2. Adoption of minutes from the Traffic and Safety Commission held on September 16, 2020.
3. Adoption of minutes from the Traffic and Safety Commission held on November 18, 2020.
4. Adoption of minutes from the Traffic and Safety Commission held on January 20, 2021.
5. Adoption of minutes from the Traffic and Safety Commission held on March 17, 2021.
6. Adoption of minutes from the Traffic and Safety Commission held on May 27, 2021.
7. Public Comment
8. Request by Robert Armalas to discuss cut-through traffic in the northeast quadrant of River Forest.
9. Adjournment



VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST TRAFFIC AND SAFETY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, September 16, 2020 – 7:30 PM

A regular meeting of the River Forest Traffic and Safety Commission was held on Wednesday, September 16, 2020 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 Cleary, Commissioner Gillis, Commissioner Jayaraman and Commissioner Wade.

Old Business

Chairman Rees asked for a motion to adopt the minutes from the September 18, 2019 and the December 4, 2019 meetings. Commissioner Gillis made the motion and Commissioner Buis seconded the motion. All commissioners present voted to approve the minutes.

New Business – Request by the Board to review how the development at 800 Harlem Avenue affects traffic. The second item on the agenda is to review the “safe walk routes to school project”.

Dr. Thomas Britton expresses that his family are new residents in River Forest and they migrated from the city due to all of the congestion near their old home. Britton requested that the parking strip that is fifteen feet away from his front yard will be restricted for residents only. He is worried about the future of the parking strip and believes that when nonresidents park there, it will become a safety and privacy issue. Britton suggested that residents in that area should be given two parking passes for friends, family, and service vehicles.

Richard Taveras lives off of Harlem Avenue and supports the idea of restricting parking to residents only. Taveras expresses that because his home faces Harlem Avenue, there is no way that friends and family can park directly in front of their home, so they rely on the parking on Iowa.

Chairman Rees questioned if the construction was a problem, or if the residents are worried about the aftermath of the development.

Mr. Britton replies that his worries are for the future when the employees start parking there, but right now there is not a problem on the street.

Joe Baptist states that he lives directly behind the Harlem project, he believes that there is not adequate parking to serve the new facility's needs.

Dan Roach thanked the residents for serving for the town. Mr. Roach says that when this project was approved, the developer said there would be no impact on the residential parking throughout the construction and when it was completed. He said that is absolutely not the case because construction workers already park in front of his house, and walk to the construction site. Mr. Roach is worried that when the facility opens, visitors are going to use his parking for their needs. He suggested that no recommendations or decisions be made until the residents can discuss more as a neighborhood. He states that unless they absolutely have to make a recommendation right now, that the recommendation will be residential parking from 8a-8p.

Mrs. Chase stated that the past summer she has had issues with getting out of her driveway due to people that parked too close to her driveway. Mrs. Chase is worried that when the building is open for business that the employees will begin to park on Bonnie Brae causing more issues such as this one. She stated that there will be employees in the building twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, and believes that they will park their car at the end of her drive way, and walk to the building from there.

Saskia Bolore is highly concerned that they won't have anywhere for their visitors and vendors to park because the employees will take all of the parking. She believes that they need more time to discuss remedies as neighbors and reach a final destination.

Mr. Roach added that there are currently signs posted indicating that workers are not allowed to park west of the construction site, and are disregarded on a daily basis.

Commissioner Jayaraman asked if the residents will be able to come up with any additional ideas or recommendations other than the restricted parking zone for residents only.

Mr. Roach says that they need time to comprehend everything. The extra time will let everyone's opinions come out they want to make sure that they are all on the same page.

Dr. Britton says that he does not recommend the 8AM to 8PM because shift changes could be at seven am and midnight. During the shift changes, it is possible they would hear people closing their doors and people talking. He does not think that they need to make any changes or decisions right away.

Commissioner Wade says he believes that the Village of River Forest does not allow street parking from 2AM-6AM.

Commissioner Buis says he is uncertain about when the residents want a change to happen. He believes that they want to discuss and come back in another meeting with a final proposal. He asked for Dr. Britton to answer what their plan is about the proposal.

Dr. Britton says he respects that he is new to the neighborhood and he does not know what his other neighbors want yet. He says that they want to take their time to figure out what they want to be represented.

Commissioner Buis asked, are we expecting you at the next meeting with an updated recommendation?

Mr. Baptist says that they believe that the final proposal will be to support resident only parking. They are trying to be respectful of this process by letting the other residents give their opinions. They want to delay making a definite decision right now because there hadn't been enough time to discuss. If a decision had to be made tonight, they were in favor of resident only parking.

Jeff Loster, Village Engineer says that for parking requests, typically a resident has to get a petition that at least 75% of residents in the area have to support the proposal. With this situation being slightly different, this isn't just a resident request. This is a condition of plan development approval that the board implemented.

Chairman Rees says that based on what he heard, the residents of the affected streets need to get together and reach a final proposal. Rees asked if it would make sense to see what the actual effect is after the building opens?

Suzanne Morrison says that they have three out of four houses on Iowa that are representing resident only parking. She isn't sure why they would want to wait and see what the actual outcome would be.

Chairman Rees asked if they wanted to restrict parking for residents only, or if they wanted to put in permit parking.

Mrs. Morrison says that they were thinking that they would have the ability to call in and receive parking passes when they have guests.

Chairman Rees asked if the request is to extend the resident only parking that exists on the 900 block of Bonnie Brae to the 800 block of Bonnie Brae, as well as the block of Iowa between Harlem and Bonnie Brae.

Mrs. Chase says that resident only parking would be ideal and she still thinks that they should be given parking passes for when they have visitors.

Chairman Rees asked Jeff to explain how they deal with guests on the block that already has this parking restrictions in place.

Jeff Loster, Village Engineer says that the resident only parking is for residents of River Forest that have a sticker on their car, and anyone without a sticker could receive a ticket for parking there. Before 8AM anyone can park there, and after 8PM anyone can park there, because it is unrestricted. Visitors can get a guest pass online if they need to park in the Village of River Forest without a sticker.

Mrs. Bolore asks what would happen if someone on the block has an event at their house where you need to have many people parking on your block?

Jeff Loster, Village Engineer says that some of those zones are still hour restricted, so you can always reach out to the police department and let them know that you're having an event at your house and there will need to be cars on the street that do not have a village sticker. That option is always subject to their approval, but it is another possibility.

Chairman Rees says that one possibility to consider would be that we report back to the board that to the extent were recommending a condition, but that the Traffic and Safety Commission agree on resident restriction on the blocks of Bonnie Brae and Iowa. Perhaps in the detail it would be to be determined whether it would be residential only, or permit parking to give the neighbors the opportunity to make a decision on what they want to see happen.

Jeff Loster, Village Engineer says he could frame it up that the recommendation is that we are dipping a toe in, but not fully committing yet, so that the board would have a warning as a general update memo so they have sense of where things are headed. He says we obviously wouldn't implement anything or adopt an actual ordinance, which would be required ultimately when we have a final resolution.

Dan Roach asks what is stopping us from informing our neighbors that we are going to have cars on the street and making sure that they don't have a problem with it.

Chairman Rees says that he doesn't think that is the problem, he thinks the issue is that if you have a restriction and if your guests are not residents in River Forest, then you would need some approval from the village in order to make sure they don't get tickets.

Rick Gillis says that the resident only parking is a little less restricted than permit parking. He asked would it make sense to start off with the restricted parking and see how it plays out? If it doesn't work, then we could move forward to restricted permit parking.

Mrs. Morrison says she likes what Rick is suggesting only because she thinks that the 7200 block of Iowa will experience a slightly different scenario than the Bonnie Brae blocks, again because all of 800 and 900 Harlem are dependent upon on the 7200 block. She likes the idea of getting something started and revisit later and see how it worked out for these blocks.

Mr. Baptist says that in regards to the permit only versus the resident only parking, he agrees that they can start and then add more because all we need is 75% of the block to agree. He says if we do select permit only, how does that work as far as issuing passes? He asked if this something we need to pay an addition fee for? For visitor parking do we have to pay every time we have a guest over?

Jeff Loster noted that as far as he knows, for resident permit zones each house is given two parking passes. When someone comes into the front counter at the Village and asks for additional passes, they have to pay \$5. Guest passes have no fee as far as he is aware.

Dr. Briton says he wants to go back to a comment made earlier about waiting to see how it goes first. He requests that this is decided before hand so that all staff who are on board know where they can and cannot park.

Chairman Rees asked if they support resident only parking 8a-8p on the 800 block of Bonnie Brae as well as Iowa between Harlem and Bonnie Brae? That would be the recommendation at this point and there could be a request for future change if things are not working out.

Jack says he would like to make a motion to request the board to require resident only parking from 8am-8pm (Monday-Friday) on the 800 block of Bonnie Brae and Iowa between Harlem and Bonnie Brae.

Commissioner Gillis seconded the motion.

Commissioner Wade says that there are plenty of people in the meeting that are very interested in the parking restriction, but they need more time to get together as a block and discuss their desires.

Dr. Britton says he is surprised at the snap to make a motion and approve it because what is put on the floor for a vote is not consistent, it is an opposition to what they requested. They would not support something that is not in effect on Saturday and Sunday because that is when majority visitors would be going to the facility. They do not support something that would allow late night parking on the facility. They are represented by 3 out of 4 people that live on that block and they have verbal consent from the fourth. They are in opposition to that recommendation.

Chairman Rees says he is not sure if they can remove Iowa from the motion. He asked if there is support for that recommendation on the 800 block of Bonnie Brae, or if the audience would like to revisit later.

Mr. Roach says for the 800 block we are headed in the right direction, he is surprised that they are excluding Saturday and Sunday because that is when you'll see an increase in visitors. He says if you have to make that motion go ahead, but put for the record the option to extend that to Saturday and Sunday was discussed and is actively being considered as part of that larger collective agreement.

Chairman Rees asks if the 800 block on Bonnie Brae requests resident only parking seven days a week from 8a-8p, or if they would rather wait and come back with a recommendation?

Mr. Roach says that if they have to make a decision, to go with the restriction and if they have time, then he would like to talk with his neighbors.

Chairman Rees says that they don't have to make a decision today. They do have a motion but they have to option of withdrawing it. They are required to make comment to the board, it does not have to include restriction with respect to your blocks. They can come back to a future meeting and they would follow the procedure where you would make a recommendation. Just as everyone understands that the board is asking us to look at this as a condition of approval for this project. In the normal course of business, we make a recommendation and that goes to the village board and they decide if they want to adopt it.

Commissioner Cleary says the reason he made the motion is because he has been a strong advocate of protecting the parking rights of the residents of Bonnie Brae. He thinks there should be consistency between the 800 and the 900 block, even though the 900 block is not affected by this project. Steve is thinking about alternatives because he is unsure about where the visitors are going to park.

Mr. Baptist says with respect to the parking scenario, he would tell them the same thing that the developers have promised, and that is that they have adequate parking on site. They should stand by their promise and provide parking for their visitors. He says that he also agrees that this needs to be in effect 7 days a week.

Commissioner Cleary asks if they should wait to see what the developer produces because he did promise onsite parking. He says that this project is not going to go away so they need to find the best solution that accommodates the residents, but the visitors should be considered. If there is going to be onsite parking, there is no doubt they should park there.

Mr. Britton says my request is that you would amend your motion to remove the block that is Harlem to Iowa from the motion so we can be represented by our interest.

Laura Britton says that they would like to see something happen now rather than waiting and having to go through administrative steps down the road.

Chairman Rees asked what does the block of Iowa want?

Dr. Britton says that they would like permanent 24 hours a day 7 days a week resident restricted parking.

Jeff Loster asked if it was only for the residents on the Iowa block or for any resident in River Forest?

Chairman Rees asked what the proposal is for the 7200 block of Iowa?

Mr. Britton says that they want the parking on both sides of the street on the 7200 block of Iowa to be restricted so they can protect their family from strangers parking so close to their home.

Mrs. Morrison says that as a resident of the 7200 block of Iowa, she is also speaking on behalf of the 800 & 900 block of Harlem because they can't park in front of their house, on Chicago, or Augusta, they rely on the 7200 block of Iowa. She says she would like resident only and neighbors of Harlem to be able to use the parking on Iowa.

Jeff Loster says that as of right now, they do not have a way to exempt contractor vehicles from not getting ticketed on the village streets.

Commissioner Jayaraman asks if the people living in this new building are considered residents of River Forest? Are they able to park their cars on the streets?

1:11

Jeff Loster says technically they are allowed to register a vehicle to their address, but they are not allowed to leave it out overnight because there is an overnight ban.

Chairman Rees asks if they are recommending that the 800 block of Bonnie Brae would have resident only parking from 8a-8p, 7 days a week?

Mr. Roach says that he supports it and another question is that most the residents are not going to have vehicles.

Chairman Rees asks if the residents support the proposal of 800 block of Bonnie Brae?

All of the residents on the call say yes they support it.

Chairman Rees says that they are considering that this is the proposal that they might make this to go to the board and they will make the decision from there. He asked Jack if he would like to make an amendment to his motion to remove the 7200 block of Iowa from the recommendation and change it to impose resident only parking on the 800 block of Bonnie Brae from 8a-8pm 7 days a week?

Jack says yes he supports it and he would make the amendment to his motion.

Jeff Loster, Village Engineer says that the typical signage usage they put on signage is excluding holidays. What do the residents want the signage to say?

Jack says the signage should be consistent with the other signage in the Village of River Forest.

Chairman Rees says the proposed amendment would be to exclude Iowa from the prior motion. This motion would focus on requesting residential only parking on the 800 block of Bonnie Brae 7 days a week, 8a-8p, excluding holidays.

Commissioner Cleary agreed to the changes to his prior motion.

Rick Gillis 2nd the motion.

Commissioner Wade asked, if the residents are concerned about visitors parking on their street, wouldn't they expect the holidays to be a big time that they're going to get visitors at the facility?

Chairman Rees asks do any of the residents on the 800 block have a reaction to Mr. Wades comment about whether you would want the amended motion to exclude holidays, or would you prefer it to just be 7 days a week 8-8 period?

(Resident) indicates that they are in favor of 7 days a week 8-8.

Joe Baptist says he is in consensus.

Saskia Bolore says she agrees and she is in consensus.

Dan Roach says that he agrees.

Chairman Rees asks Commissioner Cleary if he is ok with excluding Iowa from the motion, the motion would be to recommend resident only parking from 8a-8p, 7 days a week.

Commissioner Cleary says he is ok with it.

Commissioner Gillis 2nd the motion.

Jeff Loster called for a vote, the vote was 6 to 0 in favor of approving the request.

Chairman Rees says that the motion carries and it will go to the board and it will be up to them if they would like to approve it. He says that he would like to switch gears and focus on the 7200 block of Iowa. He asked if the request is resident only parking on the 7200 block of Iowa, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week?

The residents of the 7200 block of Iowa agreed that is the request.

Commissioner Gillis made the motion for the 7200 block of Iowa 24-hour resident only parking, 7 days a week.

Commissioner Wade 2nd the motion.

Commissioner Gillis asks if this will override the overnight parking ban?

Jeff Loster says that the resident parking only signs will not override the overnight parking ban, and the ban will still be in place from 2a-6a.

Commissioner Buis asked if the residents mentioned something about parking passes?

Dr. Britton said that yes they did ask for parking passes if they have a guest or a vendor over so that they can park in that area without getting a ticket. He says that if this cannot be implemented, then he would be fine with the resident only parking.

Jeff Loster says that this could be possible if the board allows it. As of right now, the Village of River Forest does not have anything set up like that. Resident parking is resident parking only and anyone parking in that zone without a village sticker can receive a ticket.

Jeff Loster called for a vote, the vote was 6 to 0 in favor of approving the request.

Commissioner Buis recommended that the board should investigate exceptions for guests, vendors, and workers doing services to residents, whether it is parking passes or something else.

Chairman Rees asks if anyone else had any other concerns as far as the 800 Harlem Project.

No other comments about the 800 Harlem Project, so they moved onto the safe walk routes to school project.

Tyler Lamkey says that he lives at 633 William Street and he requests to change the stop signs at both Oak and Clinton and Oak and Monroe from two way stop signs to four way stop signs because Oak is used as a cut through street. Drivers use it to avoid Chicago Avenue and they speed through that street. There have been many accidents and there are a lot of young children near. If a four-way stop is implemented, it will get people to slow down and respect the crosswalks.

Mike Maddik says that he has lived here for four years now, he hears horns every day because people don't realize that it is a four way stop. It is dangerous for pedestrians, so he believes it is common sense to put in the stop signs.

Jeff Loster says that there are no designated routes that cross Oak avenue at those intersections and that it is why they are not four stops. The two way stops stop north south traffic as the kids are walking east west. Without any north south crossing there, that is why there are no stops for the east west vehicles.

Mr. Lamkey says regardless, it is two blocks away from the Roosevelt.

Commissioner Wade says that although he understands where they are coming from, he is against having a stop sign on every block. They had a whole study done and this was not a part of it. He says that if we put these stop signs in, there will be stop signs every half block for its whole length.

Chairman Rees says that the Village of River Forest did a study on the safest way for kids to walk to school, they moved stop signs and added more crosswalks in response to that study.

Mr. Lamkey says he understands that stop signs at every block is redundant, but Oak street is one of the blocks that gets all of the cars that are trying to cut through. He says they cut through River Forest, and speed through their streets.

Chairman Rees asked how long it has been since the village has looked at the number of accidents for these intersections?

Jeff Loster says that they have not pulled data for those intersections, if that is something the commission wants them to study, they could get radar trailers and collect the data.

Commissioner Wade says that they need additional measures in order to slow down the speeding cars.

Jeff Loster says that speed bumps could be a recommendation.

Commissioner Buis says that since there are accidents on those intersections, this makes it more of an urgent problem. He says we have talked about speed bumps, more signs, dummy police cars, and radars. My recommendation is that we gather data that we need, and treat this urgently.

Commissioner Gillis says he would like to see data for those intersections. He agrees with Steve that a lot of research has gone into these streets and he would like to see more information and look at it at a future meeting.

Chairman Rees says that they need more information before making a recommendation and hopefully in a future meeting they can talk about the gathered data and come to a conclusion. Commissioners agreed that they need to see data.

Jeff Loster noted that the traffic numbers are currently down due to Covid and asked if they would like to wait until numbers are back to normal.

Jeff Loster asked for an official motion and vote for putting this to the side for the time being.

Chairman Rees says he suggests tabling it and taking it up at a future meeting.

Commissioner Buis says that by the November meeting, they should have enough data to have a better conversation and can come to a conclusion.

Commissioner Jayaraman made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Buis to put these issues on hold until they can gather more data. The vote was 6 to 0 in favor of approving the request.

The motion to approve the request passed.

Commissioner Gillis says that there is a no right turn off of Chicago onto Harlem, and he asked in the future will we revisit this when construction is over? He also says he had a request from a resident asking about a no left turn off of Greenfield onto Harlem.

Jeff Loster asked if they would be more comfortable if he was to pull some accident data so they can discuss before bringing it to the board?

The commissioners all agreed that they would like to see accident data and they will talk about it in the next meeting.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:49 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: -----



VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST TRAFFIC AND SAFETY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, November 18, 2020 – 7:30 PM

A regular meeting of the River Forest Traffic and Safety Commission was held on Wednesday, November 18, 2020 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 Hoyt, Commissioner Jayaraman, Commissioner Osga, and Commissioner Wade.

Old Business

Chairman Rees asked for a motion to adopt the minutes from the January 15, 2019 meeting. Commissioner Gillis made the motion and Commissioner Osga seconded the motion. All commissioners present voted to approve the minutes.

New Business – Request by the Village for the Commission to review the safe walks to school project. Another discussion about adding stop signs on Oak Street.

Tyler Lamkey says that they had talked about the stop signs in the previous meeting. There was recent data collected on speeds and traffic counts in these intersections. The traffic counts at Oak and Clinton are significantly higher than other intersections in River Forest. There are about one thousand cars going through Oak Street a day. That is about two hundred cars an hour during peak hours.

Mike Maddik says that there have been multiple accidents where the cars have ended up in the neighbors' properties and the amount of cars speeding down that street are high.

Mr. Lamkey asks what the policy is in the reduced speed school zones?

Chairman Rees asked Mr. Maddik and Mr. Lamkey if speed was their main concern?

Mr. Lamkey says that speed and quantity are the main concerns.

Commissioner Osga says they have been looking at Oak and Quick for the last fifteen years and they have made many changes. They have added many stop signs over the years, seventy-two stop signs over the past year. He is against it because traffic will be at a standstill.

Commissioner Wade says there are days that traffic is backed up from Harlem to his block and he cannot get out. It's going to be worse if they put another stop at Oak. He would like to see every other on the east west streets so it doesn't get too heavy handed. He says when you add more stops, drivers are going to start doing quick stops and driving off.

Commissioner Gillis says that he agrees with the idea of every other street having a stop sign.

Commissioner Jayaraman says he agrees with every other because the street is pretty narrow to have backups with traffic.

Jeff Loster says that he pulled the data and there were three accidents that were reported.

Chairman Rees says that the most recent accident that was reported at Oak and Clinton was in 2014. At Oak and Clinton, the speed report came back as the average is around 25 mph, and the 85th percentile was getting closer to 30 mph. At Oak and Monroe, the average speed is 24 mph and the 85th percentile is 28mph. Generally, they look at a few factors and they do not use stop signs to regulate speed.

Commissioner Gillis made a motion to implement 4 way stops at Oak and Monroe, and Oak and Clinton Place.

The motion failed due to a lack of a 2nd.

Chairman Rees told Tyler and Mike that if they were to gather more neighbor support, they are welcome to come back and try again, but at this time the motion has failed.

Chairman Rees said that they can research more devices to help regulate speed.

Jeff Loster said that decoy, radar trailers, and police cars, are all ideas that he could talk to the police department about. If residents are looking for something more permanent, there is a price tag that comes with it and it will take more time to implement. This will be something that has to go through the commission to be approved.

Chairman Rees said that Oak and Clinton can start out with the temporary measure for a while, and they can let the neighbors decide if they want more.

Chairman Rees thanked Tyler and Mike for attending and apologized for not being very helpful, but he hopes that they can come up with a final resolution in the future.

Mr. Conmy said that he has lived in this house for 40 years, and he plays with his grandkids outside almost every day. There is so much backup from excessive parking on the east side of Keystone off of Madison. It gets so backed up that if someone parks on the west side, it becomes a 1-way street because the street is not large enough. There has been one accident so far, and a few fender benders. Semis have to make deliveries to Good Earth, and large vehicles still have to travel down this block. There are kids all up and down the street, so they want to stop traffic from coming one way. The hope is that they can make traffic easier, stop traffic from coming one way, and make it safer for the children on the block.

Annett Chesney is the president of Keystone Crossing Condominiums across from Good Earth. Annett represents their ten unit owners and their collective opinion regarding Mr. Comny's proposal. She clarified that if her name has been issued to the commission on his petition as support for his proposal, it should be considered no, and void. There is a no left turn sign preventing north bound traffic onto keystone from Madison Monday through Friday, 7-9am and 4-6pm. There are 2-hour limit parking and signs for this restriction, they are easy to see by any driver. There are times where an owner chooses to park on the street temporarily and they should not be denied that. In no way does this compromise Mr. Comny's parking. She would like to hear more about this proposal before she can have a valid opinion about it.

Commissioner Osga says this has been an issue that is evolving. We also have to take into consideration the needs of the business Good Earth. The businesses need locations to park vehicles, unload deliveries and regardless they need access from the street. This block already has a part time restriction, and they would like to restrict it all of the time, permanently. The first proposal didn't even get approved by the Traffic and Safety Commission, it was over ruled by the Board.

Commissioner Buis asked Annett to explain the parking situations for the condominiums.

Annett says that the building owners have 3 garages that are owned independently by the owners. There is a parking lot on the west side of the building, where the remainder of the owners each have 1 parking space. Annett feels like their rights would be taken away if their overflow parking is taken away from them.

Commissioner Gillis indicates that when it first came to the board, we denied the request. Instead of the one-way street, the block got a no left turn sign. The problem is that instead of cars turning left onto their block, they are turning down Gale and Park instead which also puts the kids on those blocks at risk. He agrees that there are a lot of cars over there, so he suggests that the parking on that street should be only for residents. The residents on Keystone, residents of the condominium, and residents shopping at Good Earth would be able to park there.

Commissioner Hoyt asked a procedural question, if the public comments should be read aloud that were sent to the commission.

Jeff Loster says that he could read them if she wanted them to be read, but he doesn't know if they were required. The summary of the public comment was that a few residents reached out and said that they were against this because the residents would want access off of Madison street.

Chairman Rees asked Jeff to clarify the current parking restrictions at the south end of Keystone.

Jeff said that there is a sign there that is no parking 54:50 on the east side. This was not by ordinance; it is a state statue because 20 ft. within a crosswalk requires no parking.

Commissioner Gillis said there is one two-hour parking on the east side of the street, just one single sign right by the end of the property of Good Earth, and I don't believe it is in our records.

Jeff Loster says the sign is in our ordinance. It is in a no parking zone, and then when the parking opens up, it is a two-hour limit.

Chairman Rees asked Jeff if 20 feet up from the cross walk is no parking due to the state, and 2-hour parking north to that on one side.

Jeff Loster says that is correct and he could dig into the ordinance for full limits, but basically that 2-hour zone goes half way up the first residential property past The Greenhouse.

Commissioner Jayaraman says he lives one block north on Vine and Keystone. He agrees with John about parking for the drop off trucks creating a hold up, especially with parking allowed on both sides. He also agrees with others on the commission that the answer is not restricting access because it will increase traffic on other streets. As far as restricting parking, we should discuss something that is fair.

Commissioner Osga says wanted to add that he looks at the parking restriction as a loading zone. He thinks that the village is not doing Good Earth a favor if it is only used for loading instead of parking.

Commissioner Jayaraman says that a lot of the traffic at Good Earth comes from Christmas time. A few times a year Good Earth gets busier, but other times they still have enough parking in their lot.

Commissioner Osga makes a motion to remove the no left turn on Keystone.

Chairman Rees seconded the motion.

Commissioner Jayaraman says this was not part of the discussion and that this was brought up separately and added to the situation.

Commissioner Osga says that they should not get the prohibition regardless. He is willing to make an amendment and table the motion and put it on the agenda for a future meeting.

Commissioner Jayaraman made a motion to make resident only parking on Keystone.

Commissioner Osga says that they should probably have a representative from Good Earth to give them their input before they approve anything.

Chairman Rees made a motion for the first 100 feet of the east side of Keystone to be designated no parking, loading zone only, 7 days a week.

Commissioner Jayaraman 2nd the motion.

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

Jeff Loster says that this is a non-binding recommendation to the village board, and will be papered up for the next meeting.

Chairman Rees says that for the residents that were affected, they have another opportunity to go to the village board meeting and give their opinions to them and they will make the final decision.

Jeff Loster says that a resident requested a cross walk across Hawthorne at the entrance to the Metra station.

Commissioner Hoyt made a motion to request the board to put a cross walk across Hawthorne at the entrance to the Metra station.

Commissioner Osga 2nd the motion.

Chairman Rees decided to table the request due to lack of residents in the area not being present to give their opinions.

Commissioner Gillis said that they should be looking at the outskirts of River Forest, and most likely do a full study of restricting left and right turns. Until further notice, he agrees to have more discussion at the next meeting.

Commissioner Gillis made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Commissioner Wade 2nd the motion. 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: -----



VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST TRAFFIC AND SAFETY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, January 20, 2021 – 7:30 PM

A regular meeting of the River Forest Traffic and Safety Commission was held on Wednesday, January 15, 2020 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 Jayaraman, Commissioner Osga, and Commissioner Wade.

Old Business

Chairman Rees asked for a motion to adopt the minutes from the May 20, 2020 meeting. Commissioner Wade made the motion and Commissioner Jayaraman seconded the motion. All commissioners present voted to approve the minutes.

New Business – Request by the Board to address items of the Safe Routes to School Project.

All commissioners agreed to combine items on the agenda that are of the same topic.
All commissioners agreed to approve the requests 6,7 and 8.

Chairman Rees says that he does not want to approve 4 and 5 because they had already addressed it in the prior meeting.

Commissioner Osga agreed with Chairman Rees to deny 4 and 5, the request to put a 4 way stop at Oak and Monroe.

Chairman Rees asked the commission their opinions on allowing Park traffic to flow through and stop the traffic on Thomas. Commissioner Hoyt expressed that she was in favor of this idea.

Commissioner Gillis says that years ago there was a stop sign that was uncontrolled, then they put a stop sign east-west, allowing Park to go north-south. For the safe route, it switched it around so the stop sign was north-south and Thomas goes east west through it. He says he is against this because the students will have to go through an uncontrolled intersection to get to Franklin where they are supposed to head north.

Commissioner Wade agrees for a different reason. He says there is basically a stop on Thomas for every street, and they are all half blocks. He prefers to leave it the way it is.

Jeff Loster says that the fire department has no concern about changing the intersection in its current form.

Commissioner Osga says he does not think that the intersection should be changed.

Commissioner Gillis suggests that item numbers one and two should be combined and talked about collectively.

Chairman Rees asks if it would make sense to put a cross walk at Clinton?

Commissioner Gillis says that from Harlem to Monroe there are four blocks without a stop sign on Greenfield heading east and west. He said if they were to split that up, it would be Clinton and every other block as far as an east west stop sign and the cross walk can be put at that point.

Commissioner Osga says there are four blocks to Monroe and there is a stop sign on every southbound street. It makes sense to him to put the cross walk at Clinton.

Chairman Rees asked if the suggestion is that a stop sign makes sense, but a cross walk does not make sense there?

Commissioner Osga says that he feels like they should wait to make a decision until they have more opinions from the residents.

Jeff Loster asked for a motion to deny items 1-5 and approval for 6-8.

Commissioner Osga made a motion to deny issues 1-5 and approve issues 6-8 on the letter presented.

Commissioner Jayaraman 2nd the motion.

All commissioners voted to approve this motion.

Chairman Rees says he would like to address items five and seven together. Item five was a carryover request, requesting a cross walk on Thatcher.

Jeff Loster says that the initial request was to put a cross walk at Thatcher, staff recommendation was to put the cross walk at the Metra tunnel mid-block between Thatcher and Gale. It still allows residents that are coming north of Gale to not go out of their way. It also is not too far out of the way for pedestrians trying to go north south down Thatcher either. Mr. Loster says that when he explained this to Mr. Esposito (the requester), his concern was that it was too far east.

Chairman Rees asked for KLOA to look at what commissioner Hoyt suggested. It would be the suggestion of adding a stop sign for east bound Hawthorne. They might recommend a warning sign for a stop sign too.

Commissioner Gillis says he is in agreement with Chairman Rees because there is a lot going on in that intersection and he would like an expert to look at it and give their opinion.

Commissioner Osga says that there are two issues in front of them and he believes it is time to bring in professionals so they can make the suggestions.

Commissioner Gillis says that someone sent him a request about a no left turn off of Greenfield during certain hours.

Commissioner Wade says that going straight into that street isn't easy either. He says maybe it should be a right turn only during certain times.

Chairman Rees asks if it would be appropriate for them to suggest that they are considering a right turn only during certain hours east bound on Greenfield and Lemoyne?

Commissioners agreed to alert residents of the suggestion.

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

Respectfully Submitted:

Signature Line

Jeff Loster, Secretary

Signature Line

Doug Rees, Chairman
Traffic & Safety Commission

Date: -----



VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST TRAFFIC AND SAFETY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, March 17, 2021 – 7:30 PM

A regular meeting of the River Forest Traffic and Safety Commission was held on Wednesday, May 20, 2021 at 7:30 P.M. The meeting was conducted online due to complications related to COVID-19.

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 Hoyt, Commissioner J Robin, Commissioner Osga, and Commissioner Wade.

Public Comment

A letter was sent to the commission in request to table the suggestion until more residents could speak on behalf of restricting Greenfield and Lemoyne to be a right turn only during certain hours.

Commissioner Buis says that he parked on Greenfield and Lemoyne for a little while one afternoon to investigate this issue. He proposes to find some speed mitigation for cutting through the town.

Commissioner Wade asked if they put a four way stop at Bonnie Brae and Lemoyne last year because of this issue?

Commissioner Gillis says there are two problems right now. He says there needs to be a comprehensive review of that corner in the village due to a lot of cutting through. This particular request is from a resident who lives off of William. When they try to get onto Harlem, they are stuck there for several minutes because the car in front of them is waiting to turn left onto Harlem. The restriction of no left turn will help people getting out of River Forest, but separately we should talk about a comprehensive plan.

Robert Armalas says people are cutting through regularly just to come up Lemoyne or Greenfield and make a right turn. This signage will only allow them to do it faster because they want to dismiss the light. He says they have a lot of parking spaces in between the two alleys between Greenfield all the way up to the Shell station, so anyone who wants to head north during those hours are going to have to go the other way. If drivers want to go north on Harlem, they are going to have to go all the way around. He says he would like a comprehensive study on the whole quadrant.

Commissioner Osga expressed that he would like to table the recommendation so that they can bring maps and more opinions into the conversation.

Jeff Loster says that traffic numbers are significantly lower recently, so traffic studies are almost useless at this time. These studies would not yield correct information.

Commissioner Gillis says he believes there should be a survey given to the residents so that the commission can figure out where the residents stand on this recommendation.

Tatyana Pytel lives in Norway House on Monroe Avenue and North Avenue. They have twenty-five units in their building, six of their units don't have assigned parking spaces. Some people pay to park at Montessori House, some parked on Monroe and got tickets. Ms. Pytel says that this has created a safety issue because parking in Elmwood Park is her only choice, and walking across traffic is not ideal. She has created a petition to create a permitted parking zone on Monroe. It would stem from North Avenue through the driveway by Monroe House. Norway House and Monroe House are two separate associations, but she has worked with the president of Monroe House on this issue. They are in agreement that something needs to happen with their parking situations. Originally she suggested 24/7 permitted parking zone on Monroe for both buildings residents. Some of the concerns were where would service, delivery and guest vehicles park? They would hope that the overnight ban and the two-hour parking restriction would be removed so they can have somewhere to park their cars.

Beth Sconie says she is a resident at 1533 Monroe in the Monroe House, and also the president of the association. The presidents of both of these buildings are in agreement that there needs to be a change, but they are in disagreement of the ideas of the possible changes. They urge the commission to consider leaving spots on Monroe open for two-hour parking.

Bart Marczyk said he lives in the building and he can only park on the side of the building. He understands why the Village has restrictions, but he suggests that the signs get changed to only parking from 2-6.

Judith Lempiras lives in Monroe House; she has two cars. They are experiencing the same problems with not being able to park. She says she agrees with making the parking open 24/7, and she suggests to limit the number of passes given out to residents if this goes through. She said her options are limited and something needs to happen.

Commissioner asked Jeff Loster if any buildings allow 24-hour parking in the Village?

Jeff Loster says that he does not think so, the Village does not have any on street 24/7 parking. They have parking lots in the Village that residents are able to pay for spots.

Commissioner Wade says that he is sympathetic towards this situation, but he is afraid that if they open up this parking for 24/7 parking, they might get similar requests throughout the Village. He believes that the Village should contract Fresh Thyme and ask for parking for these residents overnight in their lot.

Commissioner Jayaraman says that he agrees with Steve Wade and his statements.

Commissioner Buis asked Ms. Pytel if the original arrangement with Fresh Thyme was overnight parking, or if it was in general?

Ms. Pytel says that there was a very loose agreement with Fresh Thyme and it was for parking there in general. They would use the back of the lot, where customers never used to park.

Commissioner Buis says that there are many lots available in the Village that are not being used and he suggests that they try to work something out with business owners.

Ms. Pytel and Ms. Sconie both agreed that reaching out to a nearby business in the Village sounds like a good plan to them.

Jeff Loster says that he doesn't have a problem reaching out to different properties in the Village, but he also does not want to move too far away from their properties.

Chairman Rees says that a good start would be to ask Fresh Thyme and the Church and go from there.

Jeff Loster asked for an amount of vehicles that would need parking, and if they were looking for overnight parking?

Ms. Pytel and Ms. Sconie agreed that they would need around ten spots for residents parking, overnight.

Chairman Rees asked if there is any interest in adding a residential zone?

Commissioners agreed that they wanted to see how business owners would react first, and if nothing works then they can readdress the issue.

Jeff Loster said that he talked to a consultant about doing a study at Thatcher and Hawthorne, it didn't sound like a good use of money. He asked how they should handle the cross walk situation?

Chairman Rees asks regardless of traffic counts, isn't there some value in having the traffic engineers comment on the current situation such as the yield sign and the locations of the cross walks?

Mr. Loster said yes they could tell us to take stuff out, but they might not be able to give us better suggestions until traffic counts are back to normal.

Chairman Rees says maybe they can give us views on pros and cons on locating the cross walk.

Mr. Loster said he will paper it up and they can finish discussing at the next meeting.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 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: -----

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VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST TRAFFIC AND SAFETY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, May 27, 2021 – 7:30 PM

A regular meeting of the River Forest Traffic and Safety Commission was held on Wednesday, May 27, 2021 at 7:30 P.M. The meeting was conducted online due to complications related to COVID-19.

Roll Call and Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:38 PM. Present at this meeting were Chairman Rees, Commissioner Gillis, Commissioner Hoyt and Commissioner Osga.

Public Comment

Greg Marcy, the Property Manager of the Norway House says he is aware of Fresh Thyme denying the request from the Village to use some of their parking lot for residents of nearby condominiums. Mr. Marcy believes that permit parking along North Avenue is dangerous due to prior accidents and lack of sidewalks. He asked the commission to consider the original proposal, which is to allow permit parking along Monroe. He said it won't have any negative impact on residents or businesses in that area because they all have private parking situations.

Beth Sconie is the president of the Monroe House, asked is there had been any attempt to reach out to St. Vincent for their parking. Ms. Sconie is worried about her building not having a place to park service vehicles and guests. She asked why there is no parking allowed on the west side of Monroe?

Jeff Loster said that he reached out to Fresh Thyme and St. Vincent and they said that they are unable to engage in any sort of shared parking arrangement with adjacent neighbors. He said that the parking on the west side of Monroe has probably been there for years. He said that they can look into putting it through the process of getting that restriction removed.

Ms. Sconie says that there are really never any trucks on that west side of Monroe, and if it was open for the residents of these buildings, it may solve their problems of parking.

Tetyana Pytel said she agrees with the safety concern that Greg brought up. Ms. Pytel said that if there was an area that was dedicated for their residents, it would solve two issues. It could solve the parking issue for the buildings and it would solve a safety issue for the people who park across North Avenue in order to go to the restaurants. If there is no reason to have no parking on the west side of Monroe, she hopes to see it be open for them to park.

Chairman Rees said that there are a few options of parking such as residential only parking and parking passes zones.

Commissioner Osga said that he does not want to allow parking overnight on the streets. He would like to help them as much as they can for day time parking, but he is against overnight parking on the streets.

Commissioner Gillis asked if the Montessori School might be interested in helping with parking spaces?

Ms. Pytel said that the Montessori School does rent parking out to their residents, however, they are maxed out for parking spots.

Commissioner Gillis said that he also does not want to allow overnight parking on the streets.

Commissioner Hoyt agreed, she does not want to allow overnight parking.

Chairman Rees asked Ms. Sconie if the idea of a resident only zone parking be useful for both condos?

Ms. Sconie said that their main concern is the need of overnight parking.

Mr. Marcy asked what is the objection to overnight parking if it is managed and permitted by the Village?

Mr. Loster said that usually the Police Department has concerns about overnight parking on the streets. It allows more targets for break ins and that raises concerns to the Police Department.

Ms. Pytel and Ms. Sconie agreed that they are looking for overnight parking for their residents.

Chairman Rees advised Ms. Sconie and Ms. Pytel to come back to the next meeting with a narrower recommendation and support for their recommendation.

Chairman Rees asked if the Crosswalk situation near Hawthorne and Thatcher was put off due to Covid traffic?

Mr. Loster said that is correct, traffic numbers will not be the same due to a lot of people not leaving their homes.

Joe O'Connor said that him and his wife advocated for a crosswalk at Hawthorne and Thatcher. At a minimum they would like to advocate for a pedestrian ramp on the south curb of the north east corner of Thatcher and Hawthorne. They are opposed to a crosswalk aligned with the train station tunnel on the basis that it would add confusion to passing vehicular traffic and require a lot of infrastructure changes along with a loss of parking.

Joan said she supports what Joe has proposed.

Chairman Rees said that there is a strong view that this intersection needs attention. He would like some studies to go through to figure out what the best solution would be for the intersection.

Commissioner Gillis said that he thinks there needs to be two separate crosswalks in this area. He said that Thatcher and Hawthorne definitely need a cross walk, and a ramp is needed near the stop line for wheel chair access followed with a pedestrian stop sign. At Gale, there also needs to be a crosswalk.

Commissioner Hoyt said that she approves of the Gale added crosswalk. There are going to be two parking spots that will be eliminated due to this, but she said she still agrees. She said she also agrees that it is a dangerous intersection without the pedestrian ramp. When the traffic counts are back to normal, there desperately needs to be a study done there.

Commissioner Osga said that he completely agrees with Kim Hoyt.

Commissioner Hoyt made a motion to approve a cross walk at the west leg of Gale Avenue.

Commissioner Gillis seconded the motion.

All commissioners voted yes and the motion was passed.

Commissioner Hoyt made a motion to install a pedestrian ramp on the northeast corner of Hawthorne and Thatcher, facing southbound.

Commissioner Osga seconded the motion.

All commissioners voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed.

Ty Beckman said that there is excessive speeding on the 500 block of Thatcher and there needs to be a permanent cure in place. He said that he has called the police department, they have pulled over the speeding drivers, and put out speed trailers, but none of it is permanent. He said that last summer he sat outside and recorded the speeds of drivers going down Thatcher. His research came to be the mode was 32 MPH in a 25 speed limit zone, one of the outliers came out to be 52 MPH. He is not sure how to handle this situation, but there are twenty kids on that block and all it takes is one car to lose control.

Chairman Rees said that Thatcher has been a problem for many years, but he commends the Village in their efforts of trying to slow people down on that block. He told Mr. Beckman to come back with a formal proposal and it will be easier for them to put something into place.

Commissioner Osga said that they did put a cross walk in by Oak Street. He said that there are many different remedies, they just have to pick the correct one. He believes that they should act quickly to make a change for this block.

Jeff Loster said that he will write something up to give to the board along the lines of installing two speed monitors for Thatcher Avenue.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:21 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: -----

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Print Date: 9/8/2021

Notes

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