



## VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST TRAFFIC AND SAFETY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, January 18, 2017 – 7:30 PM

A regular meeting of the River Forest Traffic and Safety Commission was held on Wednesday, January 18, 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 Valenti, Commissioner Osga, Commissioner Jayaraman, and Commissioner Wade and Commissioner Cleary.

### **Public Comment**

Chairman Rees acknowledges former Chairman Hagensick who recently passed away. He was Chairman for several years and served the Village in multiple capacities. Mr. Rees will now be taking over as Chairman and welcomes Mr. Cleary as a new member of the board.

### **Old Business**

Chairman Rees starts by asking for a motion to approve the minutes from the meetings on June 22, 2016, July 20, 2016 and for September 21, 2016. Commissioner Valenti made the motion and Commissioner Gillis seconded the motion to approve. All commissioners present voted to approve the minutes.

### **New Business – Request that consideration be given to creating a “Resident Only” parking zone on the 1000 block of Jackson Avenue between the hours of 8:00am and 4:00pm (Monday through Friday, not including holidays).**

Chairman Rees notes that this topic was briefly discussed on the minutes of July 20, 2016. A recommendation was made by Commissioner Valenti’s motion to install No Parking Zones on the North and South side of Augusta Street - placed fifty feet on both sides of Jackson Avenue, on the North and South side of Augusta Street.

Nancy Fasano has lived at 1009 Jackson since 1989. When the education building was put up on Monroe and Augusta all the residents were concerned about parking on Jackson Avenue. At that time Concordia University said they had parking available and would not park on Jackson. The Village Board also mentioned if there was a problem later they would put up something if needed. In the last three years there have been cars parked on Jackson causing difficulty when getting out of their driveways. Problems also arise during leaf pick up and snow removal. Everyone on the block agreed and signed the petition with the exception of one home, which is empty.

Erin Reaney of 1015 Jackson Avenue points out that Concordia University has a huge parking garage, but cars are still parking on their street.

Mrs. Fasano wants to clarify they ask for Resident Parking Only with the exception of holidays. They had previously been told Resident Parking Only would include holidays. If Christmas fell during the week guests would not be allowed to park on the street.

Chairman Rees adds that it is common for the restrictions to be Monday through Friday, except holidays. Many tend to be limited to one side of the street. It's acknowledged that Resident Only restrictions can impose hardship for people who have nannies, lawn care, visitors etc. The restriction would apply to all those people. He recommends the board consider restrictions on the East side only to prevent those.

Mrs. Fasano assures that most people she spoke to want the restrictions on both sides of Jackson Avenue. They would still run into the problem of not being able to get out of their driveways due to people parking extremely close. For example she just had her bathroom remodeled. There was a dumpster, two vans plus the helpers that parked on the street. Wonders if the Village gives a parking pass in that instance?

Jeff Loster, Village Engineer explains there are two different zones. The Resident Parking Zone is the instance they would have "X" number of passes per house on that block. They are the only ones allowed to park there. In this particular case they are looking for a Residential Parking Zone which would allow any resident within the Village to park on that particular street during allowed hours. There would be no permits or passes handed out. In that instance where there is a contractor the police department can issue temporary passes.

Mrs. Reaney asks if they could do two hour parking maximum like they do on areas by the train? Commissioner Gillis responds there is two hour parking between Jackson and Monroe. Cars there are parked six to eight hours daily. It is something that can be done, however probably will not work. For two hours the parked cars will still be blocking their driveways.

Commissioner Cleary lives on the 900 block of Bonnie Brae Place, he is very sympathetic to this request. His block has no parking Monday through Friday from 9:00am to 5:00pm. They always presumed it was because of the school. On Sunday mornings, members of the Fellowship Church on Harlem and Augusta all park on Bonnie Brae. He has experienced many times people parking right on the edge of his driveway. Wonders why they have No Parking while others have Resident Parking during the week. He has not talked to anyone on his block and does not know what the general opinion is. On the West side of the street it's No Parking. On the East side of the 800 block there is two hour parking. Asks himself why his block stands out with absolutely No Parking 9:00am to 5:00pm?

Chairman Rees observes this issue is apart from today's agenda. Nonetheless doesn't know if there is a necessity to the people on that block to have No Parking oppose to Resident Parking. Presumes it's just a historical accident. They try to be consistent on how parking is restricted, but it's not perfect.

Commissioner Osga adds they are aware the dormitory is coming by Concordia University, therefore that area is evolving. They now have to evolve with it. The congestion in that area seems to be at Augusta Avenue. From what he read they have non-resident who seem to be students parking on their block. Students are utilizing that because it's a block and a half from their section of the University. Rather than the two blocks from the parking garage.

Commissioner Osga shares that one block East of them, on Monroe Avenue they have No Parking at all on the West side. On the East side of the street it is Residential Parking Only,



8:00am through 4:00pm Monday through Friday. The street is a little more narrow hence if there is parking on one side, they need to leave the other side empty. He is leaning to liking the idea of Resident Parking Only. Monroe Avenue does not seem like a super wide street. Questions if they should do the West side No Parking and the East side Resident Parking?  
Commissioner Valenti thinks it might make sense to put a time restriction, a less restrictive timing initially. If it doesn't work they can do something else. Suggests Resident Parking Only Monday through Friday 8:00am through 4:00pm.

Commissioner Osga adds before they vote that Keystone Avenue and Monroe Avenue have restrictions 8:00am through 8:00pm. Asks if they are thinking of keeping things the same or go block by block by the recommendations of the people that live there?

Chairman Rees can see one factor in cutting in favor of consistency. The police are used to patrolling a certain time. He is uncertain if it's consistent enough to justify that. Having a variety of times can add to the confusion.

Commissioner Valenti made the motion to have "Resident Only" parking on the 1000 block of Jackson Avenue, Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:00am through 4:00pm excluding Holidays, seconded by Commissioner Cleary.

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

Chairman Rees explained they make the recommendation to the Village Board. Followed by the Village Board determining if they are going to adopt it and make it a Village ordinance.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:08 P.M. All commissioners voted in favor of the motion. Motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted:

*Signature Line*



Jeff Loster, Secretary

*Signature Line*



R. Douglas Rees, Chairman  
Traffic & Safety Commission

Date: 7/19/17