

NEW BUSINESS

File #14-01 Parking Restrictions On Chicago Avenue between Washington and Elm

Chairman Johnson stated that the first item on the agenda this evening is the consideration of parking restrictions on Chicago Avenue between Washington and Elm. He then read the Staff Report.

BACKGROUND

The Public Works Department has received several requests to restrict parking on the south side of Chicago Avenue between Washington Street and Elm Street. This section of Chicago Avenue has a hill that limits sight distance for drivers traveling east on Chicago Avenue. There currently are parking restrictions at all times on the north side of Chicago Avenue in this area. The traffic volume on Chicago Avenue is 1219 vehicles per day. Parking in this area is usually the greatest problem during the school year. With the amount of traffic and the hill located on this block staff believes that parking should be restricted at all times at this location.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that a positive recommendation be forwarded to the Village Council to:

RESTRICT PARKING AT ALL TIMES ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF CHICAGO AVENUE FROM THE EAST LINE OF WASHINGTON STREET TO A POINT 489 FEET EAST OF THE EAST LINE OF WASHINGTON STREET.

Chairman Johnson stated that in the past parking problems around the high school have been an extension of parking problems around the area. He said that the Village has posted 7a.m. to 1:00 a.m. or 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. parking restrictions for these types of parking problems. He explained that these types of restrictions discourage student parking but do not place heavy restrictions on the residents. He stated that there are other options. He then invited the audience to voice their comments or concerns.

Mr. Martin May, 809 Chicago Avenue, stated that restricting the parking at all times is excessive. He said that he feels that a four-hour parking restriction would be appropriate.

Chairman Johnson stated that any restrictions that are placed would affect everyone and not only the students.

Mr. May asked where visitors would park if there were continuous parking restrictions on Chicago.

Mr. Schiller stated that the 489 feet measures to approximately right in front of Mr. May's address. He explained that the restriction does not go all the way to Elm Street.

Chairman Johnson stated that the map illustrates this. He went on to say that the parking around the high schools is an ongoing problem. He said that the Village tries to solve the problems using as few restrictions as possible. He then asked the Commission if they had any comments or concerns.

Mrs. Marion May, 809 Chicago Avenue, asked where the students would park once the restrictions were placed.

Chairman Johnson replied that the students would park on another block, which is the reason for the ongoing problem. He explained that the Village cannot anticipate how far the parking restrictions are needed around the high schools and tries their best to remedy the problems as they arise.

Mr. May asked if the full time parking restriction on the south side of Chicago is meant to turn Chicago Avenue into a thoroughfare.

Chairman Johnson stated that he does not believe that this would happen. He said that before students were parking there it was not used as a thoroughfare. He agreed that it is true that a wide-open street does tend to have an increased number of vehicles and an increase in vehicular speed. He stated that traffic studies have shown that Chicago Avenue carries 1219 vehicles per day, which is not an excessive amount of traffic.

Mrs. May stated that Chicago Avenue does not have as much traffic as Prairie Avenue.

Chairman Johnson stated that the Parking and Traffic Commission is only a recommending body. He said that they look at Parking and Traffic issues and make recommendations to the Village Council. He further stated that the Commission acts as a sounding board for the Village Council and is here to listen to the concerns of the residents.

Mrs. May asks how long it takes for an item to be approved by the Village Council.

Chairman Johnson replied that since this item is fairly cut and dry it should go through Council in approximately 3 to 4 weeks.

Commissioner McNamara asked Mr. And Mrs. May if they have students parking in front of their home often.

Mrs. May replied that the students park there all of the time. She further stated that there are many small children in the area and the steep hill makes it dangerous for them when cars are parked along the street.

Chairman Johnson stated that the hill is a concern. He said that this concern is the reason that the Village Staff had recommended that the restrictions be placed all of the time.

Mr. Schiller stated that the hill and the numerous complaints that backing out of the driveways along this portion of Chicago is hazardous are the reasons that Staff is recommending that the restrictions be placed all of the time.

Mrs. May stated that there are two lots past her driveway to the corner of Chicago at Elm that could be used for parking.

Mr. Schiller stated that he stopped the restriction approximately right at her driveway.

Commissioner Kren asked what the standard parking restriction hours are for North High School.

Mr. Schiller replied that the Village began using the 7:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. restriction and from 1998 the 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. restriction has been used.

Chairman Johnson stated that the reason for this restriction is that it gives the Police Department adequate time to patrol the area and also is timed right so that the students cannot move their cars into those spots.

Commissioner McNamara asked Mr. Schiller why he does not feel that the four-hour restriction is adequate for this area.

Mr. Schiller replied that if a vehicle is parked over the hill next to a driveway it creates a hazard for a pedestrian or for a motorist backing out of their driveway.

Commissioner McNamara asked if there have been many accidents at this location.

Mr. Schiller replied that there have not been many accidents but there have been many complaints.

Chairman Johnson asked Mr. and Mrs. May if parking had been a problem on their street prior to when the students began parking there two or three years ago.

Mr. May replied that the problem has only existed for the past three years since the students began parking there.

Mrs. May stated that Elm Street used to be a mess as well.

Mr. May stated that the hill becomes more dangerous when there are cars parked on each side of the driveways along Chicago.

Mr. Philip Barr, 4605 Puffer Road, stated that he is here for item #16-01 but would like to comment that restrictions could be placed on Chicago Avenue only Monday through Friday with the four-hour time frame since there are no students on the weekends.

Mrs. May asked Mr. Schiller if Staff is recommending that both sides of Chicago be designated no parking all of the time.

Mr. Schiller replied that the north side of Chicago is already designated no parking. He stated that Staff is recommending that there be no parking on the south side of Chicago from Washington Street to the May's driveway to ensure that the hill is clear all of the time.

Commissioner Yeksigian asked if the area beyond the May's driveway to Elm Street would allow parking.

Mrs. May stated that this would not cause a problem.

Commissioner Yeksigian asked why the whole block would not be restricted.

Chairman Johnson stated that this needs to be discussed.

Mrs. May stated that having students park to the east of her driveway would not cause a problem.

Commissioner Yeksigian stated that he wants to make sure that students competing for parking spaces in front of her home would not be a problem.

Mrs. May stated that this would not be a problem.

Mr. May stated that the Village should keep the parking restrictions consistent with the streets to the north and south of Chicago.

Chairman Johnson stated that he agrees. He said that the restrictions are easier to control and maintain when they are consistent in an area. He then asked the Commission if they had any thoughts on the issue.

Commissioner Stapleton asked how much parking space is available past the May's driveway.

Mr. Schiller replied that approximately four cars could park there.

Commissioner Stapleton stated that he thinks that the parking restriction should be posted for the entire length of the block and not only up to the May's driveway.

Commissioner Kren stated that every time a parking restriction is placed that states that there is no parking for the next twenty-feet or so motorists park two or three inches past the sign and it is difficult to patrol. He stated that he agrees with Mr. Stapleton and would like to see the entire length of this block of Chicago be posted no parking from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Mr. Barr stated that there is seasonal parking in Chicago and asked if this could be an option here.

Chairman Johnson stated that the Council has discussed this before but has decided to not use seasonal parking since it is difficult to enforce.

COMMISSIONER MCNAMARA MOVED TO RECOMMEND TO THE VILLAGE COUNCIL THAT RESTRICTED PARKING ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF CHICAGO AVENUE FROM WASHINGTON STREET TO ELM STREET FROM 8:00 A.M. TO 11:00 A.M. EXCEPT SATURDAYS, SUNDAYS AND HOLIDAYS.

COMMISSIONER KREN SECONDED THE MOTION.

Commissioner Yeksigian asked the Mays if there were any significant problems on the block related to parking before the students had started parking there.

Mr. and Mrs. May stated that there were no previous problems.

Roll Call: **AYE: Ms. McNamara, Mr. Kren, Mr. Stapleton, Mr. Thurston, Mr. Wendt, Mr. Yeksigian, and Chairman Johnson.**

NAY: None

Motion Carried: 7:0

Chairman Johnson stated that this recommendation would be sent to Village Council. He said that if anyone is interested in attending the Council meeting for this item they should watch the Village Corner section of the newspaper for the Council agenda dates. He further stated that the Village Clerk could also be notified and asked when this agenda item would be brought before Council. He then read a transcribed telephone message relating to File # 14-01. (See attachment # 1) He stated that he would like to skip to File # 16-01 since the rest of the audience is here for that issue.

File # 16-01 Parking Restrictions on the 4600 Block of Puffer Road

Chairman Johnson then read the Staff Report for File # 16-01.

BACKGROUND

During the past several weeks the Public Works Department has received a petition by mail from several Puffer Road residents to restrict parking at all times on both sides of the 4600 block of Puffer Road. Puffer Road is a dead end street that is about 21 feet wide and currently has no parking restrictions on it. There seems to be an increasing number of commuters parking on Puffer creating problems for residents trying to enter or exit their

neighborhood. The residents state when vehicles are parked on the street not only is it difficult for residents to access their homes, emergency vehicles, refuse trucks, snow removal equipment are unable to access all residents on the street.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that a positive recommendation be forwarded to the Village Council to:

RESTRICT PARKING AT ALL TIMES ON BOTH SIDES OF PUFFER ROAD FROM CHICAGO AVENUE TO A POINT 389 FEET NORTH OF CHICAGO AVENUE.

Chairman Johnson stated that he spoke with Mr. Schiller briefly before tonight's meeting about the narrowness of Puffer and the need for parking restrictions on both sides of Puffer Road.

Mr. Schiller stated that the petition that was presented to the Commission requested that parking be restricted on both sides of the 4600 block of Puffer at all times. He further stated that he agrees with this restriction.

Chairman Johnson stated that he never sees any cars parked along this portion of Puffer. He further stated that no parking at all times is very restrictive.

Mr. Barr stated that the parking along Puffer is not a heavy problem like the parking problem discussed on Chicago earlier. He said that Puffer is a dead end street that ends in a park area and most of the cars that drive on that street are there for one of the residents who live there. He said that the unrecognizable cars that have been parking on the 4600 block of Puffer are cause for concern for all of the residents of this block.

Chairman Johnson asked if these cars appear to belong to people who are using the park.

Mr. Barr stated that on Sunday a four-wheel vehicle full of kids drove all over the wooded area and the grass. He said that he is trying to avoid these types of things. He also said that he would like to avoid people parking on Puffer and walking through the park. He said that Mr. Sopika, who lives on the west side of Puffer supports the parking restrictions as well. He then asked if the no parking restrictions were placed and one of the residents had a party or an excessive number of guests whose cars would not fit in their driveways if they could notify the Village and have their guests park on the street.

Ms. Marion Heintz stated that the Police Department would waive parking restrictions only prior to tickets being issued if a resident calls and notifies the police of this special occasion. She said that the restrictions would only be waived on one side of the street so that emergency vehicles could enter and exit the street. She then asked Mr. Barr if he notified the Police Department when he saw the vehicle driving through the park.

Mr. Barr stated that he did not contact the Police.

Ms. Heintz stated that the Police should be notified because this is illegal and the Police need to stop this type of activity.

Commissioner Yeksigian asked if the parking problem has anything to do with commuters.

Mr. Barr stated that commuters are not the problem. He further stated that recently Puffer Road received a larger no outlet sign, which seems to help.

Commissioner Wendt asked at what times of the day the cars are parking there.

Mr. Barr replied that the problems occur during weekends and evenings.

Commissioner McNamara asked if the cars could belong to people going to the other end of Puffer.

Mr. Barr stated that there is parking on the other end of Puffer and there would be no reason for a car to park on the 4600 block if their destination were the 4700 block. He stated that he does not know who the cars belong to that are parking along the 4600 block of Puffer. He said that the one time that he asked a motorist if he could help them it turned out that they were people that used to live there and were wondering what had happened to their house. He said that he realizes that this is not a good example for the point that he is trying to make.

Ms. Sharon Siegert, 4654 Puffer Road, stated that commuters do park on the 4700 block of Puffer and walk to the train. She said that she is concerned that if construction were done on the 4700 block of Puffer the commuters would park on the 4600 block.

Chairman Johnson stated that Ms. Siegert's point is well taken. He then stated that the restrictions would affect everyone including the people who live on Puffer.

Mr. Barr asked if the restrictions would only be five days a week.

Chairman Johnson stated that this is a very unique situation which is why Staff has recommended that parking be restricted on both sides of the street at all times.

Mr. Barr stated that one of the big problems is that there are no curbs along the 4600 block of Puffer so when cars do park along the street they are actually parking in the residents' front yards and they leave large ruts in the grass.

Mr. Bruce Siegert, 4654 Puffer Road, stated that the fire trucks use the entire road when they come down it and therefore parked cars are a hazard. He asked if there is a way that the Village can dead end the street or barricade it.

Chairman Johnson asked Mr. Schiller if he has had any discussions with anyone from the Park District regarding this.

Mr. Schiller stated that he has not had any discussions with anyone about it and has also not received any complaints about it.

Chairman Johnson stated that he found it interesting that Mr. Barr saw a four-wheel vehicle driving through the park. He said that this should be easily remedied possibly even without an ordinance.

Mr. Schiller stated that he would install road end markers at the location and this would not require any Council action.

Mr. Barr stated that he has called the Police a number of times regarding cars parking all night in the wooded area.

Commissioner McNamara stated that she thinks that completely restricting the parking is excessive.

Mr. Barr stated that there are only five homes along the 4600 block of Puffer and all of these residents are for the parking restrictions.

Chairman Johnson stated that he thought that there was one resident that did not sign the petition.

Mr. Schiller stated that there was one resident that did not sign it from the addresses that were collected.

Mr. Barr stated that the addresses had gotten mixed up. He explained that he lives at 4605 Puffer Road and that no one lives at 4600. He stated that this was the Puffer Road Residents' error that occurred when drawing up the petition.

Chairman Johnson stated that the Village usually does not restrict a street like this but Puffer road is a very unique street.

Mr. Barr stated that the 4700 block of Puffer Road is a unique street as well.

Chairman Johnson stated that due to the circumstances the Commission cannot address the entire street tonight. He said that it would be interesting to see what the 4700 block does after they see the restrictions posted along the 4600 block of Puffer.

COMMISSIONER YEKSIGIAN MOVED TO RECOMMEND TO THE VILLAGE COUNCIL THAT BOTH SIDES OF PUFFER ROAD FROM CHICAGO AVENUE TO A POINT 389 FEET NORTH OF CHICAGO AVENUE BE DESIGNATED NO PARKING AT ALL TIMES.

COMMISSIONER STAPLETON SECONDED THE MOTION.

Commissioner Kren stated that he does not think that both sides of the street need to be no parking.

Mr. Barr stated that one side of the street is pretty much barricaded already.

Commissioner Kren asked which side of the street the residents live on.

Mr. Barr stated that four homes are on the east side and one homeowner owns the entire length of the west side of the street.

Commissioner Kren stated that he feels that restricting both sides of the street is excessive especially since they have not heard from the 4700 block of Puffer Road yet.

Roll Call: **AYE: Mr. Yeksigian, Mr. Stapleton, Ms. McNamara
Mr. Thurston, Mr. Wendt and Chairman Johnson.**

NAY: Mr. Kren

Motion Carried: 6:1

Chairman Johnson thanked the audience members for coming to tonight's meeting. He then said that he would like to move on to File # 15-01, School Walking Route Review.

File # 15-01 2001 – 2002 School Walking Route Review

Chairman Johnson read parts of the Staff Report for File # 15-01.

BACKGROUND:

Each year the Parking and Traffic Commission reviews the School Walking Route Map. The purpose of the review is to identify any changes in school crosswalk locations or changes with adult crossing guard assignments. For the 2001/02 school year, no major changes have been made compared to the 2000/01 map. A few minor changes to crosswalk locations have been made to better correspond to the dimensions listed in the Village Code. The sixteen adult crossing guard locations have remained unchanged from last year. There have been no requests for an adult crossing guard since the Commission's last review of the school walking routes at the July 11, 2000 meeting

A component of the walking route system is the expansion of sidewalk within the community. The Village is scheduled to complete additional sections of new sidewalk within the next month. The locations on the following streets:

AREA 1

40th Street, between Earlston & Fairview
Glendenning Rd., between 39th & Ogden
Earlston Rd, between 39th & Ogden

AREA 2

Sherman St., between Prince & Main St.
Downers Drive, between Grant & Ogden

AREA 3

Pershing Ave., between Prairie & Warren
Pershing Ave., between Chicago & Prairie
Woodward Ave., between Chicago & Prairie
Hitchcock Ave., between Belmont & Cornell

AREA 4

Chicago Ave., between Florence & Cumnor
Sheldon Ave., between Fairview & Cumnor
Traube Ave, between Cumnor & Roslyn

AREA 5

Grand Ave., between 61st & 63rd
Washington St., between Kenyon & 59th
Washington St, between 59th & 60th Pl
Washington St, between 55th & Kenyon
61st Street, between Stonewall & Plymouth

The areas to be bused have only one change. The Innisbrook subdivision will have students bused to Belle Aire School. Last year this area was shown as walking.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that a positive recommendation be forwarded to the Village Manager to:

APPROVE THE 2001/02 SCHOOL WALKING ROUTE MAP AS PRESENTED AND HAVE COPIES DISTRIBUTED TO THE SCHOOL DISTRICTS.

Chairman Johnson asked Mr. Schiller if he had anything he would like to add.

Mr. Schiller stated that there are discussions being had with O'Driscoll Builders regarding the completion of the 39th Street ROW, which is where the walking path is from Venard west to the school property. He stated that O'Driscoll is proposing to make this area a 3-lot subdivision that would include completing a roadway, installing sidewalk and installing a cul de sac to allow for another access point to the school. He stated that School District 58 appears to be receptive to this proposal but it is still very preliminary at this point. He stated that he does not know how far along they are or when they would plan on beginning construction.

Chairman Johnson stated that this would not affect the walking route this year.

Mr. Schiller stated that everything else is the same as last year. He said that Ms. Lori Pilster, School District 58, stated that she had no changes.

Commissioner Stapleton asked what the total number of crossing guards is.

Ms. Heintz replied that there are 16.

Commissioner Kren asked if the pavement markings would be redone on the streets because some are worn out.

Mr. Schiller stated that the ones that are worn out would be redone.

Chairman Johnson asked if there had been any problems filling the crossing guard spots.

Ms. Heintz replied that there are currently three vacancies that they are trying to fill. She stated that she is unsure as to which locations these are for since that is no longer her area.

Chairman Johnson asked Ms. Heintz if she knew if the 16 locations were working out well.

Ms. Heintz stated that they are working out well. She further stated that when the school year starts the supervisor in charge of the crossing guards would count how many kids are crossing at each location to ensure that all of the guard positions are still justified.

Commissioner Yeksigian asked what the total sidewalk mileage is for the school walking routes.

Mr. Schiller stated that he could have that information at the next meeting.

Commissioner Kren asked if there have been any complaints about the sidewalks that have been installed this year.

Mr. Schiller stated that there have not been any complaints as far as he knows.

COMMISSIONER KREN MOVED TO RECOMMEND TO THE VILLAGE MANAGER TO ACCEPT THE 2001/02 SCHOOL WALKING ROUTES AS PRESENTED.

COMMISSIONER STAPLETON SECONDED THE MOTION.

Roll Call: **AYE: Mr. Kren, Mr. Stapleton, Ms. McNamara
Mr. Thurston, Mr. Wendt, Mr. Yeksigian,
and Chairman Johnson.**

NAY: None

Motion Carried: 7:0

Chairman Johnson asked what items are on the future agenda.

Mr. Schiller stated that starting next month the Parking and Traffic Commission meetings would be held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month.

Mr. Kren asked when this was decided.

Mr. Schiller stated that this was decided at the last meeting because of the conflict with the Council meeting on Tuesday night.

Chairman Johnson stated that he received a letter from Jack Bajor stating that he was unable to attend tonight's meeting due to his attendance at tonight's Council meeting.

Mr. Schiller stated that the only item that is on the agenda for the September 12th meeting as of now is the discussion of the alley between the Library and the Main Street businesses. He stated that he would like to temporarily post restrictions for the alley to be designated one-way during the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Commissioner Yeksigian asked how many parking spots were left on Springside.

Mr. Schiller replied that there are a few left.

Ms. Heintz asked how much the parking permits cost.

Mr. Schiller stated that they are \$270.00, which is $\frac{3}{4}$ of a commuter permit since the students would only be using them for $\frac{3}{4}$ of a year.

COMMISSIONER STAPLETON MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.

COMMISSIONER KREN SECONDED THE MOTION. *Motion carried 7:0.*

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.
/je

staff/p&t/2001/minutes/August 21 2001