

COUNCIL WORKSHOP ITEM

ITEM: File #15-03
DATE: October 27, 2003
PREPARED BY: Dorin Fera, Traffic Manager
PURPOSE: Parking Restrictions on 62nd Place East of Brookbank Road

BACKGROUND

A neighborhood petition was received from the area residents on 62nd Place, east of Brookbank Road. The primary issue consists of South High School students parking on 62nd Place at this intersection. The larger issue is the blockage of the residential driveways preventing access for refuse vehicles and snow plowing operations. Also, there is reported blockage of the fire hydrant on the south side of 62nd Place.

The parking restrictions along both 62nd Street and Brookbank Road are "No Parking 7 AM to 4 PM, Except Saturdays, Sundays and Holidays". The restrictions for the 15 designated parking stalls adjacent to the Park District's practice soccer field are "No Parking 7 AM to 9 AM". There are no parking restrictions along 62nd Place east of Brookbank Road.

STUDY

Staff has observed this location on numerous dates, within the month of September 2003. With the start of school in early September, the parking activity on this street has picked up. Parked vehicles have been observed on each field visit. The approximate number of parked cars ranges between 6 and 10. However, it should be stated that at no time during staff field reviews were the residential driveways blocked by a parked vehicle.

Based on field observation, staff finds it appropriate for some type of parking restriction, to address the neighborhood concerns, and to provide parking consistency in the area. The roadway width in this section of 62nd Place is approximately 28 feet wide. With parking on both sides, the net 2-way roadway width is reduced to under 12 feet. During emergency and regular service intervals, a narrower roadway reduces the safety and efficiency of larger vehicles using this street. Clearly, parking demand is increasing due to more South High School students driving to school. While the Village street system should serve all the residents, in this case, neighborhood safety should take a higher priority.

RECOMMENDATION

It is Staff's judgment, based upon the current parking issues on 62nd Place that some restriction would be appropriate. It is also important to maintain consistent restrictions within the area.

Staff advises that the Parking and Traffic Commission forward a positive recommendation to the Village Council such that the following be implemented:

NO PARKING ALONG BOTH SIDES OF 62ND PLACE, BETWEEN BROOKBANK ROAD AND CARPENTER STREET, AT ANY TIME BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 7:00 A.M. AND 9:00 A.M., EXCEPT SATURDAYS, SUNDAYS, AND HOLIDAYS.

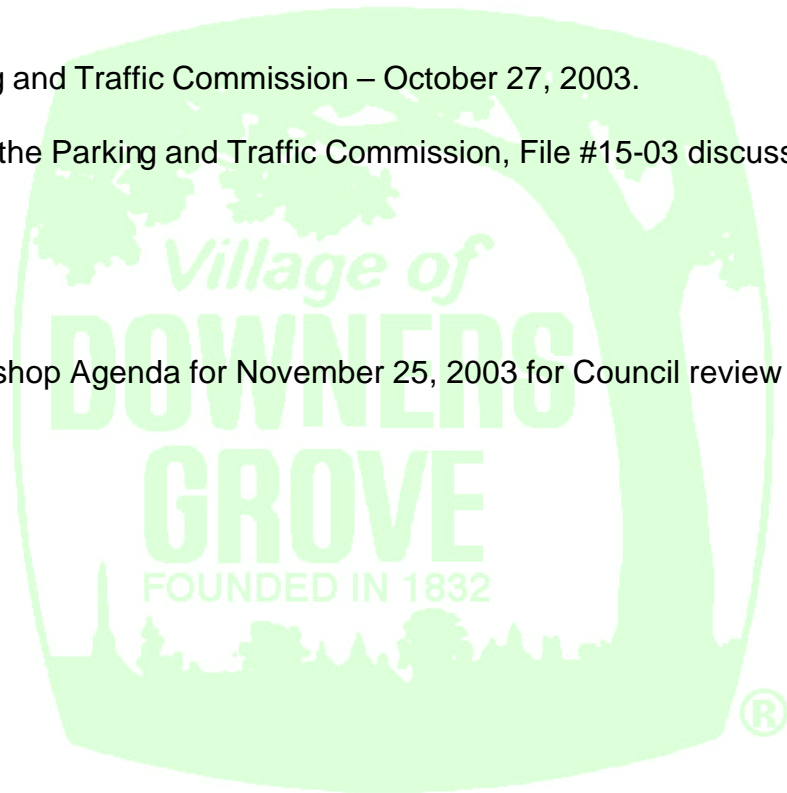
ATTACHMENTS:

Recommendation of Parking and Traffic Commission – October 27, 2003.

October 8, 2003 Minutes of the Parking and Traffic Commission, File #15-03 discussed on pages 2 through 6.

RECOMMENDATION:

Place this item on the Workshop Agenda for November 25, 2003 for Council review and consideration.



PARKING & TRAFFIC COMMISSION

Minutes of Public Hearing
October 8, 2003

Downers Grove Public Works Facility
5101 Walnut Avenue, Downers Grove

Chairman Johnson called the October 8, 2003 meeting of the Parking and Traffic Commission to order at 7:00 p.m. He then asked for a roll call.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Commissioners: Messrs. Carlquist, Kren, Thurston, Wendt, and Chairman Johnson.

Absent: Commissioners: Messrs. Stapleton and Yeksigian

Present: Staff: Mr. Dorin Fera, Sgt. Jim Nehls, Mr. Tim Sembach, Ms. Chris Chalberg, Recording Secretary.

Visitors: Ms. Pam Gucwa, 1107 Gilbert Avenue; Mr. Dave Gucwa, 1107 Gilbert Avenue, Ms. Pam Brauweiler, 4818 Bryan Place; Ms. Danielle Brauweiler, 4818 Bryan Place; Mr. Tom Lackowitz, 1112 62nd Place; Mr. Andy Clark, 1226 62nd Street; Ms. Sue Smith, 1133 62nd Place; Ms. Marjorie Keenan, 1132 62nd Place; Ms. Kathy Pabis, 1120 62nd Place; Mr. Eric Linder, 1137 62nd Place; Mr. Steve Dickman, 1128 62nd Place, Mr. Kevin Kurnik, 1136 62nd Place; and Ms. Mary Kurnik, 1136 62nd Place.

Chairman Johnson informed the audience that the meeting was being recorded on Village owned equipment to aid in the preparation of the meeting minutes. Commissioners were asked if they had changes regarding the minutes of the September 10, 2003 meeting.

COMMISSIONER WENDT MOVED THAT THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 10, 2003 PARKING AND TRAFFIC COMMISSION MEETING BE ACCEPTED AS PRESENTED.

COMMISSIONER KREN SECONDED THE MOTION.

Motion carried by voice vote. 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS

File #15-03: Parking Restrictions on 62nd Place East of Brookbank Road.

Chairman Johnson read the following Staff report:

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STUDY

Staff has observed this location on numerous dates, within the month of September, 2003. With the start of school in early September, the parking activity on this street has picked up. Parked vehicles have been observed on each field visit. The approximate number of parked cars ranges between 6 and 10. However, it should be stated that at no time during staff field reviews were the residential driveways blocked by a parked vehicle.

Based on field observation, staff finds it appropriate for some type of parking restriction, to address the neighborhood concerns, and to provide parking consistency in the area. The roadway width in this section of 62nd Place is approximately 28 feet wide. With parking on both sides, the net 2-way roadway width is reduced to under 12 feet. During emergency and regular service intervals, a narrower roadway reduces the safety and efficiency of larger vehicles using this street. Clearly, parking demand is increasing due to more South High School students driving to school. While the Village street system should serve all the residents, in this case, neighborhood safety should take a higher priority.

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Chairman Johnson addressed the residents and explained to them that the commissioners and the Village Council will recognize that any restrictions put in place will affect the residents as well as any students involved. Chairman Johnson recognized that parking has been an ongoing issue for the north and south high schools for many years.

Adding to staff's report, **Mr. Fera** indicated no sidewalks existed on either side of 62nd Place currently.

Chairman Johnson opened up the discussion to the residents.

Ms. Marjorie Keenan, 1132 62nd Place, said cars are being parked very close to the ends of her driveway and she was having difficulty pulling out of her driveway. Students were littering. She believed it would cost more to put in sidewalks rather than a few No Parking signs.

Ms. Sue Smith, 1133 62nd Place, was of the understanding that there would be a positive recommendation. Since there were no sidewalks currently, she expressed concern about the safety of her children since they walk on the street to get to school. Because more students would be receiving their parking permits in the spring, Ms. Smith said the parking would increase. She suggested a restriction of 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. instead of 4:00 p.m.

Chairman Johnson, however, explained the suggestion was staff's recommendation currently and that the Parking and Traffic Commission was a recommending body to the Village Council. The commission may discuss other recommendations.

Ms. Keenan inquired as to the utilization of the soccer field during the day, noting it was only utilized in the evening, wherein **Chairman Johnson** explained he recalled it was designed as a practice field.

Mr. Andrew Clark, 1226 62nd Street, explained that the Park District did pay for the street improvement and did own the soccer field, but some years ago the county approached the park district about making a water detention area there and they paid to have that field made. But it was still park district property.

Mr. Eric Linder, 1137 62nd Place, has noticed increased foot traffic across his lawn as well as more litter from the kids. Per his wife, the parking is not orderly in the morning. He supported revising the parking restriction to 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.

Mr. Tom Lackowitz, 1112 62nd Place, supported the above comments and agreed that in the spring more activity will increase. He supported 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. restriction.

Chairman Johnson briefly explained that the restriction hours of 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. were used when the high school was an open campus. However, with the closed campus, he believed the 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. restriction was effective.

Ms. Kathy Pabis, 1120 62nd Place, lives in the middle of block and agreed with her neighbors. She noted her residence has the fire hydrant on her property and on occasion the hydrant has been blocked. In general, she believed the students were noisy when arriving and leaving the area with loud music and foul language. She said a safety hazard existed since many of the residents have elementary school children who ride their bikes to school.

Chairman Johnson read into the record an e-mail staff received on October 7, 2003, from Mr. Dave Fusaro, 1124 62nd Place, noting that if the restriction on the 6200 block of Brookbank was removed, as suggested by Mr. Fusaro, the parking would fill up immediately and become an issue there as well. Discussion followed on permit parking spots and resolving a noise issue.

Mr. Steve Dickman, 1128 62nd Place, suggested that the students use the Eagle parking lot or the church lot on Middaugh Street, since the church was more convenient to the students. He inquired as to the cost of the parking spaces. Mr. Dickman supported the 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. restriction.

Discussion followed that the Eagle parking lot was private property and the fact that the Village did not have a responsibility to provide parking for the students and the church may not want to assume liability.

Mr. Fera explained that the Village recently reduced its annual parking fee from \$275.00 to \$250.00 for the school year and no one from staff or the Village had approached the church about the parking issue.

Mr. Kevin Kurnik, 1136 62nd Place, explained the 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. restriction worked prior to this year. However, the school instituted late arrivals (10:00 a.m.) and the students parked on Brookbank, near the park, because it was a 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. restriction. He suggested revising the restriction to 10:00 a.m.

Mr. Fera indicated he would contact the high school regarding future late arrival dates.

Chairman Johnson asked the residents for their preference of the restriction wherein a number of residents agreed a No Parking restriction from 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. would be amenable.

Ms. Kurnik, discussed how the high school has made recent changes to early dismissals and is now having students arrive at school later rather than leave earlier due to extracurricular activities. Approximately eight late arrival dates existed throughout the school year, mostly on Wednesdays.

Chairman Johnson agreed the school would not change their schedule for the year and asked residents if they felt the parking that was going on by the soccer field was a result of the 10:00 a.m. restriction. Residents agreed it was due to the ten o'clock school start time.

Mr. Kurnik, explained the reason the restriction near the park was changed to 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. from the 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. restriction was due to making the park available to the public. The longer restriction prohibited the park's use. He believed extending the time to 10:00 a.m. would restrict the students completely.

Chairman Johnson believed since only eight late arrival dates existed, it may be better to remain with the 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. restriction first.

Commissioner Wendt inquired as to the logic of restricting both sides of the street and suggested restricting one side first to see what happens and still allow for parking.

Ms. Kathy Pabis, did not support that suggestion only because no sidewalks existed in the area and safety was an issue.

Ms. Sue Smith, 1133 62nd Place, asked as to why Middaugh Street and other streets had No Parking signs on both sides of the street and why would 62nd Place be the experiment? She and other residents agreed a safety issue existed with the younger, elementary students.

Discussing sidewalks, **Chairman Johnson** indicated that 62nd Place was low on the sidewalk matrix to receive sidewalks, which he agreed was an issue.

Ms. Keenan believed restricting one street would not solve the issue with snow plows and street cleaners.

Commissioner Carlquist, personally, did not like to restrict parking but he did see a consensus among the residents for the change. He supported the No Parking restriction from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and considered the eight late arrival dates not an issue.

Discussion followed by **Chairman Johnson** on the importance of safety and providing services to the residents, which were the reasons why the issues had to be weighed and a decision made for the majority.

ORDINANCE NO. _____

**AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING CERTAIN
PARKING RESTRICTIONS ON 62ND PLACE**

BE IT ORDAINED by the Village Council of the Village of Downers Grove in DuPage County,
Illinois, as follows: (Additions are indicated by **shading**/underline; deletions by ~~strikeout~~):

Section 1. That Section 14.104.8. is hereby amended to read as follows:

14.104.8. Same --Between 7:00 A.M. and 9:00 A.M., except on weekends and holidays.

It shall be unlawful for any person to park or let stand any automobile, motor vehicle or other vehicle at any time between the hours of 7:00 A.M. and 9:00 A.M., local time, on any day other than Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays, in the following location:

Brookbank Road, on the west side, from 60th Place to a point 471 feet north of 63rd Street.

Grant Street, on the south side, between Seeley Avenue and a point one hundred ten feet west of the west line of Oakwood Avenue.

Highland Avenue, on the west side, from a point sixty-five feet north of the north line of Grant Street to Sherman Street.

Indianapolis Avenue, on the north side, between Cumnor Road and Fairview Avenue.

Oakwood Avenue, on the west side, between a point one hundred seventeen feet south of Ogden Avenue and a point one hundred seventy-two feet north of the north line of Grant Street; and on the west side between a point one hundred twenty feet south of the south line of Grant Street and Chicago Street.

62nd Place, on both the south and north sides, between Carpenter Street and Brookbank Road.

(Ord. No. 3305. § 2.)

Section 2. That all ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with the provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed.

Section 3. That this ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and publication in the manner provided by law.

Mayor

Passed:
Published:
Attest: _____
Village Clerk