

Approved May 10, 2006

PARKING & TRAFFIC COMMISSION

Minutes of Public Hearing

April 12, 2006

Downers Grove Public Works Facility
5101 Walnut Avenue, Downers Grove

Chairman Johnson called the April 12, 2006 meeting of the Parking and Traffic Commission to order at 7:00 p.m. Roll call followed and a quorum was established.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Commissioners Carlquist, Stapleton, Thurston, Wendt, Yeksigian, Chairman Johnson

Absent: Commissioner Kren

Staff Present: Mr. Dorin Fera, Traffic Manager; Public Works Dir. Dave Barber, Asst. Dir. Mike Millette; Police Officer Tim Sembach, Sgt. Mike Willison, and Recording Secretary Megan Dugard

Visitors: Ms. Kathy Nybo, 5252 Blodgett, Downers Grove; Mr. Tom Nybo, 5253 Blodgett, Downers Grove; Ms. Patty Page, 606 Austin, Downers Grove; Mr. Greg Taviani, 632 Gierz St, Downers Grove; Ms. Tina Welch, 4941 Main, Downers Grove; and Mr. Bill Grant, 4800 Prospect, Downers Grove.

Chairman Johnson informed the commissioners that the meeting was being recorded on Village owned equipment to aid in the preparation of the meeting minutes.

APPROVAL OF MARCH 8, 2006 MINUTES

COMMISSIONER WENDT MOVED TO APPROVE THE MARCH 8, 2006 MINUTES AS PRESENTED. COMMISSIONER THURSTON SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION PASSED BY VOICE VOTE OF 6-0.

NEW BUSINESS

File #05-06 15-Minute Parking - Update. **Chairman Johnson** read staff's report as it related to the two 15-Minute parking spaces located in front of Angelo's Pizzeria and at Aurelio's Pizzeria and continuing their restrictions until the Acadia on the Green construction project is completed.

Chairman Johnson opened up the meeting for public comment. No comments received.

COMMISSIONER CARLQUIST MADE A MOTION THAT THE PLAN COMMISSION FOLLOW STAFF'S RECOMMENDATION TO MAINTAIN THE THREE TEMPORARY PARKING RESTRICTIONS UNTIL THE COMPLETION OF THE ACADIA ON THE GREEN PROJECT AND THAT THE SPACES BE REVIEWED AT THAT TIME. COMMISSIONER STAPLETON SECONDED THE MOTION. ROLL CALL:

AYE: CARLQUIST, STAPLETON, THURSTON, WENDT, YEKSIGIAN, CHAIRMAN JOHNSON

NAY: NONE

MOTION CARRIED. VOTE: 6-0

File #07-06 Loading Zones and Handicapped Spaces Review - CBD - Chairman Johnson discussed that some of the spaces in question are existing and due to a lack of handicap spaces north of the railroad tracks, staff has suggested to add more spaces. A review of those spaces which staff believed should be implemented and updated in the zoning code followed:

For Loading Zones:

Revise Code Section 14-108.2 to:

Add a loading zone across from 5017 Highland Avenue;
Add a loading zone across from 4945 Forest Avenue;
Add a loading zone on 4941 Main Street;
Remove a loading zone on Saratoga Ave., north of Warren
Remove a loading zone in the alley west of 1010 Curtiss Street

Revise Code Section 14-108.3 to:

Change title from "15-Minute Loading Zone between 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m." to "15-Minute Loading Zone between 7:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m."

For Handicapped Parking Spaces:

Revise Code Section 14-108 to add handicap parking spaces at four (4) locations, subject to engineering verification:

1. Warren Avenue, north side, between Main Street and Forest Avenue;
2. Rogers Street, North side, east of Main Street;
3. Forest Avenue, west side, north of Warren Avenue, near 4945 Forest Avenue; and
4. Main Street, west side, south of Franklin Street

Mr. Barber clarified that the change in the loading zones was significant because it eliminated the loading zone after 3:00 p.m. which allowed for open parking in the evening and was necessary in the downtown district.

Chairman Johnson opened up the meeting to public comment.

Ms. Kathy Nybo, 5253 Blodgett, Downers Grove, works at 4941 Main Street and is familiar with the loading zone outside of her office. Specific to this loading zone, Ms. Nybo expressed concern about children's safety since many of them were walking from St. Joe's over to the White Hen. Sight lines were an issue because the trucks were so large. She stated the Pepsi truck unloads on the street side and not on the sidewalk side and blocks a large portion of Main Street with cones, forcing the traffic to travel elsewhere. Another issue is the machine tooling truck which sit for hours at a time in the loading zone. She stated a nearby parking lot existed for the trucks to use. She supported a time limit on the loading/unloading signage.

Officer Sembach was not aware of any restriction requiring trucks to unload on specific sides of their vehicle. As to obstructing the roadway, he believed there was a restriction and asked that Ms. Nybo call the police department if there was an issue.

Mr. Tom Nybo, 5253 Blodgett, Downers Grove, stated the issue at 4941 Main Street existed because the loading zone was not in front of the businesses that used it. He believed the loading zone should be in front of Lang's Auto or in front of White Hen. He agreed there was an abuse of the loading zone and believed Lang's and White Hen should be using their parking lots for the unloading of their trucks.

Chairman Johnson recalled that the loading zone may have been selected at its current location due to a sight distance issue when it was located closer to the intersection near the cleaners. Other dialog followed that the striping of the street also affected the loading space on the other side of the street and it was at the last meeting that the commissioners felt it was awkward. **Mr. Barber** reminded the commission that the left turn at Rogers would be eliminated which was part of the traffic obstruction problem.

Mr. Nybo asked that the commission reconsider making a loading/unloading zone at 4941 Main Street and return the area to two or three parking spaces. However, **Chairman Johnson** clarified that staff's recommendation would be that the area would be a loading zone from 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and would open up parking afterwards.

Mrs. Nybo commented upon the previous discussions that took place with White Hen which resulted in a negative reaction from the previous owners. In general, she supported the addition of handicap parking spaces.

Mr. Yeksigian asked if the loading zone on Main Street could be relocated to Rogers Street or switched with the handicap spot on Rogers, wherein **Mr. Fera** explained that the handicap spot would require two spaces on Main. After reviewing Rogers Street, **Mr. Fera** stated the last parking stall on Rogers provided a nice transition to allow for a break in the curb, whereas, on Main Street it did not, and provided more of a challenge. **Mr. Fera** reminded the commission that a concept was being considered; however, he was open to ideas.

Chairman Johnson and some other commissioners shared their concerns about placing the handicap space on Main Street due to the traffic and narrowness of the area.

Mr. Tom Nybo, called attention that two sides of Rogers existed where the loading zone could be located on one side while the handicap space on the opposite side. **Mr. Barber** would review that option (south side of Rogers) and return next month.

Mr. Wendt suggested that staff revise the current signage to limit unloading to 3:00 p.m. and see what happens; however, **Mr. Barber** explained that the code restricts until 6:00 p.m. He believed the 3:00 p.m. restriction would not be an issue.

No further questions followed on the remaining staff recommendations. Staff would return after reviewing the comments made.

COMMISSIONER YEKSIGIAN MADE A MOTION THAT THE PLAN COMMISSION TABLE THE LOADING ZONES AND HANDICAP SPACES REVIEW. COMMISSIONER CARLQUIST SECONDED THE MOTION. ROLL CALL:

AYE: WENDT, CARLQUIST, STAPLETON, THURSTON, YEKSIGIAN, CHAIRMAN JOHNSON

NAY: NONE

MOTION CARRIED. VOTE: 6-0

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Greg Taviani, 632 Gierz Street, Downers Grove, stated he contacted the mayor regarding making Linden Place between Chicago and Prairie either a one-way street or installing a speed

bump. Safety was a concern because he had three young boys. He thought the matter was going to be on the agenda and he had a signed petition. **Mr. Barber** explained the petition needed to be turned in, staff would review the matter, and notify him of when it would be on the agenda. Mr. Taviani then provided the petition to the Traffic Manager.

Mr. Bill Grant, 4800 Prospect Avenue, Downers Grove, also agreed the above matter was a safety issue. He also requested that the Village consider a speed limit reduction on Prairie Avenue from 30 MPH to 25 MPH from Main Street to Fairview due to the nearby school and park. **Mr. Taviani** then presented a neighborhood petition to the Traffic Manager.

Chairman Johnson noted that Prairie Avenue was designated as a collector street which was why the posted speed limit existed. However, he noted that staff would review the petition.

Ms. Patti Page, 606 Austin Street, Downers Grove, had concerns about traffic around Lester School and wanted to know what steps the Village is taking regarding this issue.

Mr. Barber confirmed he received her letter and explained that two issues existed. First, staff reviewed the alternative one-way streets as a solution but did not return with a second recommendation because the matter was delayed due to paving issues and funding source issues. Staff agreed it was time to discuss the matter again. Secondly, **Mr. Barber** stated that someone will have to sit on-site and verify the traffic around Lester School. Discussion followed that the school's PTA needed to educate the parents on the correct procedure for dropping off and picking up their children as well as partner with the village in order to solve the traffic problem around the school.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Wendt raised discussion about of section of Woodward Avenue, between 63rd Street and the Village of Woodridge corporate line, and when repairing of the area would take place. There are some noticeable potholes in the section. **Mr. Barber** indicated a grant was received for the project but he estimated the project would begin next year. He stated staff was in the process of completing the design but some temporary patching would take place.

ADJOURN

COMMISSIONER YEKSIAN MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. COMMISSIONER WENDT SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE OF 6-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
(as transcribed by tape)

/s/ Celeste K. Weilandt
Celeste K. Weilandt, Recording Secretary