

VILLAGE OF DOWNERS GROVE
REPORT FOR THE VILLAGE COUNCIL WORKSHOP
MAY 8, 2007 AGENDA

SUBJECT:	TYPE:	SUBMITTED BY:
Parking Restrictions on Prairie Avenue – Washington Street to 450’ east of Washington Street	✓ Resolution Ordinance Motion Discussion Only	David H. Barber, PE Public Works Director

SYNOPSIS

An ordinance has been prepared to enact “No Parking Anytime” restrictions on the north side of Prairie Avenue, between Washington Street and four hundred fifty feet (450’) east of Washington Street. On March 14, 2007, the Parking and Traffic Commission recommended approval of the Ordinance.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

The Vision for 2021 identified *Unique Neighborhoods*. A supporting objective of this statement is *Top Quality Infrastructure Tailored to Each Neighborhood*.

FISCAL IMPACT

The cost of the new signs is estimated at about \$500. Adequate funds are included in the approved FY 07 budget in the General Fund for the additional signs.

RECOMMENDATION

Approval on the May 15, 2007 active agenda.

BACKGROUND

Staff has observed that motorists are parking on the north side of Prairie Avenue to the east of Washington Street in the vicinity of a significant vertical curve. When a vehicle is parked in this area passing vehicles are forced to cross the centerline due to the limited width of Prairie Avenue which increases the potential for vehicular collisions. The south side of Prairie Avenue is already posted as “No Parking 6AM to 6PM except Saturday, Sunday & Holidays”.

With a block length of approximately 650 feet, motorists are choosing to park within the first 300 feet, to be closer to Washington Street. Based on numerous drives through this section, staff believes that with limited sight distance, a narrow roadway, and consistent vehicular travel, especially during AM and PM travel times, a positive intervention is required.

Staff has reviewed several possible alternatives for this section of roadway. These included: a “4-Hour Parking”; a “No Parking This Side of Street”; a “No Parking 6 AM to 6 PM”, and also a “No Parking Any Time” within the vertical curve area. The overall objective is to address both the specific safety issue and to avoid penalizing the adjacent homeowners with excessive parking restrictions.

The proposed “No Parking Anytime” is limited to the first 450’ and the south side of the street is open for parking on weekends and holidays and in the evening after 6PM.

ATTACHMENTS

Ordinance
 Parking & Traffic Commission Meeting Minutes, November 8, 2006
 Location Drawing

Prairie Parking #2

ORDINANCE NO. _____

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING PARKING RESTRICTIONS ON PRAIRIE AVENUE

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 14.98 is hereby amended to read as follows:

14.98 No parking zones-Generally.

No person shall park or let stand, any automobile, motor vehicle or other vehicle at any time in any of the following locations:

* * *

Prairie Avenue, on the north side, from the east line of Washington Street to a point four hundred fifty feet (450') east of the east line of Washington Street.

* * *

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

**Village of Downers Grove
Parking & Traffic Commission
March 14, 2007 Meeting**

File #04-07 Prairie Avenue, Washington to Elm Street - Parking Restrictions. **Chairman Johnson** summarized that there have been parking issues on Prairie Avenue, especially near the hill, make visibility an issue. From staff's report, it appears commuters are parking along the street and staff was recommending to restrict parking on part of the block. **Mr. Fera** added that staff was not aware of the severity and it was a newly discovered area of concern. Rather than restrict the entire block staff felt restricting the No Parking Any Time for 450 feet would be sufficient to cover the hill portion.

A question was raised by **Chairman Johnson** as to whether the commission was moving prematurely on this matter, given the fact that Prairie Avenue was going under a redesign. **Chairman Johnson** also had concerns about which sides the parking would remain on Prairie and the center striping of the street. **Mr. Barber** mentioned this issue was raised during the discussions staff had with the neighbors on the project. Prairie Avenue was going to be partially reconstructed and partially resurfaced. Staff felt the matter should move forward. Regarding the center line, **Mr. Barber** suggested leaving it alone for now because the plans for Prairie were tentatively approved by the state and the Phase I traffic calming measures appeared to be working on the street. Therefore, staff was not recommending significant changes to the street.

Mr. Frank Falesch, 820 Prairie Avenue, Downers Grove, discussed a meeting he attended last fall where the details of the construction to take place on Prairie were discussed. During that meeting there was discussion about some minor engineering to take place east of the hill. He recalled at one time there was no parking on the north side of Prairie and he saw no problem with what was being proposed. However, he did not understand why the reconstruction was taking place because he believed the road was in good condition. **Mr. Barber**, however, explained the analysis of the road base determined the reconstruction of Prairie Avenue. **Mr. Falesch** thought otherwise.

COMMISSIONER STAPLETON MOVED TO APPROVE STAFF TO INSTALL "NO PARKING ANY TIME" SIGNAGE ON THE NORTH SIDE OF PRAIRIE AVENUE, BETWEEN WASHINGTON STREET AND 450 FEET EAST OF WASHINGTON STREET.

SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER CARLQUIST.

ROLL CALL:

AYE: MR. STAPLETON, MR. CARLQUIST, MR. THURSTON, CHAIRMAN JOHNSON

NAY: NONE

MOTION CARRIED. VOTE: 4-0

PRAIRIE AVE. WASHINGTON TO ELM PARKING RESTRICTIONS P & T FILE #04-07

EXHIBIT 1

