

**TRANSPORTATION AND PARKING COMMISSION**  
**Minutes – July 14, 2021**  
**Council Chambers – Village Hall**  
**801 Burlington Avenue, Downers Grove**

Chairman Carter called the July 14, 2021 meeting of the Transportation and Parking Commission to order at 7:02 P.M. and led the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL**

**Present:** Chairman Carter, Commissioners O’Malley, Novak, Saricks, Shiliga,

**Absent:** Commissioners Carlson & Heverin

**Staff:** Public Works Director Andy Sikich, Public Works Traffic Engineer Will Lorton, Community Service Officer Jim Hartleb, and Police Support Services Manager Bill Budds

**Visitor Roster:** Laura Temple, Karen Laio, Stephanie Slavkin, Andrew Wood, Karen Thomas, Jacqueline Erickson, Bridget Ryan, Vito Siciliano, Caroline Shields, Angie Winslow, Brandon Gabry, Brian Erickson, Lisa Lockerby, Louis Buttny, Bill Sweeney, Toni Gabry, Megan Sweeney, Gary Kline, Jean Franklin

A quorum was established.

Chairman Carter reviewed the procedures to be followed for the meeting, explaining that the Commission will forward a recommendation to the Village Council for approval.

**APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 22, 2020 MINUTES**

**Chairman Carter asked for one amendment to show that he was not present at the October 22, 2020 meeting.**

**COMMISSIONER NOVAK MOVED TO ACCEPT MEETING MINUTES AS AMENDED. COMMISSIONER SARICKS SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**ALL IN FAVOR. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE 5:0.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

No public comment on non-agenda items.

Chairman Carter proceeded to the files on the agenda.

**File #1-21 Prairie Avenue & Forest Avenue Traffic & Safety Improvements**

Public Works Director Andy Sikich presented information regarding the intersection of Prairie Avenue & Forest Avenue located approximately 300 feet from the traffic signal at Main Street & Prairie Avenue. The primary reason this is being addressed is due to the high number of traffic

accidents at this intersection since 2015. Twenty-four accidents occurred at the intersection between January 2015 and April 2021. The majority of these accidents involved vehicles on northbound Forest Avenue colliding with vehicles on eastbound Prairie Avenue, totaling 14 out of 24. Contributing factors to most of the incidents appear to be traffic volume and speeds on Prairie Avenue, the traffic volume on Forest Avenue turning onto Prairie Avenue, and sight distance obstructions primarily looking west from northbound Forest Avenue.

Mr. Sikich explained that traffic volumes on Forest Avenue are quite high compared to other side streets off of Prairie Avenue between Main Street and Belmont Road. Most of the other streets carry anywhere from 300-1,000 cars per day, but Forest Avenue is consistently at or above 2,000 cars per day. Prairie Avenue averages between 6,000-6,500 vehicles per day. The sight line of motorists northbound on Forest Avenue looking west is obstructed, causing drivers to move past the stop sign to get a better view of oncoming traffic. When residents reached out regarding this intersection, the Village's initial response was to prune parkway trees to improve sight lines and to deploy driver speed feedback signs at the intersection. Police presence and enforcement has also been increased at this intersection.

Mr. Sikich said that a neighborhood meeting was held on March 30, 2021, where staff presented proposed improvements including a median on Prairie Avenue, additional striping and signage. These improvements would prevent left turns and would prevent traffic on Forest Avenue from crossing Prairie Avenue. It would also provide traffic calming on Prairie Avenue and increase pedestrian safety. Also in March, a petition was presented to staff representing 10 of the 17 households on the block of Forest Avenue south of Prairie Avenue and north of Franklin Street, requesting northbound Forest Avenue be completely blocked at Prairie Avenue.

In May, staff installed temporary improvements to simulate the proposed improvements, consisting of a median of water filled barricades, and additional striping and signage. Baseline traffic counts were taken throughout the neighborhood immediately prior to the installation. The intent was to leave the improvements in place for 60 days and then take another set of traffic counts to determine the effect of the improvements on neighborhood traffic. However, the improvements were removed after less than two weeks due to observed dangerous driving behaviors, such as drivers making a left turn into oncoming traffic on Prairie Avenue, drivers making three-point turns at the end of the median, and a significant number of drivers rolling the stop sign on northbound Forest Avenue.

Mr. Sikich then presented several potential options for improvements at this location, along with the anticipated benefits and challenges associated with each. The three primary options identified by staff included (1) Stop signs, 3-way or 4-way; (2) Right-in/Right-out on Forest Avenue, applied to just the south leg or both legs of Forest Avenue; and (3) Permanent closure of Forest Avenue at Prairie Avenue, applied to just the south leg or both legs of Forest Avenue.

In addition to the primary options, additional striping and signage will be added to the intersection to call attention to crosswalks, stop signs, etc., and sightlines will be improved to the extent possible. If desired by the Commission, additional traffic calming elements can be added to Prairie Avenue as well. This could consist of programmable signal heads on the eastbound side of the traffic signal at Main Street, and/or a median or curb-bump outs in the vicinity of the intersection at Prairie Avenue and Forest Avenue to slow traffic and improve pedestrian safety.

## **COMMISSIONER CARTER OPENED DISCUSSION AMONGST THE COMMISSION**

Mr. Shiliga asked about the financial cost of the options. Mr. Sikich stated that specific costs have not been developed, but that he does not believe cost is a major factor.

Mr. Novak is concerned about any improvements relocating the problem to another intersection along Prairie Avenue, and asked about best practices that have been done in other communities. Mr. Sikich stated that the options presented are what staff believes are the best practices that are most applicable to this situation, and that a trial of the improvements is recommended before actual implementation so that the impacts on neighborhood traffic could be evaluated.

Mr. Saricks asked about the possibility of having a roundabout. Mr. Sikich stated there is not enough room to incorporate a roundabout with adequate pedestrian safety.

Ms. O'Malley asked if there has been any impact to the neighborhood traffic subsequent to the changes at 55th Street and Washington Street. Mr. Sikich stated that he does not know if there is any data on changes to the traffic patterns since that work was done by the County.

Mr. Saricks asked if this meets warrants needed to install stop signs. Mr. Lorton said that yes, the number of crashes within a 12 month period would warrant a stop sign at this location.

Mr. Shiliga is concerned that a 4-way stop sign would back cars up onto Main Street, and asked how many cars on average could be stopped at the stop sign before it would be a concern. Mr. Sikich believes that about nine cars would be able to be stopped and not cause an issue on Main Street.

Chairman Carter stated that he is not opposed to closing Forest Avenue, but that it may impact traffic using the Forest Avenue railroad crossing. Mr. Sikich stated that is one of the things that would be evaluated during a trial period.

Chairman Carter asked if signaling the intersection was considered. Mr. Sikich believes it would likely have to be combined with the signal at Main Street and it would be expensive. He believes that the three options presented are the best solutions at this time.

Mr. Shiliga asked if there is a staff preferred option. Mr. Sikich stated that all of the options have pros and cons, and will have varying degrees of impact to the neighborhood traffic. Staff is asking for input from the Commission, and supports any of the options presented.

## **COMMISSIONER CARTER OPENED UP THE PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

### **PUBLIC COMMENT ON FILE #1-21**

Laura Temple, 1115 Prairie Avenue, stated that she is concerned that the median would block her driveway if moved further west, and also would be between her house and the fire hydrant on the opposite side of the street. She is concerned that the trial counts were taken when school was out at North High School. Ms. Temple stated that Forest Avenue is busy in the morning on the way to and from North High and the Forest Avenue circle is a key drop off point. She is not in

favor of closing Forest Avenue. She would prefer to see increased enforcement at this intersection.

Karen Laio, 4608 Forest Avenue, stated that North High school changed the drop off pattern to the school in about 2015 when they changed the parking areas. She saw a significant increase in cars on Forest Avenue after the change, with a line of cars past Chicago Avenue waiting to drop kids off. She believes that Prince Street. should be opened up for drop offs, as well as Main Street. Her husband walks every morning and has almost been hit on that block by a car on several occasions. Her husband feels that trees block the view of pedestrians, and cars drive very fast.

Stephanie Slavkin, 4640 Forest Avenue, stated that she walks from the train to her house and crossing Prairie Avenue during rush hour is dangerous. She would like to see a stop sign farther west on Prairie Avenue.

Andrew Wood, 1115 Prairie Avenue, has observed many accidents at this intersection over the 27 years he has lived there. Feels that the issue is primarily eastbound and northbound traffic, with eastbound going too fast, and northbound not stopping. He believes these solutions are going too far, and would like to see more attention paid to the stop signs that are already in place.

Karen Thomas, 4713 Forest Avenue, is a teacher at North High school and frequently walks up and down Forest Avenue. She stated that it is very difficult to see down Prairie Avenue, and she agrees that parkway trees are a sight obstruction and that additional stop signs should be added on Prairie Avenue, possibly at Oakwood Avenue and Saratoga Avenue. She stated that North High school closed Prince Street for drop off because the busses drop off in that location.

Jacqueline Erickson, 4800 block of Forest Avenue, stated that she would like to see stop signs or speed bumps on Prairie Avenue. She thinks people will speed to make the green light at Main Street, even if a stop sign is placed on Prairie Avenue at Oakwood Avenue.

Bridget Ryan, 4800 block of Forest Avenue, believes that too much traffic is using Forest Avenue as a bypass to avoid Main Street.

Vito Siciliano, 4808 Forest Avenue, stated that these same issues were discussed 20 years ago and all that was done was to restrict left turns from westbound Prairie Avenue to southbound Forest Avenue. He stated that nobody adheres to that restriction. He believes that speeding is out of control on Forest Avenue, and that drivers will even pass cars that are going to slow. He believes that stop signs on Prairie Avenue would be ignored by drivers. He believes that cars avoid Main Street because the lights at Franklin Street and Main Street and at Prairie Avenue and Main Street are not synchronized. He would like to see Forest Avenue blocked off at Main Street, and Franklin Street changed to one-way eastbound.

Caroline Shields, 4820 Forest Avenue, believes that the problem is that everyone is acting as if Prairie Avenue and Forest Avenue are Ogden Avenue or Main Street. She has three young kids ages six to eleven and she and other moms do not want to let their kids cross Prairie Avenue anywhere, and definitely not at Forest Avenue, because it's unsafe. She agrees with closing Forest Avenue on the south side, while also ensuring traffic is not directed to Prince Street.

Angie Winslow, 4816 Forest Avenue, is in agreement that the speeding on this block is ridiculous. She has video of cars passing other cars on Forest Avenue. She understands there is a concern about moving the problem somewhere else, but something has to be done to get some of the traffic off of their block. She is not in favor of a three or four-way stop at the intersection of Prairie Avenue and Forest Avenue. She is in favor of closing Forest Avenue at Prairie Avenue.

Brandon Gabry, 4826 Forest Avenue, understands the concern about the railroad crossing on Forest Avenue, but believes that traffic should take Franklin Street to Main Street, and not the 4800 block of Forest Avenue. He is in favor of closing Forest Avenue at Prairie Avenue with a bump out into Prairie Avenue to help with traffic calming. He is concerned about driver complacency with a right-in/right-out northbound to turn east onto Prairie Avenue.

Brian Erickson, 4800 block of Forest Avenue, stated that the speed data on Forest Avenue was taken 18 feet from the stop sign, and he does not believe that putting a stop sign on Prairie Avenue will address the issue of people speeding on Forest Avenue and ignoring the stop sign. He is concerned that a kid on a bicycle will be hit by a car that does not stop at the stop sign. Mr. Erickson stated that the traffic counts on the blocks to the west on Prince Street, Saratoga Avenue, Linscott Avenue, Oakwood Avenue, etc. collectively have less than 2000 cars. He stated that Prince Street averages 320 cars per day, and Forest Avenue has 2500. He referenced an engineering study that categorizes local streets by the amount of daily traffic, with a "poor" rating given to any street with over 1,200 cars per day. He stated that Forest Avenue sees 2,500 cars on a day when the high school is closed. He disagrees with the stop sign option, and believes it may cause more accidents. He submitted a FOIA request which showed that 4 accidents have occurred at this intersection since April 15th. One of his neighbors recently got into an accident going into his own driveway. Mr. Erickson stated that he and his wife do not feel safe. He believes the only option that makes it a safer intersection for both drivers and kids would be to close Forest Avenue at Prairie Avenue. He requested that, if Forest Avenue is not closed off, at least 5 speed bumps be installed curb to curb on his street because they should not be seeing 2,500 cars every single day.

Lisa Lockerby, 4732 Forest Avenue, asked if she remembered correctly from the neighborhood meeting that many of the accidents were caused by people who were not from the area. Mr. Sikich stated that he believes so, but does not recall for certain. She said that every time she calls 911 for an accident the people say they thought there was a stop sign and they could not see because of all of the parkway obstructions. Her kids have also said they cannot see due to parkway obstructions such as trees and utility boxes, which she believes is part of the problem, especially for people who are not from the area.

Louis Buttny, 4828 Forest Avenue, was hit by a car heading northbound on Forest Avenue while he was backing into his driveway. He believes that something needs to be done. He found a study from 1998, and all they got was a "no left turn" sign. If something could be done for them they would appreciate it.

Bill Sweeney, 4641 Forest Avenue, stated that he appreciates the safety concerns, but he is opposed to permanently closing off Forest Avenue. As a resident he does use Forest Avenue to get downtown, and when it was temporarily blocked off he used Prince Street instead of Forest Avenue. He believes increased enforcement would help. He thinks something needs to be done, but he believes some of the other measures should be tried first, before closing off the street.

Vito Siciliano, 4808 Forest Avenue, stated that he is for blocking Forest Avenue off at Prairie Avenue from both directions. He also believes that if speed bumps are used, there would need to be at least five of them on this block of Forest Avenue. He also would like the Village to synchronize the lights at Franklin Street and Main Street and Prairie Avenue and Main Street, and that Franklin Street has to be one-way.

Toni Gabry, 4826 Forest Avenue, is in favor of permanently closing Forest Avenue on the south end, because the 4800 block alone sees 2500 cars per day. She understands that the 4600 and 4700 blocks will be inconvenienced, but they are not seeing the high traffic volumes that the 4800 block is seeing per day.

Megan Sweeney, 4641 Forest Avenue, does not believe that closing Forest Avenue will help with speeding on Prairie Avenue. Pedestrians will still have to cross Prairie Avenue and that solution will not slow people down or make children safer crossing Prairie Avenue. She also believes that most of the traffic will move to Prince Street. She asked if there are problems with the intersection of Prairie Avenue and Washington, due to the railroad crossing at Washington. Mr. Sikich said that intersection is a bit of a different situation, but he is not aware that it has the significant number of accidents that Prairie Avenue and Forest Avenue does.

Gary Kline, 4742 Forest Avenue, stated that he has been working from home for the last 1.5 years, and every day he hears horns honking and tires screeching at that corner.

Brian Erickson, 4805 Forest Avenue, believes that the number of accidents is alarming, but what isn't captured are the near misses and horn honkings as Mr. Kline reported. He has sent a number of videos to Mr. Sikich and the Village Council, some have 10-13 year old kids riding bicycles, and the horn honks are chilling. When the barricade was implemented, people never stopped at the stop sign. He feels that the impact of the barricade was that people never stopped to go left or straight, and there was a parade of cars going one after the other right through the stop sign. He feels that a right-only will continue the issue of people not stopping.

Jean Franklin, 4716 Forest Avenue, stated that when the barricade was up she was very concerned with all the bicyclists, because there was no room for a bicycle to get down Prairie Avenue with a car. She saw a group of boys riding bikes going north on the 4800 block of Forest Avenue and they were all over the road due to the narrowness. She stated that she does not want the street blocked off at Forest Avenue 4700. She feels that everyone just went around to Prince Street when the barricades were up. She felt it was confusing for motorists. She prefers the 4-way stop sign option, and would like to see more stop signs all along Prairie Avenue. She understands that there is a lot of traffic on the 4800 block of Forest Avenue, and there have always been a lot of accidents at that corner since she's lived there.

Andrew Wood, 1115 Prairie Avenue, stated that he would be most affected by options 1 and 2. He stated that putting in a 3 or 4-way stop sign will create backups going well west and east on Prairie Avenue preventing them from getting in and out of their driveways. He also stated that a right-in/right-out with a median extension would go well west of their driveway, impeding their ability to get in and out. He feels that stop signs will create more fender benders there.

## **CHAIRMAN CARTER CLOSED THE PUBLIC COMMENT**

## **CHAIRMAN CARTER OPENED DISCUSSION AMONGST THE COMMISSION**

Chairman Carter asked if the Main Street project at North High school is still planned. Mr. Sikich confirmed that it is still planned, but the design process has just started. Chairman Carter stated that he is concerned that if Main Street is reduced to one lane in each direction, even the perception of impeding traffic could exacerbate the cut-through traffic on Forest Avenue. He asked what enforcement efforts have been done to help decrease the accidents and concerns. Mr. Budds said that enforcement has increased and since June 8th, 30 officers have spent extra patrol time at this intersection resulting in 13 traffic stops, and 12 tickets issued. The feedback received from officers mirrors what residents are seeing: cars not stopping completely at the stop sign and rolling through.

Chairman Carter would like staff to reach out to school District 99 to see if anything can be done to help alleviate the issue with drop off. He stated that he is not sure the stop sign option is viable, because it relies on enforcement. He asked if Prairie Avenue would get a stop sign if Forest Avenue were closed. Mr. Sikich responded no, but that traffic calming could be added to Prairie Avenue to help slow the traffic down, and programmable signal heads could be used to avoid speeding to “catch the light.” Chairman Carter questioned if the stop sign on Prairie Avenue could be done along with the dead end on Prairie Avenue. Mr. Sikich responded that he believes there would be significant non-compliance in that case.

Mr. Shiliga stated that Prairie Avenue is a long road without stops and is a major thoroughfare that could use additional stop signs. Mr. Sikich responded that stop signs are not generally used for speed control, because unwarranted stop signs tend to be ignored, and could potentially increase rear-end collisions.

Chairman Carter believes that there needs to be some additional hybrid options, combining some of the options together to meet the needs and safety of the public.

Mr. Novak stated that he is not sure about stop signs, and believes the timing of the Main Street signals is important. He asked if Downers Grove could implement speed cameras. Mr. Budds stated that the City of Chicago and the Department of Transportation are the only ones that can use speed cameras currently in the State of Illinois. Mr. Novak is concerned with sight obstructions on Prairie Avenue, and that there is not a lot of traffic calming. He stated that he does not think stop signs are a good option, and that the temporary barrier did not work. He does not want to impact property value, and believes that maybe there is another option.

Ms. O’Malley stated that traffic on Prairie Avenue does need to slow down.

Mr. Saricks asked if there was a plan to introduce traffic calming on Prairie Avenue to the west of this location, or just at Forest Avenue. He believes that coordinating the signals at Franklin Street and Prairie Avenue on Main Street is an excellent concept. He asked if a full area study needs to be done first so traffic is not diverted and dumped onto other areas. Mr. Sikich said the west part of Prairie Avenue is currently being studied in a neighborhood traffic study, and he believes the safety at this intersection can be improved with traffic calming and other improvements within this 1-2 block section.

Mr. Novak asked if anything at Warren has been considered, where cars coming over the tracks on Forest Avenue would have to go east on Warren Avenue to force them to Main Street. Mr. Sikich stated that he believes the signal at Burlington Avenue and Main Street is not efficient enough to move that much traffic onto Main Street due to its proximity to the tracks.

Chairman Carter asked what dictates putting signalization at an intersection. Mr. Sikich stated that there are warrants that need to be met, and the traffic volumes here would not warrant a signal. Chairman Carter asked if the signals on Main Street could be interconnected. Mr. Sikich said that they are Village signals, and that part of the District 99 Pedestrian Safety Improvement project includes an evaluation and possible modification to signal timing on Main Street.

Chairman Carter said the stop sign option does not work for him. He feels that it would not really be addressing the issue of speeding. He likes the idea of changing lenses on the Main Street signal to prevent people from seeing that they can catch a light. He stated that the right-in/right-out would depend on how it's constructed and what could be done to improve sight lines and move utilities. He believes that permanently closing the legs of Forest Avenue seems like a viable option, but it wouldn't stop the speeding on Prairie Avenue. He believes a hybrid solution is the best solution. Mr. Sikich said that traffic calming could be added to any of the options, to help slow traffic on Prairie Avenue.

Chairman Carter is in favor of temporarily closing the north and south legs of Forest Avenue for evaluation, and also adding programmable signal heads at Main Street and Prairie Avenue, and some sort of traffic calming to slow traffic on Prairie Avenue. Mr. Saricks agreed.

Mr. Novak believes a conversation should be opened with District 99 regarding drop offs, and he agrees that Forest Avenue should be closed at Prairie Avenue on a trial basis. He asked that whatever notices are sent to the neighborhood residents be extended further north to the 4600 and 4500 blocks of Forest Avenue.

**WITH RESPECT TO FILE #1-21, MR. NOVAK MOVED TO RECOMMEND:**

- 1. CLOSURE OF BOTH THE NORTH AND SOUTH LEGS OF FOREST AVENUE AT PRAIRIE AVENUE;**
- 2. ADDING TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES ON PRAIRIE AVENUE AT FOREST AVENUE;**
- 3. ADDING PROGRAMMABLE SIGNAL HEADS ON THE MAIN STREET TRAFFIC SIGNAL AT EASTBOUND PRAIRIE AVENUE;**
- 4. DISCUSSING DROP OFF PATTERNS WITH DISTRICT 99;**
- 5. EVALUATING TRAFFIC PATTERNS OFF OF WARREN AT FRANKLIN; AND**
- 6. DOING THESE MEASURES ON A TRIAL BASIS FIRST TO ASSESS THE IMPACT ON THE NEIGHBORHOOD.**

**SECONDED BY MR. SHILIGA.**

**ALL IN FAVOR. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE 5:0.**

**DISCUSSION OF OLD BUSINESS**

No old business at this time.

**Communications**

No communications at this time.

**ADJOURN**

**MR. NOVAK MOVED TO ADJOURN, SECONDED BY MR. SARICKS.  
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE 5:0.**

Commissioner Carter adjourned the meeting at 8:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Andrea Banke  
Recording Secretary

**TRANSPORTATION AND PARKING COMMISSION**  
**Minutes – August 11, 2021**  
**Council Chambers – Village Hall**  
**801 Burlington Avenue, Downers Grove**

Chairman Carter called the August 11, 2021 meeting of the Transportation and Parking Commission to order at 7:00 P.M. and led the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL**

**Present:** Chairman Carter, Commissioners O'Malley, Novak, Saricks, Shiliga,

**Absent:** Commissioners Carlson & Heverin

**Staff:** Public Works Director Andy Sikich, Traffic Engineer Will Lorton, Community Service Officer Jim Hartleb, and Police Support Services Manager Bill Budds

**Visitor Roster:** Rob Schall, Jacqueline Hull, Rose Pomerantz, Heather Delaquila, Bob Casey, Robert Fanette, Tom Eyman, Fran Eyman

A quorum was established.

Chairman Carter reviewed the procedures to be followed for the meeting, explaining that the Commission will forward a recommendation to the Village Council for approval.

**APPROVAL OF JULY 14, 2021 MINUTES**

**COMMISSIONER SARICKS MOVED TO ACCEPT MEETING MINUTES AS PRESENTED. COMMISSIONER SHILIGA SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**ALL IN FAVOR. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE 5:0.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

No public comment on non-agenda items.

Chairman Carter proceeded to the files on the agenda.

**File #2-21 Fairmount Avenue - Pavement Marking & Intersection Control from 63rd St to 65th St**

Public Works Director Andy Sikich presented information regarding this item which was generated by a resident petition for traffic calming. The area is currently signed at 25 mph, is a collector, and is stop controlled northbound at 63rd St. It is free flowing at 65th St, with 65th under yield control only at Fairmount. The concern is vehicles speeding south of 63rd St. Staff performed traffic counts. Northbound - 457 vehicles per day on Fairmount, with 85th percentile speed of 36.51 mph. Southbound - 622 vehicles per day, with 85th percentile speed of 34.48

mph. Staff recommends edge and center line striping on Fairmount from 63rd to 65th for traffic calming, 4-way stop control at 63rd and 65th, and stop signs at the side streets of Briargate Dr. and Crescent Dr. at Fairmount (no control on Fairmount at those two intersections).

### **CHAIRMAN CARTER OPENED DISCUSSION AMONGST THE COMMISSION**

Mr. Saricks asked if the long, straight configuration of Fairmount is a contributing factor to higher speeds. Mr. Sikich stated that it could be a contributing factor.

Mr. Novak asked if there are any pavement markings along this stretch of Fairmount. Mr. Sikich confirmed that there are no pavement markings or traffic control along this stretch of Fairmount.

### **CHAIRMAN CARTER OPENED UP THE PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT ON FILE #1-21**

Mr. Lorton stated that staff received three emails from residents in favor of staff recommended improvements.

Rob Schall, 6350 Fairmount, stated that he initially put in the request. Believes that traffic moves very fast, sometimes in excess of 60 mph, and that the hill increases their momentum. He has witnessed drag racing, and he fears for pedestrians. It is hard to see cars coming around the curve. He is in favor of these improvements.

Jacqueline Hull, 630 65th St, on the NE corner of 65th and Fairmount, has lived there for 49 years. Vehicles have gone off the road into her yard more than once. She has witnessed cars moving too fast to make the turn from Fairmount to 65th. She is in favor of the improvements.

Rose Pomerantz, 712 65th St, stated that last week she saw a landscape truck heading down 65th St. westbound. The truck completely failed to yield and did not slow down at all. She confronted the driver, who said there were trees and he was not familiar with the neighborhood. She has also witnessed a vehicle flip upside down. She is in favor of the stop signs.

Heather Delaquila, 695 63rd St, at the corner, pointed out that this is a bike route.

### **CHAIRMAN CARTER CLOSED THE PUBLIC COMMENT**

#### **CHAIRMAN CARTER OPENED DISCUSSION AMONGST THE COMMISSION**

Mr. Saricks asked Mr. Sikich if the proposed traffic calming measures will have the desired effect of cars observing the speed limit. Mr. Sikich stated that striping is generally a good starting point for traffic calming. Additional counts and speeds will be taken next year to gauge the effectiveness of the improvements.

Mr. Novak asked if there have been any near misses in the area. Mr. Sikich stated he is not aware of any, but that it is possible.

Mr. Shiliga asked if speed limit reminders can be put on the pavement itself. Mr. Sikich stated that this is not typically done.

A resident stated that the street is narrow, so the majority of people coming down the street tend to drive in the middle of the road, and the striping will interfere with parking. Mr. Sikich stated that the striping will narrow the lane visually, and define the proper travel lane, which tends to slow people down.

Mr. Shiliga asked about lighting in this area. A resident responded that there is a streetlight at the corner.

Mr. Carter asked if proposed stop control measures would be temporary. Mr. Sikich stated that staff is proposing them to be permanent. Mr. Carter stated that he is in favor of staff recommendations.

**WITH RESPECT TO FILE #2-21, MR. NOVAK MOVED TO APPROVE. SECONDED BY MR. SHILIGA.**

**ALL IN FAVOR. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE 5:0.**

#### **File #3-21 Fairmount Avenue - 72nd Street - Intersection Control**

Mr. Sikich stated that there are two intersections of Fairmount and 72nd Street. This item was generated by a resident request. 72nd is an s-curve street from east to west. Fairmount goes north on the west side and south on the east side. They are both T intersections, but each is unique having only two of the three legs that are under stop control. The other leg is free flowing. Traffic counts at the intersections do not reflect that this unique set up is appropriate. Staff is recommending adding the third stop sign on the free flowing leg at each of the intersections.

#### **CHAIRMAN CARTER OPENED DISCUSSION AMONGST THE COMMISSION**

Mr. Saricks asked if there is any indication that 72nd is being used as an east - west bypass route. Mr. Sikich stated that the traffic volumes are within a reasonable range for a neighborhood street. Mr. Saricks asked if the bike route in this location could have something to do with this configuration. Mr. Sikich stated that staff does not believe it is because of the bike route. Staff feels that completing them as 3-way stops is the most logical approach and will create the least amount of driver confusion.

Mr. Shiliga asked if striping is needed here as well. Mr. Sikich stated that staff believes that only the 3-way stops are needed at this point.

Mr. Carter asked if the 72nd Court cul-de-sac between the two 72nd Streets has any stop control at that T intersection. Mr. Lorton stated he does not believe there is any control there. Mr. Sikich stated that a stop sign can be added on 72nd Court.

#### **CHAIRMAN CARTER OPENED UP THE PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

Tom Eyman, 606 Ridgeview St, stated that he agrees with the recommendations.

Mr. Lorton stated that staff received three emails in favor of the improvements at these intersections.

Fran Eyman, 606 Ridgeview St, stated that there are multiple bus stops near these intersections. Children trying to cross the street may be confused by the 2-way stop sign. Cars take the turn wide because they're speeding and kids on bikes come close to being clipped.

**CHAIRMAN CARTER CLOSED THE PUBLIC COMMENT**

**CHAIRMAN CARTER OPENED DISCUSSION AMONGST THE COMMISSION**

Chairman Carter stated that these recommendations will help improve safety in the area.

**WITH RESPECT TO FILE #3-21, MR. SHILIGA MOVED TO APPROVE FULL STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS AND ADDING A STOP SIGN TO 72ND COURT. SECONDED BY MR. SARICKS.**

**ALL IN FAVOR. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE 5:0.**

**DISCUSSION OF OLD BUSINESS**

No old business at this time.

**Communications**

No communications at this time.

**ADJOURN**

**MR. CARTER MOVED TO ADJOURN, SECONDED BY MR. SHILIGA.  
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE 5:0.**

Commissioner Carter adjourned the meeting at 7:26 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Andrea Banke  
Recording Secretary

**BOARD OF FIRE AND POLICE COMMISSIONERS  
MINUTES OF OPEN MEETING  
November 18, 2021  
Village Hall  
Ante Room  
4:00 PM**

**PRESENT:** Commissioner Tom Bondi  
Commissioner Jillian Mikrut  
Director of Human Resources Lauren Linares  
Police Chief Shanon Gillette  
Management Analyst Amanda Pazdan

**ABSENT:** Commissioner Bradley Bloom

The meeting of the Downers Grove Board of Fire and Police Commissioners was called to order at 4:00 PM in the Ante Room at Village Hall. Director Lauren Linares conducted roll call: Commissioner Bondi and Commission Mikrut were present, along with Police Chief Gillette and Management Analyst Amanda Pazdan; Commissioner Bloom was absent.

The next order of business at 4:01 PM was to approve the minutes from the Board meeting on October 28, 2021. A motion was made by Commissioner Bondi to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Commissioner Mikrut.

**VOTE:**      **Yea:** Commissioner Bondi and Commissioner Mikrut  
                 **Nay:** None.  
                 **Motion passed.**

The next order of business at 4:02 PM was a motion by Commissioner Bondi to go into executive session pursuant to Section 2 (c) (1) of the Open Meetings Act to conduct oral interviews for four (4) Police Officers for the purpose of determining hiring. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mikrut.

**VOTE:**      **Yea:** Commissioner Bondi and Commissioner Mikrut  
                 **Nay:** None.  
                 **Motion passed.**

**The meeting returned to open session at 5:41 PM.**

There being no further business, a motion was moved at 5:41 PM by Commissioner Bondi to adjourn, and Commissioner Mikrut seconded the motion.

**VOTE:**      **Yea:** Commissioner Bondi and Commissioner Mikrut  
**Nay:** None.  
                 **Motion passed.**

**DOWNERS GROVE LIQUOR COMMISSION**  
**VILLAGE HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS**  
**801 BURLINGTON AVENUE**  
Thursday, December 2, 2021

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Strelau called the December 2, 2021 Liquor Commission meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**II. ROLL CALL**

**PRESENT:** Mr. Jacobson, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Krusenowski, Mr. Meta, Chairman Strelau

**ABSENT:** Mr. Shah

**STAFF:** Carol Kuchynka, Liaison to the Liquor Commission, Assistant Village Attorney Dawn Didier

**OTHERS:** Samer Odeh, Frank Navarro, Nick Patel, Bhumi Patel, Brian Wente, Steve Jones, Elizabeth Renchin, Tim Carroll, Anne Junia, Jordan Sobus, Court Reporter

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Chairman Strelau asked for approval of the minutes for the October 7, 2021 Liquor Commission meeting and asked members if there were any corrections, changes or additions.

Hearing no changes, corrections or additions, the October 7, 2021 minutes of the Liquor Commission meeting were approved as written.

Chairman Strelau reminded those present that this evening's meeting was being recorded on Village-owned equipment. Staff was present to keep minutes for the record.

**IV. APPLICATION FOR LIQUOR LICENSE**

Chairman Strelau made the following statements:

"The next order of business is to conduct a public hearing for liquor license applications. For the benefit of all present, I would like to state that this Commission does not determine the granting or denial of the issuance of any license. We may, at the end of each hearing, make a finding or recommendation with respect to the application. If necessary, the Commission may adjourn a hearing to a later date in order to have benefit of further information."

"At the conclusion of the hearing, the Commission will summarize its findings and determine any recommendations it wishes to make to the Liquor Commissioner."

"The Liquor Commissioner, who is the Mayor of Downers Grove, will, pursuant to Section 3-12 of the Ordinance, render decisions regarding issuance of available liquor licenses within 60 days."

"Hearings by this Commission are held according to the following format: 1) reading of information pertinent to the application, 2) comments from the applicant, 3) discussion by the Commission, 4) comments from staff, 5) comments from the public, and 6) motion and finding by the Commission."

*Powmaro's – 2125 Ogden Avenue*

Chairman Strelau stated that the next order of business was an application hearing for PMCO Downers Grove #3, LLC d/b/a Powmaro's located at 2125 Ogden Avenue. She stated that the applicant was seeking a Class "P-1", full alcohol, off-premise consumption liquor license.

Chairman Strelau asked that any individual(s) representing the applicant step forward and be seated. She asked that any individual(s) giving testimony, state and spell their name for the record, indicate their affiliation with the establishment and be sworn in by the court reporter.

Mr. Samer Odeh and Mr. Jerry Navarro were sworn in by the court reporter. Mr. Odeh replied that he is the owner. Mr. Navarro introduced himself as the Director of Food Service.

Mr. Odeh stated that he has owned and operated gas stations since 2010. He stated that they are seeking a liquor license to provide additional service and convenience for their customers and enjoy one-stop shopping. He stated that he owns two other facilities.

Mr. Odeh stated that they have received numerous requests for alcohol. He stated that he is seeking the license in order to better serve his customers.

Mr. Krusenoski asked if the Power Mart is attached to the strip mall. Mr. Odeh replied no. He stated that the adjacent building will eventually be built out as a restaurant.

Mr. Krusenoski asked if the liquor sales will be strictly from the gas station. Mr. Odeh replied yes.

Mr. Krusenoski asked Mr. Odeh if he holds liquor licenses at his other stations in Elmhurst and Palos. Mr. Odeh replied yes.

Mr. Krusenoski asked Mr. Odeh how long he has operated those stations. Mr. Odeh replied 10-12 years.

Mr. Krusenoski asked Mr. Navarro about his experience. Mr. Navarro replied he has liquor handling experience from the Elmhurst and Palos locations.

Mr. Krusenoski asked Mr. Odeh about the liquor log contained in their manual. He asked if employees will sign once or every day when they start their shift. Mr. Odeh replied that they have weekly staff meetings and have multiple logs that employees sign, including those for tobacco and high value products, safety concerns and Covid protocols. He noted that employees are required to sign off on the log checklists each shift - and on that list liquor will be included. Mr. Krusenoski stated that the best manuals may never prevent sales to a minor. He stated that employees may disregard safeguards they have in place. He stated that awareness and creating an environment that selling liquor is an important privilege. He stated that they will be tested. He asked that they create a work environment where proper liquor sales is extremely important. He stated that fines and penalties is disproportionate to the amount of sales revenue that they may have.

Mr. Meta asked if they have had any violations at any other location. Mr. Odeh replied there are no violations on record.

Mr. Meta asked what they plan on selling and where on the sales floor product will be located. Mr. Odeh referred to the diagram submitted with their application. He stated that product is located behind the cashier. He stated that product is also in dedicated doors that are within the sight line of the cashier. He stated that they are looking into technology where the doors are lockable by the cashier remotely.

Mr. Odeh stated that some liquor will be housed behind a closed glass display case. He added that customers will approach the cashier, provide appropriate identification and request the cashier to get the product. He stated that the POS system prompts for a date of birth to be entered when the alcohol item is scanned. He stated that they have been successful with these procedures in both of his stores.

Mr. Meta asked Mr. Odeh what the minimum age requirement for his employees. Mr. Odeh replied 21.

Mr. Meta asked Mr. Odeh how many employees are on staff at any given time. Mr. Odeh replied two employees per shift. He noted that they are not open 24 hours.

Mr. Johnson had no questions.

Mr. Jacobson reviewed the packet. He stated that they need to emphasize the importance of compliance with Downers Grove law.

Chairman Strelau asked Mr. Odeh if employees can enter the date of birth manually. Mr. Odeh replied yes. He noted that they will not be accepting the vertical ID.

Mr. Odeh stated that there are some scanning systems, but he feels that it is imperative that clerks really look at the ID and evaluate the customer.

Chairman Strelau noted that some of their operating hours are out of the sales hours allowed by law and asked Mr. Odeh how they plan to deter sales that are sold at the wrong times of day. Mr. Odeh replied the doors to alcohol product may be locked. He stated that alcohol only will be dedicated to those lockable areas.

Chairman Strelau stated that employees must be aware of the importance of proper liquor sales.

Chairman Strelau noted their excellent track record and good processes in place. She wished them luck.

Chairman Strelau asked staff for recommendations or comments pertinent to this application. Ms. Kuchynka replied that issuance of the license is contingent upon receipt of the annual fee.

Chairman Strelau asked for comments from the public. There were none.

Hearing the testimony given in this case, Chairman Strelau asked for a recommendation from the Commission concerning its finding of "qualified" or "not qualified" with respect to the applicant with regard to their Class "P-1" liquor license application.

**MR. KRUSENOSKI MOVED TO FIND PMCO DOWNERS GROVE #3, LLC D/B/A POWMARO'S LOCATED AT 2125 OGDEN AVENUE QUALIFIED FOR A CLASS P-1, FULL ALCOHOL, OFF-PREMISE CONSUMPTION LIQUOR LICENSE. MR. JACOBSON SECONDED.**

**VOTE:**

**Aye:** Mr. Krusenoski, Mr. Jacobson, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Meta, Chairman Strelau

**Nay:** None

**Abstain:** None

**MOTION CARRIED: 5:0:0**

**BP Amoco – 1200 75<sup>th</sup> Street**

Chairman Strelau stated that the next order of business was an application hearing for Downers Grove Gasoline, Inc. d/b/a BP Amoco located at 1200 75<sup>th</sup> Street. She stated that the applicant was seeking a Class "P-1", full alcohol, off-premise consumption liquor license.

Chairman Strelau asked that any individual(s) representing the applicant step forward and be seated. She asked that any individual(s) giving testimony, state and spell their name for the record, indicate their affiliation with the establishment and be sworn in by the court reporter.

Mr. Nick Patel was sworn in by the court reporter. He introduced himself as the manager for BP Amoco. Mr. Patel stated that the Amoco is a family-owned business and added that his wife, Bhumi Patel, is the owner. He stated that they purchased the business in 2019. He stated that due to Covid, gasoline sales have been bad and he was thankful that the Village created licenses for gas stations which will add another source of revenue.

Mr. Johnson had a question about their training and the signing of daily liquor logs was listed as "optional". Mr. Patel replied that "optional" was a typo and he would require employees to sign the log daily.

Mr. Johnson noted that they planned quarterly training meetings. Mr. Patel replied they thought that every three months would be adequate for training but can do so every week if it is required.

Mr. Patel advised that they operate a Dunkin Donuts out of the site and they do not have much space for liquor. He noted that two cooler doors and a small area behind the counter will house hard liquor.

Mr. Jacobson asked if all liquor will be behind the counter. Mr. Patel replied yes and added that only the cashier can reach the hard alcohol for the customer.

Mr. Jacobson asked Mr. Patel how many employees they have. Mr. Patel replied five. Mr. Jacobson asked their ages. Mr. Patel replied all are 21 and older. He stated that a few of the employees have been working for him for the past 6-7 years.

Mr. Meta asked Mr. Patel if the beer cooler was behind the counter. Mr. Patel replied no. He stated that it is next to the cash register. He stated that there is a lock on it to secure the beer after hours.

Mr. Meta asked Mr. Patel if he will be working there. Mr. Patel replied yes. He added that they have another family businesses in Northlake that he manages as well.

Mr. Meta stated that he did not see Mr. Patel's BASSET Certification in the packet. Mr. Patel stated that he would submit it.

Mr. Meta asked Mr. Patel about the Northlake liquor store. Mr. Patel replied that is another family-owned business that they have operated for the past 21 years.

Mr. Meta asked Mr. Patel if they have had any violations. Mr. Patel replied no.

Mr. Krusenoski asked Mr. Patel if the prior gas station owners had a liquor license. Mr. Patel replied no.

Mr. Krusenoski was surprised to see so many gas station applications on the agenda. Ms. Didier noted that the ordinance finally changed after a long time since the Commission's initial discussion (November 2020).

Mr. Krusenoski noted that Mr. Patel stated training would be conducted quarterly but would conduct training weekly if the Village required it. He stated that they should run the business the way they want, but within the rules and laws of the Village. He stated that successful licensees emphasize proper liquor sales every single day and added that the topic should be made a priority day in and day out.

Chairman Strelau stated that it is critically important that they be a responsible license holder. She stated they must treat liquor sales importantly.

Chairman Strelau asked staff for recommendations or comments pertinent to this application. Ms. Kuchynka replied that issuance of the license is contingent upon receipt of the annual fee, satisfactory background checks and employee certifications.

Chairman Strelau asked for comments from the public. There were none.

Hearing the testimony given in this case, Chairman Strelau asked for a recommendation from the Commission concerning its finding of "qualified" or "not qualified" with respect to the applicant with regard to their Class "P-1" liquor license application.

**MR. JACOBSON MOVED TO FIND DOWNERS GROVE GASOLINE, INC. D/B/A BP AMOCO LOCATED AT 1200 75<sup>TH</sup> STREET QUALIFIED FOR A CLASS P-1, FULL ALCOHOL, OFF-PREMISE CONSUMPTION LIQUOR LICENSE. MR. JOHNSON SECONDED.**

**VOTE:**

**Aye:** Mr. Jacobson, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Krusenoski, Mr. Meta, Chairman Strelau

**Nay:** None

**Abstain:** None

**MOTION CARRIED: 5:0:0**

**BP Amoco – 4314 Main Street**

Chairman Strelau stated that the next order of business was an application hearing for Graham Enterprise, Inc. d/b/a BP Amoco located at 4314 Main Street. She stated that the applicant was seeking a Class "P-1", full alcohol, off-premise consumption liquor license.

Chairman Strelau asked that any individual(s) representing the applicant step forward and be seated. She asked that any individual(s) giving testimony, state and spell their name for the record, indicate their affiliation with the establishment and be sworn in by the court reporter.

Mr. Brian Wenthe and Mr. Steve Jones were sworn in by the court reporter. Mr. Wenthe introduced himself as the Chief Operating Officer for Graham Enterprise, Inc. and Mr. Jones introduced himself as the site manager for the BP Amoco Downers Grove.

Mr. Wenthe stated that they were requesting a P-1 license for the location. He stated that Graham Enterprise is a third generation 100% family-owned business. He stated that they will be celebrating their 100<sup>th</sup> year in business next year. He stated that they take liquor serving very seriously.

Mr. Wentz stated that he has been in the convenience store business for 21 years and 5 years prior in the restaurant/bar industry.

Mr. Krusenowski stated that they have the benefit of hearing comments from the first two applicants.

Mr. Krusenowski stated that they operate 26 establishments. Mr. Wentz stated yes, that have licenses.

Mr. Krusenowski stated that they anticipate 2% revenue from alcohol. He stated that it is disproportionate to the penalties that would befall them if they were to fail a control buy. He stated that from the experience and other locations they have he hoped they would be vigilant concerning liquor sales. He noted the proximity to Downers Grove North High and encouraged them to be extra vigilant due to this proximity.

Mr. Krusenowski wished them luck.

Mr. Meta stated that the proximity to the high school is the biggest issue for him.

Mr. Meta asked how many employees are at this location. Mr. Wentz replied seven.

Mr. Meta asked if they plan to bring employees from other locations to assist. Mr. Wentz replied that there is a marketplace labor shortage. He stated this store typically has 10-11 employees. He stated that they will not bring in other store employees unless they are in dire need.

Mr. Wentz stated that the 2% does seem low when taking into consideration the price of gas. He stated that they take liquor sales very seriously. He noted that they have many other age restricted products that they sell.

Mr. Wentz stated that they are serious about proper sales. He stated that they pay a third party (BARS) to secret shop the locations. He stated that they have a zero tolerance policy.

Mr. Wentz stated that they have sold age restricted products from this location since they purchased it in 2013.

Mr. Meta stated that he was not so concerned that they would sell to anyone but that product would be stolen. He asked staff to pull up the floor plan for this location.

Mr. Meta stated that there is liquor on the sales floor and not restricted behind any counters. Mr. Wentz confirmed that was correct.

Mr. Meta asked Mr. Wentz how they plan to prevent theft. Mr. Wentz stated that was the closest spot they could put liquor to the cashiers station and within their line of sight. He stated that 4 cooler doors will be able to be locked during non-sales hours.

Mr. Meta asked what the minimum age of employees. Mr. Wentz replied 21. Mr. Jones replied he was the youngest employee at the location and is 48 years of age.

Mr. Jacobson looked at the qualification section of the application which shows that they have been fined for previous violations. He asked Mr. Wentz how often they have been fined. Mr. Wentz replied that he was aware of four violations. He stated that was due to the sale of an age restricted product to a minor.

Mr. Jacobson asked what an age restricted product is. Mr. Wentz replied typically alcohol but can also be tobacco.

Mr. Wentz was unaware of the details of the violations but assumed they were all alcohol related.

Mr. Jacobson stated that he was really concerned about this section and that detailed information about the fine was not provided. He stated that along with the location being by a high school was of concern.

Mr. Johnson echoed the comments of Mr. Jacobson, noting that several locations had issues.

Mr. Johnson asked when they instituted the BARS testing system. Mr. Wentz replied 2016.

Mr. Johnson asked if that was proactive or reactive. Mr. Wentz replied proactive. He stated that was a program he brought to the organization when he started in 2015.

Mr. Johnson asked when the violations occurred, after or before BARS was instituted. Mr. Wentz replied after.

Mr. Wentz explained that they have a number of licenses. He stated that the number of transactions that the organization engages in during the course of the day well surpasses any activity limited to just one location.

Mr. Wentz was most frustrated by the fact that they put a lot of training in and processes for employees to follow, yet they fail a sale. He wished that the State of Illinois would require sellers to hold a license so that individuals would be held accountable. He stated that there is nothing preventing someone who sells to a minor after getting fired to go work somewhere else.

Mr. Wentz stated that they have a zero tolerance policy and a violation would result in immediate termination. Mr. Johnson asked if they are terminated if they fail the internal test. Mr. Wentz replied they will be terminated whether it is a legal sting or fail the BARS program test.

Chairman Strelau stated that minors were sold alcohol in the same manner as the Village's control buy process. She stated that it is impossible to conceive that violations are only taking place when the Village agent comes in. She stated while they have a number of stores with a liquor license it is their job to manage that. She stated that responsibility falls solely on the licensee.

Chairman Strelau wished them luck but stated that they must take the sale of liquor seriously.

Chairman Strelau asked staff for recommendations or comments pertinent to this application. Ms. Kuchynka replied that issuance of the license is contingent upon receipt of the annual fee, satisfactory background checks and employee certifications.

Chairman Strelau asked for comments from the public. There were none.

Hearing the testimony given in this case, Chairman Strelau asked for a recommendation from the Commission concerning its finding of "qualified" or "not qualified" with respect to the applicant with regard to their Class "P-1" liquor license application.

**MR. JACOBSON MOVED TO FIND GRAHAM ENTERPRISE, INC. D/B/A BP AMOCO LOCATED AT 4314 MAIN STREET NOT QUALIFIED FOR A CLASS P-1, FULL ALCOHOL, OFF-PREMISE CONSUMPTION LIQUOR LICENSE. MR. META SECONDED.**

**VOTE:**

**Aye:** Mr. Jacobson, Mr. Meta

**Nay:** Mr. Johnson, Mr. Krusenoski, Chairman Strelau

**Abstain:** None

**MOTION FAILED: 2:3:0**

Chairman Strelau noted the motion failed.

**MR. KRUSENOSKI MOVED TO FIND GRAHAM ENTERPRISE, INC. D/B/A BP AMOCO LOCATED AT 4314 MAIN STREET QUALIFIED FOR A CLASS P-1, FULL ALCOHOL, OFF-PREMISE CONSUMPTION LIQUOR LICENSE. MR. JOHNSON SECONDED.**

**VOTE:**

**Aye:** Mr. Krusenoski, Mr. Johnson, Chairman Strelau

**Nay:** Mr. Jacobson, Mr. Meta

**Abstain:** None

**MOTION PASSED: 3:2:0**

The motion carried.

**Rybell's Blow Dry Bar – 5221 Main Street**

Chairman Strelau stated that the next order of business was an application hearing for Rybell Group, LLC d/b/a Rybell's Blow Dry Bar located at 5221 Main Street (note corrected address). She stated that the applicant was seeking a Class "SAL", beer and wine only, on-premise consumption liquor license.

Chairman Strelau asked that any individual(s) representing the applicant step forward and be seated. She asked that any individual(s) giving testimony, state and spell their name for the record, indicate their affiliation with the establishment and be sworn in by the court reporter.

Ms. Elizabeth Renchin was sworn in by the court reporter. Ms. Renchin introduced herself as the owner/manager of Rybell's Blow Dry Bar. Mr. Timothy Carroll introduced himself as the attorney/registered agent representing Ms. Renchin.

Ms. Kuchynka advised Ms. Renchin that they would need to update her application materials to reflect the correct address.

Chairman Strelau asked the applicant to present its case.

Ms. Renchin stated that she was seeking a license to serve liquor for her salon. Chairman Strelau recalled Ms. Renchin appearing before the Commission to request the creation of a salon license. She asked Ms. Renchin to remind the Commission how service will take place at the salon.

Ms. Renchin stated that she would like to serve a glass of wine in connection with a wash/blowout or hairstyle service.

Mr. Johnson asked Ms. Renchin about her liquor handling experience at Helping Hand. Ms. Renchin replied she served liquor while working for this catering company in 2017.

Mr. Johnson stated that Ms. Renchin's BASSETT certification was included in the packet. He asked who else at the salon would be serving at the establishment. Ms. Renchin replied her stylist, Abbie, who has completed her BASSETT certification. Mr. Johnson asked if Abbie was over 21. Ms. Renchin replied yes.

Mr. Johnson referred to Rybell's manual. He stated that "no more than three (3) services of beer/wine/champagne shall be served, per person, per calendar year" was indicated and asked how that was going to be enforced. Mr. Krusenoski stated that end phrase should read "calendar *day*".

Mr. Carroll replied that customers are typically in the salon less than an hour and their idea was to provide them a glass of wine/beer during their visit. He stated that one drink was in their original request for the license, but discussion by the Commission ended up expanding that provision in order for the license classification to apply to other types of salon businesses that offer more services over the course of a longer time period. Mr. Carroll stated that their activity of a wash and blow out or style should take no longer than an hour and, in their anticipation, will allow time for only one drink.

Ms. Renchin stated that she will update the manual to correct the typo.

Mr. Jacobson recalled the August Liquor Commission meeting salon discussion. He stated that their idea for the creation of a salon license was well received. He had no questions and wished them luck.

Mr. Meta had no questions.

Mr. Krusenoski stated that he was not present at the meeting where Rybell's pitched their request for a salon license. He stated that the salon license is similar to what is being offered at Board & Brush. He stated that they have private parties and workshops that customers can sign up for a class and participate in a craft project. He stated that although there for a different purposes at the two facilities, a customer can have a glass of wine or beer to enhance their activity.

Mr. Krusenoski did not believe anyone would be in the salon long enough to finish three drinks at a time.

Mr. Krusenoski stated that beer and wine service is a nice adjunct to the services they are providing. He stated that failing a control buy would be devastating as the source of revenue from sales is disproportionate to the penalties that they could incur with fines if they violate.

Mr. Krusenoski stated that although the salon is small, they still need to be on guard. He stated that it would be especially painful if something goes awry.

Ms. Renchin noted that they typically provide services to those 17 years of age and under and 28 years and older customers. She stated that the 18-28 year olds do not get their hair done.

Chairman Strelau thanked them for enduring the liquor license creation process.

Chairman Strelau noted that Ms. Renchin submitted a BASSET certification and that another employee was certified. She asked if they will be the only in the salon. Ms. Renchin replied no, but she and Abbie will be the only two that will be checking ID's and serving alcohol in the salon. She stated that she is present 99% of the time and Abbie will serve in her place. She stated if that changes in the future or she steps away a little more, she would allow more employees to serve once they obtain their certificate.

Chairman Strelau stated that liquor service is a nice amenity as long as they manage it well.

Chairman Strelau asked staff for recommendations or comments pertinent to this application. Ms. Kuchynka replied that issuance of the license is contingent upon receipt of the annual fee, liquor liability insurance, satisfactory background checks and employee certifications.

Chairman Strelau asked for comments from the public. There were none.

Hearing the testimony given in this case, Chairman Strelau asked for a recommendation from the Commission concerning its finding of "qualified" or "not qualified" with respect to the applicant with regard to their Class "SAL" liquor license application.

**MR. JACOBSON MOVED TO FIND RYBELL GROUP, LLC D/B/A RYBELL'S BLOW DRY BAR LOCATED AT 5221 MAIN STREET QUALIFIED FOR A CLASS "SAL", BEER AND WINE ONLY, ON-PREMISE CONSUMPTION LIQUOR LICENSE. MR. JOHNSON SECONDED.**

**VOTE:**

**Aye:** Mr. Jacobson, Mr. Krusenoski, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Meta, Chairman Strelau

**Nay:** None

**Abstain:** None

**MOTION CARRIED: 5:0:0**

**Dash Mart – 5600 Belmont Road**

Chairman Strelau stated that the next order of business was an application hearing for Door Dash Essentials, LLC d/b/a Dash Mart/The Corner Market located at 5600 Belmont Road. She stated that the applicant was seeking a Class "P-1", full alcohol, off-premise consumption liquor license.

Chairman Strelau asked that any individual(s) representing the applicant step forward and be seated. She asked that any individual(s) giving testimony, state and spell their name for the record, indicate their affiliation with the establishment and be sworn in by the court reporter.

Ms. Anne Junia and Ms. Jordan Sobus were sworn in by the court reporter. Ms. Junia introduced herself as the outside counsel representing Door Dash Essentials and Ms. Sobus introduced herself as the area manager for Door Dash.

Ms. Junia stated that Downers Grove will be Door Dash's first suburban location. She stated that Door Dash started out as restaurant food delivery. She stated that this is their new convenience store model. She stated that consumers will use a technology-based platform to place orders online. She stated that customers may pick up orders directly from the location, however, most will likely request them to be delivered. She stated that Door Dash will serve consumers from this location from about a 12-mile radius. She stated that the idea is to get consumers their orders within an hour. She stated that they are seeking a P-1 license to offer consumers packaged beer, wine or spirits.

Ms. Junia stated that the packet contained a sample product list which is currently being offered from their Chicago location.

Mr. Jacobson asked if they will deliver alcohol ordered online or will it be picked up. Ms. Junia replied either, however a majority will request home delivery. She stated that the only difference is that customers will not be able to go to the location and shop the aisles. She stated that orders will be placed through the Door Dash platform on a consumer's phone or computer.

Mr. Jacobson asked how they will ensure that the person receiving alcohol is 21. Ms. Junia replied that customers who order alcohol will need to upload their driver's license in order to access the list of alcohol products. She stated that the ID is verified for authenticity by Door Dash. She stated IDs will also be verified at the door and stated that alcohol will not be delivered to anyone but to the individual matching the ID that ordered the product. Ms. Junia stated that "Dashers" (Door Dash delivery agents) are required to take back any alcohol from an order. She stated that there is age verification on the front end and back end. She stated that the Dashers will have a picture of the ID on their mobile application. She stated that they are instructed to see the person who matches the ID they have on record.

Mr. Jacobson asked if the Dashers get tipped. Ms. Junia replied that they can get tipped through the application.

Ms. Junia stated that Door Dash is attempting to keep up with consumer trends. She stated that the delivery of alcohol by third party companies may be a safer way to track alcohol product. She stated alcohol orders can be tracked from start to finish. She stated that records can be produced showing who made an alcohol purchase and delivery on a certain date. She added that there is a chain of custody that one may never have in on-store premises.

Mr. Jacobson asked what made them choose the Downers Grove location. Ms. Junia replied that there are several locations in the mix as their goal is to have satellite locations so that they can service a small radius at one time. She stated that not all suburban locations were properly zoned for this model, but Downers Grove worked.

Ms. Junia stated that this is a new concept that Door Dash is doing across the country. She stated that they welcome the regulations that Downers Grove has in place and will model after it in other areas.

Mr. Johnson stated that Ms. Sobus did not have any previous liquor handling experience. Ms. Sobus replied that was correct.

Mr. Johnson asked Ms. Sobus to explain the front end facilitation of orders and what her role will be. Ms. Sobus replied that as Liquor Manager, along with another site manager will oversee a team of shift leaders and associates and she will be in charge of hiring and training these individuals. She stated that her desk is located at the front of the store where she can see everyone coming in and out. She stated that she will make sure that employees will understand Door Dash values and that they are here to serve the community safely. She stated that it will be her job that they understand the importance of what they are selling and who they are selling to.

Mr. Krusenoski asked Ms. Junia if there would be no walk in business but the availability of delivery. He asked if it is similar to Pea Pod. Ms. Junia confirmed. She stated that this operation will be a trajectory of their original restaurant food service delivery. She stated that Go Puff is another convenience-store based operation that is also branching out. She stated that Dash Mart concept is now operating in 58 markets. She stated that they have the technology systems, but are branching out from only the distribution of food service delivery to now include food and convenience items.

Mr. Krusenoski asked if Door Dash handled deliveries from Binny's. Ms. Junia replied no. Chairman Strelau stated that Instacart delivers for Binny's.

Mr. Krusenoski noted that they will not only deliver to Downers Grove, but some areas of Woodridge and Lisle. Ms. Junia confirmed.

Mr. Krusenoski asked Ms. Sobus if there was a fair amount of turnover with employees. Ms. Jordan stated that since the pandemic, more Dashers are applying due to the flexibility. Ms. Junia stated that Dashers are 1099 independent contractors. She stated that to get the privilege of selling alcohol those Dashers must be tagged. She noted that they also receive a higher commission based rate for delivering liquor. She stated that they also have to be BASSET certified and trained internally.

Ms. Junia stated that Door Dash has a separate training program of their values and expectations.

Mr. Krusenoski asked how many Dashers will work out of this location. Ms. Junia replied she was unsure how many will be delivering at any given point as it will vary, depending on amount of orders that come in, the Dashers and if they have their app turned on and choose to deliver. She stated that they will have the option whether or not to pick up an order.

Ms. Junia advised that Dashers, under 21 or those without proper training or BASSET certifications will not be given the opportunity to deliver alcohol orders.

Mr. Krusenoski asked if Uber Eats delivers alcohol. Ms. Junia replied they do, but not in this packaged goods context. She advised that Uber Eats and Grizzly merged recently. She stated that Grizzly is an alcohol-based online ordering.

Ms. Junia stated that she did not know whether Uber Eats will be expanding into the packaged goods delivery.

Mr. Krusenoski stated that with the amount of potential Dashers it is almost impossible to create the culture of what was described to the convenience store gas station where employees are seen every day and they can be reminded of the importance of alcohol service. He stated that they will need to rely on the independent contractors to do the right thing. Ms. Junia replied that Dashers receive regular communications through their mobile app. She stated that is how they get their orders, that is how they know they can work, that is how they log their time and how they are tracked. She stated that they get constant push notifications to remind them of the proper checkout process. She stated that there are checks and balances they have to go through or the system will not close out the order. She stated that they will not have a verbal face to face with the Dashers, they are notified throughout the order process.

Mr. Krusenoski stated that it is an excellent platform and can simply be defeated looking at the order receiving and knowing they do not match the ID on file and sell anyway. He asked if the contractor would lose the Door Dash account if they did.

Mr. Krusenoski asked if they have this model running in Chicago. Ms. Junia replied yes. Mr. Krusenoski asked if the City has a control buy program. Ms. Junia replied that they get two undercover operations per year. Mr. Krusenoski asked if they know of any violations. Ms. Junia replied no, they would only be informed if they fail.

Mr. Krusenoski asked how long the Chicago model has been running. Ms. Junia replied about one year.

Mr. Krusenoski asked what percentage of sales are alcohol related. Ms. Junia replied 10%.

Ms. Junia stated that those under 21 try to get alcohol based on convenience and accessibility. She stated that they run the risk of getting caught by way of this model. She stated that there is a record and paper trail of the entire transaction.

Mr. Krusenoski asked if these were all credit card purchases. Ms. Junia replied yes. Ms. Junia stated that the credit card transaction is done at the front end of the sale. She stated that they do not need to present their credit card at the back end when the Dasher delivers the items.

Mr. Krusenoski stated that what they have in place is as good as it is going to get and they have been up and running in Chicago for a year without a mishap. He asked if there were violations in any of the other 57 models across the country. Ms. Junia replied that she only represents the company with the Illinois locations and was unsure if there were any violations.

Mr. Krusenoski asked how close they are to being operational. Ms. Sobus replied they were hoping to go live December 20<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Didier stated that the Village does not allow Uber Eats to deliver alcohol. Ms. Kuchynka added deliveries are done by employees of the establishment that are over 21. She stated that Door Dash, in this instance, is obtaining the license.

Ms. Kuchynka stated that Covid brought along changes to the industry. She stated that the State relaxed delivery regulations to assist businesses.

Mr. Jacobson asked if the Village has regulations to control Westmont delivering alcohol to Village residents. Ms. Kuchynka replied no. She stated that the only information the Village would receive would likely be complaint based.

Mr. Meta asked if Dashers are exclusive to this store. Ms. Junia replied no.

Mr. Meta asked if Dashers get copies of customers ID. Ms. Junia replied yes but is only populated in the Dasher's app. Mr. Meta asked what prevents a Dasher taking a screen shot of someone's information. Ms. Junia believed that the violation of data privacy laws would prevent Dashers from taking that information. Mr. Meta wondered why IDs are not just checked at the time of delivery versus having customers upload it.

Mr. Meta asked if they have any way to verify if Dashers are carding when they make the delivery. She stated that Door Dash will upload it on front end through software that verifies that the identification is authentic. She stated that if it is not the person at the door during delivery who made the order, the Dasher has to take the order back.

Mr. Meta stated that it would not hurt to comment to the Dasher as they are walking out with an order that contains alcohol to make sure the delivery is done properly.

Ms. Didier asked if the customer has to show the Dasher the ID at the door. Ms. Junia replied that if there is any question as to whether the person receiving the order is the person whose ID is online, they are required to request the ID.

Chairman Strelau hoped they understood the length and detail of the questioning was not to target them. She noted that this is something new and different that is being offered.

Chairman asked Ms. Junia what percentage of liquor sales they expect. Ms. Junia replied 10%.

Chairman Strelau noted that it is the goal of Door Dash to have an order to a customer within an hour. Ms. Junia replied yes and added heavy orders may take a bit longer.

Chairman Strelau asked if customers can order alcohol at 12:30 AM and deliver liquor after the 1:00 AM cutoff. Ms. Junia replied customers will not have options to purchase certain items and there are automatic minimum cut off times imbedded in the software. She stated that the store is open longer than sales are allowed.

Chairman Strelau asked if they will be following liquor delivery hours from the store. Ms. Junia replied yes. She stated that the maximum delivery radius is 12 miles.

Ms. Sobus stated that before the order is packed up, associates will look at the receipt. She stated that she and the site manager will be monitoring those orders and would use their best judgment as to whether the alcohol would be included in the order.

Chairman Strelau noted that this model is easy to check. She felt that control buys would be simple on this process. She stated that they will be tested and they need to be thorough on how they operate.

Chairman Strelau thought it was wonderful that companies are thinking of ways to serve us and fill needs we did not know we had.

Chairman Strelau noted they will have some challenges. She stated that they best be certain that alcohol is not left at the door or Dashers are taking tips to look the other way.

Ms. Kuchynka asked Ms. Junia to explain what would happen to a Dasher if they are involved in a violation. Ms. Junia replied that if there is an incident and/or a Dasher is deemed negligent, they will be blocked from the site and not have the option to pick up orders and would lose the privilege of working for Door Dash.

Chairman Strelau asked staff for recommendations or comments pertinent to this application. Ms. Kuchynka replied that issuance of the license is contingent upon receipt of the annual fee, liquor liability insurance, satisfactory background checks and employee certifications.

Chairman Strelau asked for comments from the public. There were none.

Hearing the testimony given in this case, Chairman Strelau asked for a recommendation from the Commission concerning its finding of "qualified" or "not qualified" with respect to the applicant with regard to their Class "P-1" liquor license application.

**MR. JACOBSON MOVED TO FIND DOOR DASH ESSENTIALS, LLC D/B/A DASH MART/CORNER MARKET LOCATED AT 5600 BELMONT ROAD QUALIFIED FOR A CLASS "P-1", FULL ALCOHOL, OFF-PREMISE CONSUMPTION LIQUOR LICENSE. MR. JOHNSON SECONDED.**

**VOTE:**

**Aye:** Mr. Jacobson, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Krusenoski, Mr. Meta, Chairman Strelau

**Nay:** None

**Abstain:** None

**MOTION CARRIED: 5:0:0**

**V. NEW BUSINESS**

Chairman Strelau asked if there was any discussion, update from staff or comments from the Commission regarding any new business.

Ms. Kuchynka anticipated a January 6<sup>th</sup> meeting. She advised that there was an application on file for Beggar's Pizza and a request for stock ownership/floor plan change for Corner Pantry.

Mr. Krusenoski asked about the restaurant going in on the north side of the Burlington Northern tracks at Washington. Ms. Kuchynka replied that she does not have an application on file but noted that they may be initiating remediation work on the site.

Mr. Jacobson recommended that the Village consider guidelines concerning deliveries as there may be issues if they are not properly monitored.

## **VI. OLD BUSINESS**

Chairman Strelau asked if there was any discussion, update from staff or comments from the Commission regarding any old business.

Ms. Kuchynka referred to the past month end reports for October and November. She noted that there have been a number of requests for private functions and holiday gatherings that serve liquor which have been approved administratively.

Ms. Kuchynka replied that the renewal process ended in October. She stated that the annual license year runs from November 1<sup>st</sup> – October 31<sup>st</sup> of each year.

Mr. Meta asked Ms. Kuchynka to send out an updated list of current liquor license holders.

Ms. Kuchynka advised that tonight was Mr. Jacobson's last meeting as his term expired. The group thanked him for his service. Ms. Kuchynka thanked him for his comments, input and support throughout the terms he served.

## **VII. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

There were none.

## **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Concluding business for the evening, Chairman Strelau called for a motion to adjourn.

Mr. Krusenoski moved to adjourn the December 2, 2021 meeting. The meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 8:30 p.m.