

**MINUTES OF THE TRANSPORTATION
AND SAFETY COMMISSION MEETING
OF January 19, 2016, 7:00 P.M.**

Members Present:

Patricia Fitzgerald
Pete Kosanovich
Amy Avakian
Erica Lord

Others Present:

Chief Pam Church, LES
DC Brian Budds, LES
Dan Schoenberg, Benes & Assoc.
Sheila Hansen, Trustee
Berry Allen, Trustee

Electronic Attendance: None

#1 Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. A motion to approve the minutes from the November 17, 2015, meeting was made by Commissioner Amy Avakian, seconded by Commissioner Pete Kosanovich, and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

#2 Public Comment

None.

#3 Request for stop signs - intersection of Oak and Garden

Lindsay and Joe Crocker, 3971 Western, represent the stop sign issue at Oak and Garden. They would like the Village to consider a stop sign at that intersection as a matter of public safety. Chair Fitzgerald asked if some improvements have been made, and Ms. Crocker said there are a couple of overgrown evergreen trees that have not been trimmed. She said that Laidlaw School is in full support.

George Graves, 3920 Garden, noted the manual rules again. He believes that the trees are not required by law to be trimmed. He said there is a speeding problem. However, no thought has been given to where the stop sign would be whether it's north/south or east/west.

Dan Schoenberg, of Benes and Associates recapped his traffic study findings. Commissioner Avakian asked where the stop sign placement would be. Mr. Schoenberg said that he isn't sure at this point. There were about an equal number of cars going both ways. These things are best considered as a whole picture and not just a pattern.

Commissioner Kosanovich spoke about how Western Springs had a habit of putting stop signs wherever anyone wanted them. He wants due diligence on

whether a stop sign or any other signage is necessary. Comparing different parts of town isn't fair.

Commissioner Avakian feels she is the only one who thinks there should be a 2-way stop for the kid's safety. Commissioner Lord said there are a lot of unprotected intersections, and she questions if the Commission should deviate from the standards or not. She is personally inclined to look at the issue from a consistency standpoint and feels it may be warranted.

Commissioner Avakian made a motion to consider a 2-way stop sign on Oak and Garden. Commissioner Lord seconded. Chair Fitzgerald supports the engineering study and findings, and voted no. Commissioner Kosanovich voted no. It was a 2-2 tie vote. Trustee Hansen recommended that this topic should be placed on the Public Health and Safety Committee's agenda for further discussion since there was a tie vote.

#4 Request for stop signs – intersection of 46th and Harvey

Anthony Morrone, 4603 Harvey, spoke about concerns at this intersection since it is by the park. There is unanimous support from the neighborhood. It's a confusing intersection, and there are many children around. LTHS students use it as a cut-through street. Commissioner Kosanovich asked if Mr. Morrone thinks this is a parking or a stop issue, as he knows it's a cut-through area. Mr. Morrone said there is no good place to displace parked vehicles. Cars park on both sides and then police issue tickets.

Mr. Schoenberg presented the traffic study results to the Commission. Three separate issues were discussed; safety, speeding, and cut-through traffic, and those are contained in his traffic study. He recommends posting new 25 mph speed limit signs. Chief Church explained her enforcement efforts from November 1, 2015, through December 31, 2015.

Mr. Morrone feels that since the study wasn't done in the summer, the numbers would be significantly different, and at best, the study is incomplete.

Commissioner Kosanovich made a motion to not do anything with the stop signs at this moment. Commissioner Avakian seconded, and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Commissioner Kosanovich made another motion to have the engineer go out and look at it in May and June to confirm or not confirm the details done in December. There was no second. The motion did not pass.

#5 Update on parking study – business district

Chief Church gave an update. Village Manager Higgins is in the process of selecting a company to conduct a parking study. Chief Church will communicate with the Western Springs Business Association President Mark Ptacek.

#6 Request for lane and curb markings in Commonwealth

Mr. Jack Hagan, 5021 Commonwealth, gave an overview. The streets in Commonwealth weren't turned over to the Village until about 10 years ago, so there was no striping involved. Since then, a developer told Mr. Hagan he did striping years ago per the Village's request. Since there are curves, he would like to have them marked. Commissioner Kosanovich asked Mr. Schoenberg what the requirements to stripe a street are. Chief Church said they just received the letter on Thursday, and have not had enough time to look at it yet. Mr. Hagan understands. Mr. Schoenberg explained there are standards for center line pavement markings. This is to help separate traffic from hitting one another. It's not meant for pedestrians. It's only required on arterial roads with very high volumes, typically highways and major intersections, not usually subdivisions. We don't have the volumes to warrant it, nor the precedent in the Village for this. Commissioner Kosanovich made a motion to not strip the roadways in Commonwealth. Chair Fitzgerald seconded, and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

#7 Other

None.

#8 Adjournment

Chair Fitzgerald moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:06 p.m. It was seconded by Commissioner Avakian, and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,



Tammi L. Albrecht
Department Secretary

Residents who attended the meeting:

George Graves, 3920 Garden Ave.
Joe Crocker, 3971 Western Ave.
Lindsay Crocker, 3971 Western Ave.
Anthony Morrone, 463 Harvey Ave.
Jack Hagan, 5021 Commonwealth