

**MINUTES OF THE TRANSPORTATION
AND SAFETY COMMISSION MEETING
OF March 16, 2016, 7:00 P.M.**

Members Present:

Patricia Fitzgerald
Pete Kosanovich
Amy Avakian
Erica Lord
Bill Swanson

Others Present:

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

Electronic Attendance

None

#1 Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. A motion to approve the minutes from the January 19, 2016, meeting was made by Commissioner Erica Lord, seconded by Commissioner Pete Kosanovich, and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

#2 Public Comment

None

#3 Memo from Village Attorney – Liability for posting stop signs in violation of the Federal Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices

Mr. Dan Schoenberg summarized Village Attorney, Mike Jurusik's memo. After the request for stop signs at Oak and Garden came before the Commission and Board, a question was posed, should the Village install signs that are not consistent with the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices? This document rules how stop signs are placed throughout the country. The attorney's opinion is that there are no rules that compel the Village to put a sign in anywhere. However, if they are, they should comply with the manual. This provides protection from liability. Commissioner Avakian asked if they stuck a stop sign in against the manual if they would have exposed liability, and the answer was yes. Chief Church noted that there is also an issue with enforcement and legal problems if a sign is placed.

#4 Review and discussion of stop sign request – intersection of Oak and Garden

A resident, Ms. Jennifer Coleman, asked in what kind of circumstance a stop sign would cause someone to get hurt. Mr. Schoenberg explained that if someone gets hurt in an accident, a person may assume someone approaching the stop sign would stop and didn't. Another resident asked what about the stop signs that are already placed that don't meet the Manual requirements. Mr. Schoenberg said that he could not answer a legal question. Commissioner Kosanovich explained that what has happened in the past isn't under our control. We can only work on what is going on now. Chief Church provided archived information that was located concerning a stop sign policy. A resident then asked Mr. Schoenberg if the policy complies with the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD), and his answer was no. It's our attorney's legal

opinion is status quo. Chief Church said it's an outdated resolution. There was some discussion. Chief Church mentioned an email from Marty Scott explaining that the overgrown evergreens at the intersection will be trimmed up by the residents at that property in the near future. Chairman Fitzgerald explained the history of this topic and there has been a lot of discussion in the issues, legalities, costs, etc. Mr. Sal Graziano spoke regarding the street grade being an issue at that intersection. Mr. Anthony Marrone had issues with the memo's conclusions, the placement of stop signs, and the liability of not taking action. He also spoke about 46th and Harvey and the traffic patterns and accidents that should be taken into consideration. He felt that we have discretion as engineers and Commissioners should consider these things. Commissioner Kosanovich explained that if we didn't care, we wouldn't be here. Also, the 46th and Harvey study was to be redone. With regards to Oak and Garden, we can't make a flippant decision. The Commission is trying to make the best decision possible in regards to this intersection, and it's a process that isn't to be made on gut instincts. Commissioner Swanson asked how many people are in support of the stop sign, and he expects a stop sign to be there when he approaches it. Commissioner Swanson made a motion to put two stop signs at the intersection north and south on Garden at Oak. Ms. Lindsay Crocker handed out a document to the Commission and paraphrased it. Ms. Jeannette Graziano gave the Commission another document and read from it as well. She also spoke about the road grades in Section B. Commissioner Avakian seconded the motion. Commissioner Lord asked what the Board's opinion was. Trustee Hansen explained that she is in favor of the stop signs. She said that Trustee Allen wanted a clearer policy on how stop signs were put in. At the Board level, we briefly discussed it, and President Rodeghier wanted the Commission to discuss. Commissioner Avakian says she has faith in the residents. Ms. Graziano reminded the Commission of Section B that shows we qualify for a stop sign. We only need one of three requirements, we can legally put a stop sign up. Ms. Nancy Polacek said she has been there for 30 years, and has seen a change in the neighborhood. Chairman Fitzgerald asked for a roll call vote on the motion. Commissioners Lord, Swanson, and Avakian were in favor. Commissioner Kosanovich and Chair Fitzgerald voted no. Three to two in favor of a north south stop sign on Garden at Oak.

#5 Review and discussion of stop sign request – intersection of 46th and Harvey

Mr. Jim Larsen gave background information on past decisions to post stop signs. He was pleased with community input at that time. He feels it appears there is a tremendous amount of inconsistencies throughout the Village basing it on only MUTCD. He brought up a few examples of 4 way stop sign intersections (46th and Howard, 46th and Franklin, 46th and Johnson, 39th and Clausen, and 39th and Linden). He also cited a 3 way stop at Elm and Central. He has some concerns with the engineering report because it was done in December, and his greatest concern is the children. The fact that children are not out playing at the parks in December makes the study seem flawed to him. He said the no turn on red sign at 47th and Gilbert causes cars to cut through to get to and from the high school. Mr. Larsen provided the Commission with handouts. He said the MUTCD called for an engineering judgement. He suggested the Commission recommend a 4 way stop sign for the safety of the children and let the study stand as it was done when children weren't playing at the park. Chief Church

noted the accident report. Commissioner Avakian said that stop signs do not reduce speed, but feels at the studies done are good. She feels we are stop sign happy. She also personally feels that traffic flow needs to be considered at this location. Mr. Jim Bronson says he can't think of another intersection around a park or school in the Village that doesn't have a 4 way stop. Ann Bronson explained that there is a bus stop there and kids are standing at the corner. She is concerned that there is a lot of opportunity for kids to get hurt without a stop sign. Mr. Larsen stated there was one lady who didn't support the stop sign. Commissioner Kosanovich asked about the crash and if a stop sign was blown. Stop signs are not always the answer and people don't always follow the rules of the road. But he would make a motion to do a study in May again. His last point was speed limit signs and asked if residents wanted us to put up speed limit signs as well as stop signs. Mr. Larsen said it was what was in the MUTCD. Commissioner Lord felt we got a lot of information tonight. Mr. Robert Pauli said there is countless times that kid's use the street as a thoroughfare and it's an accident waiting to happen. Cheryl Murphy asked to please do another study when school is in session and once t-ball and soccer have started in April or May. Commissioner Kosanovich made a motion to do a study in May that's appropriate when children are around. Commissioner Avakian seconded. All were in favor.

Mr. Larsen asked how the engineering study gets its information, so Mr. Adomschik explained their different techniques. Commissioner Swanson feels we have a lot more information now than we did before, and the study needs to incorporate these issues with the correct days and times.

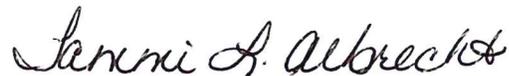
#6 Other

None.

#7 Adjournment

Commissioner Kosanovich moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 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:

Jim Larsen, 4521 Harvey
Jen Taylor, 3976 Western
Anthony Marrone, 4603 Harvey
Robert Pauli, 4614 Harvey
George Graves, 3920 Garden
Cheryl Murphy, 4561 Harvey
Nancy Polacek, 3960 Western
Gerry Olszewski, 4093 Western
Lindsay Crocker, 3971 Western
Jeannette Frich Graziano, 1441 Oak
Sal Graziano, 1441 Oak