

TRANSPORTATION AND PARKING COMMISSION

Minutes

November 11, 2009, 7:00 p.m.

Council Chambers - Village Hall
801 Burlington Avenue, Downers Grove

Mr. Stuebner, Acting Chairman, called the November 11, 2009 meeting of the Transportation and Parking Commission to order at 7:00 p.m.

The commissioners and the public were informed that the meeting was being recorded on Village-owned equipment to aid in the preparation of the meeting minutes. Mr. Stuebner led the commissioners and the public in the recital of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call followed and a quorum was established.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Members Schiller, Mr. Stuebner, Mr. Saricks, Mr. Cronin, Ms. Van Anne, Ms. Jeffries

Absent: Co-Chairman Gress and C-Chairman Wendt

Staff Present: Public Works Village Engineer, Mike Millette; Traffic Manager Dorin Fera; Staff Engineer Tom Topor.

Visitors: Mr. and Mrs. August Campagna, 4227 Northcott; Laurie and Jim Hengels, 1517 Virginia; Jeff Lavin, 4202 Seeley; Joseph DuTemple, 4210 Seeley; Edward DuTemple, 4210 Seeley; Sharon Carlson, 4029 Morton Ave.; Millie Herbig, 4017 Seeley Ave.; Helen Rakowski, 4024 Seeley Ave.; Mark Thoman, 1109 61st Street; Jane and George Rendall, 4620 Prospect; Charlie Rosario, 4624 Prospect Ave.; Jonathan Platt, 4009 Seeley; Bill Wrobel, 7800 Queens Ct.; Darlene Chesky, 1731 Janet St.; Ernest and Donna Anderson, 1723 Janet St.; Christine Fregeau, 1918 Elmore Ave.

An explanation of the meeting's protocol followed.

Mr. Stuebner welcomed new commissioner Katlyn Jeffries.

APPROVAL OF THE OCTOBER 14, 2009 TRANSPORTATION AND PARKING COMMISSION MINUTES

MR. SARICKS MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 14, 2009. MR. SCHILLER SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION PASSED BY VOICE VOTE OF 6-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Bill Wrobel, 7800 Queens Court, commented on the Village workshop that took place last night, specifically as it relates to traffic controlling devices for Blodgett Avenue. He stated that Village Council members discussed not having money in the budget for such project. Mr. Wrobel asked that this commission help support and lobby for the Village Council to support the project before their next meeting. He also encouraged the public and commission to attend November 17, 2009 meeting regarding the 2010 budget.

1. Files 21-09 thru 26-09 New Sidewalk Program for 2010 - Village Engineer, **Mr. Millette**, explained the new sidewalk program via a PowerPoint slide show and addressed policy, process and the overall project. Aerial photos of the proposed neighborhoods were on display on easels in the Chamber. The purpose was to have the public see their neighborhoods and provide feedback about the projects being proposed. **Mr. Millette** stated residents can speak at the podium, provide input on the comment forms at the meeting, or make contact through Village e-mail.

Mr. Millette explained the village does have a current sidewalk policy which states that a sidewalk will be installed at least on one side of every street in the village. A sidewalk matrix was created as a way to prioritize where sidewalks will be installed. A history of the matrix followed. Per **Mr. Millette**, staff has adhered to the matrix as closely as possible, with some minor adjustments. The budget amount per year and the projected construction for each segment was noted.

The following six (6) segments are proposed for construction under the 2010 Sidewalk Program: Janet Street between Lacey and Bell Aire; Seeley between 40th and Herbert; Northcott between 40th to the south of Virginia; Seeley, south of Virginia to Janet; Morton, from Herbert to 40th; and Prospect, from Chicago to Lincoln. Referencing the Ogden Avenue Sidewalk Corridor, **Mr. Millette** said part of the project was completed and more work was projected over the next few years, depending upon how quickly properties would be acquired. Per **Mr. Millette**, there was no new input or information on the policy to date.

Referencing the process, **Mr. Millette** stated that tonight's meeting starts the process by allowing the public to speak first and receive feedback. (Staff member Mr. Tom Topor was introduced). **Mr. Millette** brought up the fact that a brochure was created this year for the sidewalk program. To date, approximately \$245,000 has been set aside for next year's sidewalk budget. Sidewalks will be five (5) feet wide, five inches thick, and on a base of four inches of compacted stone. Sidewalks will butt up against concrete driveways when possible so driveways do not have to be cut. However, asphalt driveways will be cut. Culverts will be added for drainage purposes, as needed. Sod will be also be used versus seed.

Mr. Millette reviewed the criteria for sidewalk installation in developed neighborhoods and the fact that available rights-of-way are considered as well as the number of driveways being crossed, current ditches, trees, fixed objects, etc. Connectivity to other sidewalks is considered as well as topography, and the street side that is least expensive. Photographic examples of typical sidewalk installations followed on the PowerPoint slide show. **Mr. Millette** conveyed that staff intends to hold another meeting in February, 2010 with a possible third meeting in March, 2010. Sidewalk construction should begin in May/June 2010. Additionally, he stated that residents have the opportunity to meet with staff at their homes to discuss any concerns. A final review of this matter will take place at the Village Council level, before the bidding process and the project will start. **Mr. Millette** explained that during the construction phase, residents will not be able to get into their driveways for approximately one week. Per a question, residents can upgrade their driveway apron to concrete if they chose.

Mr. Stuebner opened up the meeting to public comment.

Comments on Janet Street (Lacey to Bell Aire):

Mr. Ernest Anderson, 1723 Janet Street, asked if staff determined which side of the street the sidewalk would be located, wherein **Mr. Millette** stated no determination was made.

Mr. Anderson asked if there were surveys done to locate water runoff and their impact, since he received a lot of water runoff from Lee Street and his basement floods frequently. He asked if the budget covered that expense. He also stated the drainage ditch on Janet was very deep already and difficult to mow.

Comments on Seeley Street (40th Street to Herbert St.)

Ms. Helen Rakowski, 4024 Seeley Ave., voiced concern about constructing sidewalks on the far north end of Seeley due to the existing drainage and flooding problems which should be addressed prior to the installation of sidewalks. She discussed the replacement of her driveway a few years back and the cut lines that were never repaired by the Village. She voiced drainage issues coming from Belle Aire and soil erosion taking place at the rear of her property. She will not maintain a ditch since she has not created it. She left pictures of her property with the Village staff and asked to be notified about solutions prior to any construction taking place.

Mr. Jonathan Platt, 4009 Seeley Avenue, voiced drainage issues across his property and his neighbors' properties. He believed constructing a sidewalk on his side of the property would block any drainage and act as a dam. He noted other drainage issues on the east side of the street. Drainage from the Belle Aire parking lot also affects his and his neighbors' properties.

Comments on Northcott Street (40th St. south of Virginia Ave.)

Mr. August Campagna, 4227 Northcott, voiced concern about the impact to the drain tiles in his front property as well as shrubbery along Janet. He noted he had a manhole and a fire hydrant.

Comments on Seeley Avenue (south of Virginia Ave. to Janet St.)

Ms. Laurie Hengels, 1517 Virginia Avenue, talked about the sidewalks that were installed in prior years with no resolution to the drainage issues. To date, she has standing water and has made phone calls to the Village. She discussed the drain tiles that she installed on her property and wanted to know where the sidewalk would be installed.

Mr. Jeff Lavin, 4202 Seeley, echoed the previous comments. His concern was that if the sidewalk is added on his side of the street, it will create a dam to the ditch. He stated the culvert that was reconfigured made the flooding worse. He questioned the impact to the drain tiles. He asked to hear back from staff on how those issues would be addressed. He discussed, in general, how the water problems have gotten worse over the years.

Asked if the stormwater issues were being addressed through the stormwater plan, **Mr. Millette** explained that the stormwater plan would not be addressing the issues, until 2012 at the earliest.

Mr. Edward DuTemple, 4210 Seeley, voiced concern about the stormwater runoff. He moved into his neighborhood due to the open lots and area, stating that installing sidewalks in his neighborhood would be detrimental to the area. He stated that the policy sounded like it concluded that sidewalks had to be installed on every street. He believed there were exceptions to the rule and his street was an exception. He stated Seeley Avenue is at the bottom of the hill and sidewalks would be creating a dam.

Ms. Laurie Hengels, 1517 Virginia Avenue, who has resided at her home for 35 years had no standing water issues in her backyard until two years ago. She commented on the significant drop in topography in her yard.

Comments on Morton Avenue (Herbert St. to 40th St.) –

No comments.

Comments on Prospect Avenue (Chicago to Lincoln) -

Mr. George Rendall, 4620 Prospect, stated that according to the newspaper there is going to be a \$4.5 million shortfall in the budget and that certain projects will have to be considered. He stated that it looked as if Prospect Street was not to be considered initially, and, therefore, his neighbors did not show up. He purchased his lot due to the bucolic feeling of the area and did not want it disturbed. He believed the water issues were a priority and there was a budget issue. He urged the commissioners to address the more serious matters.

Mr. Millette stated he would notify residents on Prospect. As to overlaying the stormwater projects with the sidewalk matrix and scheduling projects simultaneously, Mr. Millette confirmed that it was done and the prioritization of the projects were noted. Asked if there was a correlation between the stormwater projects to be done and the installation of sidewalks, **Mr. Millette** discussed that there was not a direct correlation but some years ago, after doing work only to be torn up later, staff decided to “bundle” construction work together.

Referring to the topography of Prospect, **Mr. Millette** stated he did not want to exacerbate the drainage issues by installing sidewalks; however, upon hearing the above concerns, he discussed an example of a very similar drainage project that was coordinated, which appeared to be working well.

Mr. Jim Hengels, 1517 Virginia, asked about the priority for his area, wherein **Mr. Millette** explained the prioritization and criteria for the Watershed Improvement Plan.

Per a question, **Mr. Millette** spoke about the work that takes place under Medium Priority areas and the fact that staff tries to avoid tearing up sidewalks to do other drainage projects. The concept has proved to be working.

Mr. Joseph DuTemple, 4210 Seeley Avenue, stated that when there is a heavy rain the ditches in his area are not the issue. Referring to the matrix, he noted his area was considered Low Priority but yet basements and flooding were the criteria used to place it into a higher priority. He asked for clarification as to how his street was ranked. He also asked if it made sense to install the sidewalks before sewers were installed.

In response, **Mr. Millette**, stated the criteria used was for major roads, based on emergency response. He explained that sidewalks will have standing water, along with a roadway; however, the goal was not to fill any of the depressional storage areas so as to displace the water further in any direction. Sidewalks would be located at or below the existing ground in order to avoid acting as a dam. Any tiles coming toward the sidewalks would be carried under the sidewalk. Details on the work followed.

Ms. Laurie Hengels, 1517 Virginia, stated one of the issues was that her culvert was higher than her drain ditch.

Mr. Millette stated staff will speak to the Prospect Avenue residents before the next meeting.

Ms. Christine Fregeau, 1918 Elmore Avenue, commented that public safety is a basic need but the Village’s sidewalk budget was being cut in half, which was a concern. She felt the village

has come a long way since she has been addressing sidewalk issues back in 1996 and was pleased to see staff meeting with the residents. She commented on the positive steps that have been made but acknowledged that the last twenty (20) miles or so of sidewalks will present unique challenges. She emphasized this process was a vision for the community to connect neighbors and neighborhoods. **Ms. Fregeau** requested that if there is a matrix in the commissioners' packets to allow the residents to receive the same information or share it on-line. She voiced concern that \$125,000 was being spent on bike paths.

Mr. Mark Thoman, 1106 61st Street, asked if Denburn Woods was on the matrix. He discussed some previous sidewalk projects he has experienced, good and bad. He urged the residents to determine those parkway trees they want saved and to get involved with the Public Works Department. Initially, his own neighbors did not want sidewalks. However, since their installation, he said they are used by the residents and children. He asked those residents not to rule out that sidewalks will ruin a neighborhood. He stated that the outcome of the TCD-3 meeting was the desire of the village to create neighborhood units and to empower the units to effect the processes of the village. As a resident being involved in the process, he emphasized that the residents become a neighborhood group so that their voice becomes stronger. To him, the message he was hearing tonight from the residents was that they did not appear to be opposed to sidewalks but, instead, also wanted their drainage issues addressed.

OLD BUSINESS - None

COMMUNICATIONS

See packet for list of actual communications to village.

ADJOURN

MR. SARICKS MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. MR. CRONIN SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 8:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Celeste Weilandt,
Recording Secretary
(as transcribed by digital recording)

**VILLAGE OF DOWNERS GROVE
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS MEETING
JANUARY 27, 2010**

Call to Order

Chairman White called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

Roll Call

Present: Mr. Benes, Mr. Domijan, Ms. Earl, Ch. White

Absent: Mr. Isacson, Mr. LaMantia, Ms. Majauskas,

A quorum was established.

Staff: Jeff O'Brien, Planning Manager

Chairman White announced both petitioners were requesting a continuation and that the only action would be to continue the requests. He stated there would be no discussion regarding the projects. He indicated only the petitioners needed to remain.

Minutes of November 11, 2009

Chairman White asked if the ZBA members had a chance to review the November 11, 2009 minutes. He asked for changes or corrections. There were none.

Ms. Earl made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 11, 2009 Zoning Board of Appeals meeting. Mr. Domijan seconded the motion.

AYES: Ms. Earl, Mr. Domijan, Mr. Benes, Ch. White

NAYS: None

The Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting Procedures

Chairman White asked if motions were needed for the two petitions. Mr. O'Brien explained the Board needed to continue the petitions to the next ZBA meeting (February 24, 2010).

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ZBA 01-10 A petition seeking sign variations for the property located on the North side of Ogden Avenue approximately 460 feet East of Finley Road, commonly known as 2100 Ogden Avenue, Downers Grove, IL (08-01-401-003), Bill Kay Suzuki, Petitioner; WJK 2100 Associates Ltd P, Owners.

Chairman White opened the public hearing. He confirmed with the petitioner that it was their desire to have the matter continued to the next meeting.

John Spellman, Bill Kay Suzuki, 2100 Ogden Avenue; stated it was their request to be continued.

Chairman White asked if there was a motion.

Ms. Earl made a motion to continue File #ZBA 01-10 to February 24, 2010.

Mr. Domijan seconded the motion.

AYES: Ms. Earl, Mr. Domijan, Mr. Benes, Ch. White

NAYS: None

The Motion passed 4:0

Chairman White announced the petition would be discussed at the February 24, 2010 meeting.

ZBA-02-10 A petition seeking sign variations for the property located at the southeast corner of Burlington Avenue and Mochel Drive, commonly known as 5101 Mochel Drive, Downers Grove, IL (PIN 09-08-130-028), Timothy Canning, Lemon Tree Grocer, Petitioner; Chris Rintz, Acadia OTG LLC., Owner.

Chairman White opened the public hearing. He confirmed with the petitioner that it was their desire to have the matter continued to the next meeting.

Tim Canning, Lemon Tree Grocer; stated it was their request to be continued.

Mr. Domijan made a motion to continue File #ZBA 02-10 to February 24, 2010.

Mr. Benes seconded the motion.

AYES: Mr. Benes, Mr. Domijan, Ms. Earl, Ch. White

NAYS: None

The Motion passed 4:0

Chairman White announced the petition would be discussed at the February 24, 2010 meeting.

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Chairman White asked if there was any other new business to discuss. Mr. O'Brien indicated that staff would issue new packets to the Board for next month's meeting. He stated there was a third petition for that agenda.

There being no further business, Chairman White adjourned the meeting at 7:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeff O'Brien, AICP
Planning Manager