

VILLAGE OF DOWNERS GROVE
REPORT FOR THE VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING
JUNE 4, 2013 AGENDA

SUBJECT:	TYPE:	SUBMITTED BY:
Proposed “No Parking Any Time” Restriction on 61 st St from Blodgett Ave to Grand Ave	✓ Resolution Ordinance Motion Discussion Only	Nan Newlon, P.E. Director of Public Works

SYNOPSIS

An ordinance has been prepared to amend a section of the Municipal Code concerning No Parking Any Time, along the north side of 61st Street, between Blodgett Avenue and Grand Avenue.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

The goals for 2011-2018 identified *Top Quality Infrastructure*.

FISCAL IMPACT

N/A

RECOMMENDATION

Approval on the June 11, 2013 Active Agenda.

BACKGROUND

Staff proposes a No Parking restriction on the north side of 61st Street between Blodgett Ave and Grand Ave. The purpose of the restriction is to address on-going challenge of maintaining the gravel parkway, which is frequently damaged, as well as safety concerns for pedestrians during Fairmount School pick-up and drop-off periods. This item was brought forward by residents who live along 61st Street east of Blodgett Avenue.

Parking is currently allowed on both sides of 61st Street between Blodgett Avenue and Grand Avenue. The street area under consideration is 21 feet wide with no curbs, with a gravel shoulder along the north side. The south side has a paved shoulder that connects to the sidewalk.

Staff inspected this area on several occasions, in the morning and the afternoon. Staff observed vehicles improperly parked along the north side of 61st Street, extending upon the parkway. Because of the narrow width of the street many vehicles were also improperly parked along the south side of 61st Street, extending upon the sidewalk.

Staff proposes that parking be restricted along the north side of 61st Street between Blodgett Avenue and Grand Avenue. Parking conflicts on 61st Street should be eliminated and sufficient parking should be available for parent/guardian drop-offs and pick-ups on surrounding streets. This change was discussed with representatives of the school as well as the adjacent residents, who support the recommendation. This item was presented to the Transportation and Parking Commission on April 10, 2013. The Commission voted unanimously to approve the action as presented.

ATTACHMENTS

Meeting Minutes – April 10, 2013 Transportation and Parking Commission
 Exhibit
 Ordinance

61st St No Parking

ORDINANCE NO. _____

AN ORDINANCE RESTRICTING PARKING ON 61ST STREET

BE IT ORDAINED by the Village Council of the Village of Downers Grove in DuPage County, Illinois, as follows: (Additions are indicated by **shading/underline**; deletions by ~~strikeout~~):

Section 1. That Section 14.98 is hereby amended to read as follows:

14.98 No parking zones-Generally.

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

* * *

61st Street, on the north side, from Blodgett Avenue to Grand Avenue.

61st Street, on the south side, from Dunham Road to the westerly village limit.

* * *

Section 2. That all ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with the provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed.

Section 3. That this ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and publication in the manner provided by law.

Mayor

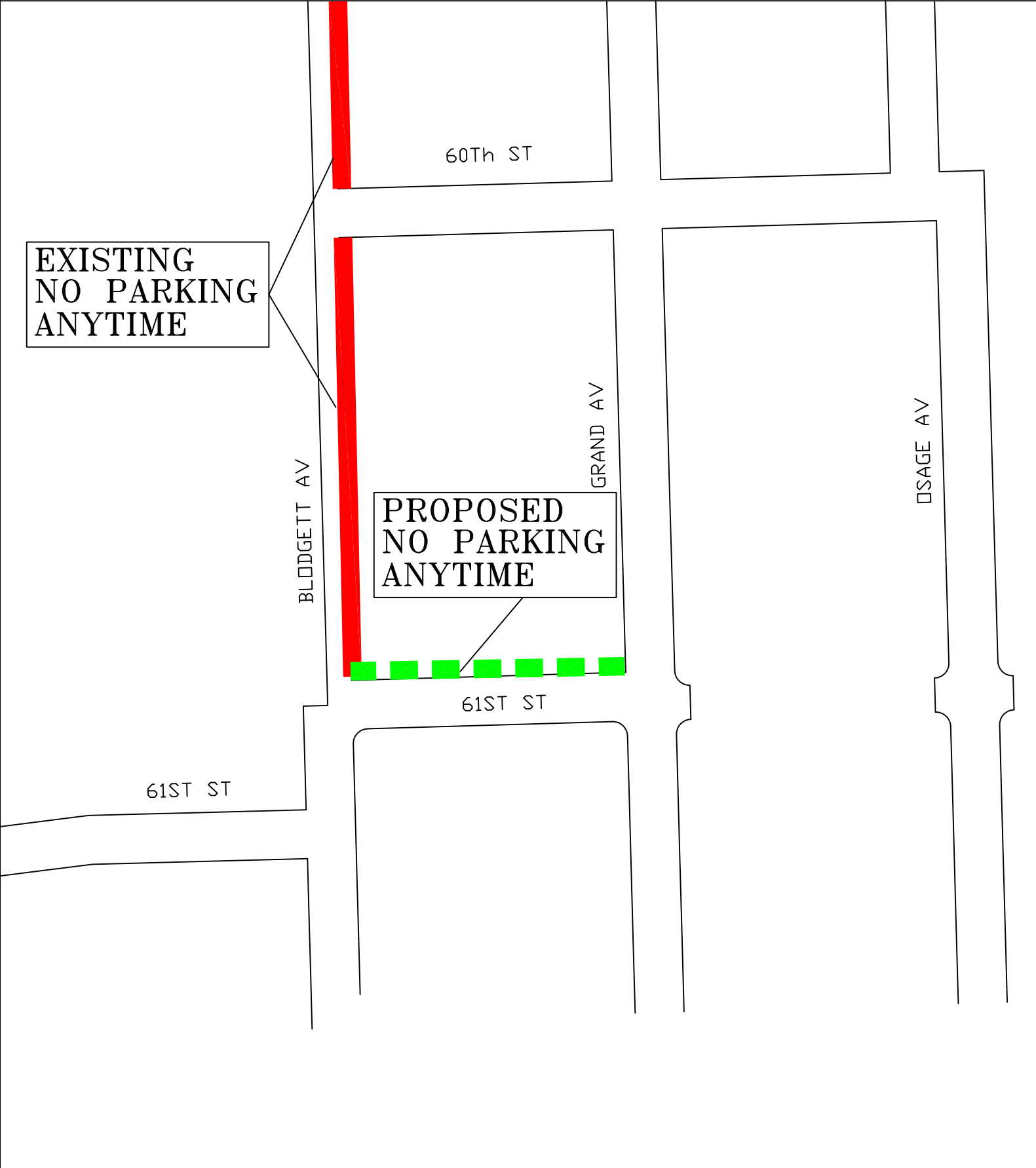
Passed:
Published:
Attest: _____
Village Clerk

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PARKING AND TRAFFIC COMMISSION
61st STREET
Proposed Parking Restrictions
TAP COMMISSION FILE # 06-13



Exhibit 1
4/01/13



TRANSPORTATION AND PARKING COMMISSION

APRIL 10, 20-13 MEETING

MEETING MINUTES

File # 06-13 – 61ST Street Parking Restrictions – Fairmount School

Mr. Fera reported that initially Public Works received a complaint regarding parkway damage and parking issues on 61st St across from Fairmount School. **Mr. Fera** referenced photos he took on the day he visited the site, noting vehicles were parking on the sidewalk on the north side of the street and creating conditions where it was not conducive for two-way traffic nor safe for children exiting school. A letter was sent to the neighbors seeking their input on assigning parking restrictions.

Mr. Fera stated from observations, he noticed that 60th St, to the north, had curb and gutters and was better defined and had more opportunity for school parking. Therefore, staff was reviewing the possibility of restricting parking on the north side of 61st St, with the understanding that the village would first fix the parkway. Then, the Village would install a four-hour time restriction on the south side to allow some usage of the street by the neighbors.

A question was asked whether the Village's right-of-way on the north side of 61st St went beyond the ditch (in the photograph), with the suggestion that the Village blacktop and stripe it to delineate the parking area. **Mr. Fera** indicated the Village is not in a position to spend more money at this particular location, but only provide what is necessary. He also reminded commissioners that reconstruction for the street could occur in the future and that staff could consider curb and gutter at that time.

Dialog then followed that vehicles do stay within their parking area near Blodgett Ave but eventually move onto the sidewalk, probably trying to get off the road. Also mentioned was the fact that ComEd trucks were parked (in the photograph) on the street which created an even tighter area for vehicles to pass. Comments by **Ms. Vleck** followed that if the vehicles were eliminated on the north side, the cars on the south side would not park on the sidewalk. At the same time, she also noted that the vehicles parking on the south side did not appear to be parking there too long. **Mr. Saricks** said he had assumed the commission had heard from the residents who could not park in front of their homes due to vehicles parking there all day.

Mr. Tom Banaszak, 6101 Blodgett, Downers Grove, thanked staff for responding to his phone calls. However, he stated the cars parked on the sidewalks were not a common occurrence and it just so happened that the ComEd trucks were taking up half the road that day. He stated he lives on the south side where the parking would be allowed but he did not understand why the four hour restriction was in place. He stated that the parking was restrictive around the school and that people did have to walk quite a distance for any school event. However, he understood why the residents on the north

side would not like the parking there because their parkway did get torn up quite a bit. He believed parking should be on the south side without any restriction. **Mr. Banaszak** explained that vehicles will park on both sides of the street mainly in the morning hours, as kids are being dropped off or because teachers cannot find parking in the school's parking lot.

Mr. Jim Steinkraus, 6033 Blodgett, Downers Grove, did not mind the vehicles parking but it was the tires making tracks in the grass and make the area look bad. He believed placing asphalt and striping it would be helpful. He also agreed about the statement made regarding the ComEd trucks being there for the one day.

Mr. Rich Toole, 6102 Grand Ave., Downers Grove, noted that this same situation arose a few years back where a mud puddle was created between the street and the sidewalk and eventually the Village paved the area, which helped. While he believed asphalt would help, he also explained that the street heads east and down hill. At 61st St and Grand Ave, a mud puddle is formed from debris that comes off of the hill. **Mr. Toole** also added that the school holds a number of events which block the street so restricting parking on the north side would help relieve part of the problem. For the south side, he suggested paving part of street heading back west and eliminating the gravel. He favored staff's recommendation regarding 60th St and west of Blodgett on 61stSt, which he thought was a good alternative.

Mr. Fera stated that he was aware that teachers may be parking on the street but if the commission desired no restriction on the south side, he stated staff is agreeable to that option, and would monitor the situation after these changes are made. **Mr. Cronin** suggested that staff notify Fairmount School about parking on the two streets.

Mr. Tom Banaszak, 6101 Blodgett, Downers Grove, stated that in the past the Public Works Department has put down gravel and tried to maintain the area for the residents.

Mr. Saricks recommended making a motion approving staff's first recommendation point but tabling the second bullet point for future consideration since there was not much support from the neighbors to institute parking restrictions on the south side of 61st St.

MS. VLCEK MADE A MOTION THAT THE TRANSPORTATION AND PARKING COMMISSION FORWARD A POSITIVE RECOMMENDATION TO THE VILLAGE COUNCIL IMPLEMENTING THE FOLLOWING: INSTALL "NO PARKING ANY TIME" ALONG THE NORTH SIDE OF 61ST STREET, BETWEEN BLODGETT AVENUE AND GRAND AVENUE.

MR. WROBEL SECONDED THE MOTION.

MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE OF 6-0.