

Minutes of Committee
Monday, March 26, 2007
6:30 p.m.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

- 1) Continued Discussion: Permit Parking request Collegeview Area
- 2) Discussion: Traffic Control of Alley behind the 300 block of Michigan Ave.
- 3) Stone Cottage Shoppes (Elmhurst) Access Review
- 4) Van Auken traffic Calming/Pedestrian Access Review
- 5) Other Business

Committee Members Present: Jordan, Mulliner, Bram

Elected Official Present: Spencer, Tranter

City Staff Present: Neubauer, Doherty (part), Kopp, Borchert, Keating, Valerie Johnson, Panico

Guests: Marguerite and George Tapling, EF Benson, Jeff Danna, Lynn Krizic, Patti Bennett

DISCUSSION AND COMMENTS:

- 1) Mr. Borchert addressed the Committee and guests summarizing his memorandum regarding information requested by Staff. Dr. Krizic advised that a number of York students drive to school for school related reasons. Approximately 30 to 40 students participate in "Invite to Teach" program, others attend vocational training programs, and other students drive because they have to. The request for student parking passes exceeds the number of available spaces on campus. Dr. Krizic expressed concern with having administrative staff spend valuable time on disciplining students who violate parking restrictions off campus. Dr. Krizic was unable to provide current data as to the number of students who drive to school, and the number who take the bus. Chief Kopp provided the Committee a copy of memorandum to the Committee dated July 2005 in which the number of staff and student parking spaces available at York High School. Alderman Tranter commented she understood how valuable administrative staff time is at York High School. She further discussed Staff's findings and Mr. Borchert's memorandum asking clarifying questions of same.

Mrs. Tapling addressed the committee and spoke to the low turnout of residents of the Collegeview area due to it being Spring break. She spoke to the Sun Times article attached to the memorandum.

Chief Neubauer explained current staffing including two (2) parking control officers who are busy throughout the day with present parking enforcement responsibilities. The proposed permit plan would add 34 residential blocks that would have to be monitored and enforced daily. Current staffing would not adequately be able to regulate and enforce that increase. Mr. Borchert added that the 34 blocks multiplied by the number of homes increases personnel time significantly to administer and regulate. He pointed out Staff findings that Oak Park has a staff of 15 Parking Control Officers, and Evanston has a staff of 13 Parking Control Officers. Elmhurst only employs 2 Parking Control Officers. Also there is a real potential to allow other areas of the City to request the same permit system which would put a greater demand on present resources.

The discussion then focused on the graduated fine structure on York High School campus property and the static fine structure for violating parking restriction on City property. Alderman Mulliner suggested the need for a balanced approach, that there needs to be a comprehensive solution bringing all stake holders into the process and to explore other options. Alderman Bram agreed commenting that he is not certain a permit system is the only solution that a time limit at certain hours of the school day needs to be investigated as a possible solution. Mr. Tapling said that the current parking restrictions in the Collegeview neighborhood is not consistent, some streets have a two (2) hour parking restriction and some streets have No Parking on School Days.

Further discussion ensued regarding time limit parking that would allow residents to park on the street but with time limits that would restrict High School students from parking on the street.

Subsequent to this discussion the Committee directed Staff to research and develop options relative to adjusting the time limited parking restrictions that would allow residents to park on the street at certain times of the school day and still restrict students from parking. Staff will also develop and distribute a survey instrument to accurately assess residents concerns and report back to the Committee.

- 2) The Committee directed Staff to prepare a report for the next meeting.
- 3) Mr. Borchert was present and addressed the Committee. Subsequent to discussion, Mr. Benson agreed with consultant's findings to widen River Glen Ave between the proposed site access and North Ave to provide exclusive southbound right and left turn lanes.
- 4) Tabled to next meeting due to Committee of the Whole meeting scheduled for 8:00 p.m.

The Committee was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.
Submitted by Dominic Panico, Deputy Chief