

Minutes of Committee
Monday, August 25, 2008
7:00 p.m.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

- 1) Discussion: Neighborhood Electric Vehicles
- 2) Parking Restrictions on Oak St South of Armitage
- 3) Police Department Request: Two Ford Expeditions
- 4) Continued Review-Bike Safety in Elmhurst
- 5) Discussion: Pending Items
- 6) Other Business

Elected Official Members Present: Mulliner, Bram, Nybo, Leader, and Shea

Special Guests: Park Commissioners C. Healy and C. Ubriaco

City Staff Present: Neubauer, Bacidore, Novak, Doherty

Guests: Jerome Hughes, Joanne Nicholson, Don Whistler, Jan Kuzniar, Steve Eisenhut, Ted Sward, Sam Gunda, Chris Healy, Carolyn Ubriaco, Bob Bishop, Susan Sperl, Keith Garland, Emma Fisher, Bill Fisher, Nancy Hoel, Pamela Brookstein, Rebecca Clancy

DISCUSSION AND COMMENTS:

The Chairman advised he was changing the agenda order and the Committee would like to address agenda item #2 first.

Item 2. Alderman Leader addressed the Committee advising himself and Alderman Shea have spoken with a number of the residents and learned that these are real problems that need to be addressed. Deputy Fire Chief Bacidore reviewed the results of the engineering department citizen survey regarding residents' preference for parking restrictions. DFC Bacidore advised the preference is reflected in the draft report submitted to the Committee. Residents present supported the recommended parking restrictions in the draft report. Alderman Bram suggested restricting one side of the street. Residents responded one side is currently restricted which does not resolve many of their issues. Residents recommended several other ideas which the chairman advised would be reviewed by City and Park District staff. Commissioners Ubriaco and Healy advised the Park District provides parking information to all permitted users of Park District facilities.

Committee then signed a report recommending No Parking M-F 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. and Saturday thru Sunday 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. from May 1st to August 1st on both sides of Oak from Armitage to 461/464 Oak.

Item 1. Chief Neubauer reviewed staff research on the Champaign University District Concept and State Statue Staff analysis of volume, speed, and character of traffic within the Elmhurst Community does not support a recommendation of the neighborhood electric vehicle (NEV) concept. The Committee concurred with staff recommendation. The Chairman directed staff to prepare a report not recommending NEV's in Elmhurst.

Item 3. Chief Neubauer briefed the Committee on the Police Department plan to change the color scheme of the marked squads. A survey was conducted and by an overwhelming margin, the officers would prefer a black and white color scheme. Chief Neubauer advised that he felt that an increase in recognition and visibility would result from a black and white color scheme for new vehicles. The Committee then signed the report recommending the purchase of two (2) Ford Expeditions.

Item 4. Chairman noted a current discussion occurring in Public Works and Building Committee regarding placements of additional bike racks in the City Centre. Chief Neubauer advised that last school year a bike safety initiative was taught by the DARE Officers.

Bob Hoel, representing the Elmhurst Bike Club offered to assist staff in the following areas:

Public Education on bike safety and bike routes (once identified)

Development of recommended bike routes to various locations in the community.

Mr. Hoel states through the bike clubs collective experience, an excellent route map could be developed. The Chairman directed staff to work with the bike club on route plans. A suggestion of an ordinance change regarding yielding to bicycles, modeling Michigan law, in crosswalks was referred to the City attorney.

Pam Brookstein from the Chicagoland Bicycle Federation suggested the development of a comprehensive bike plan which gives consistent direction and is a great asset in grant opportunities. The Chairman directed staff to research this concept and report back.

Item 5. Pending Items:

- Commercial Filming-draft ordinance submitted. Council approval-remove
- Pace News Revenues-waiting on Pace to provide info on footprint of proposed shelters
- Bike Safety August 25th 2008 agenda
- Salt Creek Greenway Bike Path-Park District moving forward per Alderman Nybo-withdraw request
- Parking Restriction on Harvard and Melrose. Staff to contact Alderman Rose for complainant
- Parking Restriction on one side of Howard. Staff to contact Alderman Bram for complainant
- Berens Park Parking Problem- Oak St. August 25 2008 committee agenda draft report signed-remove.
- Neighborhood Electric Vehicles. August 25 2008 agenda staff preparing report-remove
- Parking Restrictions on Elm, north of first. Committee report council approve-remove.

Item 6. Chief Neubauer briefed the Committee on staff research regarding portable pole mounted radar speed displays. A vendor has been identified after collaboration with Police, Public Works, and Engineering. A unit has been ordered for test and evaluation. Staff will be reporting to the Committee in the near future.

No other Business

The Committee was adjourned at 8:07 p.m.
Submitted by James Doherty, Deputy Chief