

Minutes of Committee
Monday, February 23, 2009
7:00 p.m.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

- 1) Berkley Ave. Corridor
- 2) Bensenville Fire Protection District No .1 – Review Options for District to come into compliance with Agreement.
- 3) Commonwealth Area Parking Restrictions
- 4) Ordinance for Increasing Fines for Possession of Cannabis
- 5) Ordinance for Increasing Fines for Possession of Drug Paraphernalia
- 6) Review of Pending Items
- 7) Other Business

Members Present: Mulliner, Bram, and Nybo

Elected Official Present: Spencer

City Staff Present: Neubauer, Kopp, Bacidore, Doherty, Wallace, Spiroff (part), Panico, McGrew (part), Keating, Borchert, Brent Coulter (Transportation Consultant)

Guest: Jeanne Kett, Chris Healy, Diane Berglund, John Osbalt, L. Donovan Heinz, Cathy Fultale, Jim Turner, Tracy Kramer, Paul DeMichele

DISCUSSION AND COMMENTS:

1. Mulliner opened the floor to residents Chris Healy and Jeanne Kett who expressed their support for a crossing guard and four way stop sign request at the intersection of Berkley and Prairie Path. Both the re-evaluation of the stop sign request and crossing guard request evaluation by the City's Transportation Consultant, (Coulter) did not meet the recognized standards to warrant either a four way stop or crossing guard. Upon request, McGrew explained the traffic and pedestrian count analysis conducted in January 2009. Kett expressed her concern that the counts may not be accurate due to the incimate weather when the study was conducted. Nybo then requested further explanation of the methodologies, analysis and recommendations. Coulter, Engineering staff, and Borchert responded by explaining the nationally recognized methods of analysis used and how the recommendations were based upon those standards. The discussion then focused on the four way stop sign request. Subsequent to discussion, the Committee directed Staff to implement the traffic calming recommendations made by Staff and Coulter, and to re evaluate the traffic/pedestrian analysis in warmer weather and report back to the Committee.
2. Mr. Borchert addressed the Committee and provided a map of the effected area and summary of the fee agreement. He also gave a review of the three (3) alternatives detailed in the information provided to the Committee for consideration. Osbolt and DeMichele (Bensenville Fire Protection District #1 Board members) addressed the Committee expressing a desire to work out a mutually equitable agreement with the City for Fire services. The discussion then focused on the "Special Service Area" alternative. Subsequent to further discussion, Osbolt and DeMichele agreed to arrange a community meeting to present, discuss, and survey the three alternatives with residents. Subsequent to the community meeting, the Board would report back to the Committee regarding the result.
3. Mulliner opened the discussion regarding the proposed Commonwealth Lane area parking restrictions. The discussion focused on the current and proposed parking restrictions on Commonwealth Lane adjacent to Eldridge Park. Subsequent to further discussion, the Committee directed Staff to prepare a report recommending proposed changes, including "No Parking this side of Street" on west/south side of Commonwealth Lane and unrestricted parking on the east/north side, to be consistent in parking restrictions in the area and enhance safety of those visiting the park. Committee agreed to phone in signatures for the report so it could be placed on the next council meeting agenda.
4. Subsequent to a brief discussion, the Committee signed the report.
5. Subsequent to a brief discussion, the Committee signed the report.
6. The Committee reviewed the pending item list. Subsequently, the Committee directed staff to remove "Bike Safety" (Due to the creation of the Bike Safety Task Force) and PACE shelters. Also remove the stop sign requests for Emroy & Frontage, and Armitage & Van Auken, agreeing with Staff recommendations.

7. (a) Subsequent to a brief discussion regarding traffic studies and stop sign request for Oak Lawn, and Highview the Committee directed Staff to defer the studies until Spring.

(b) Mr. Borchert advised the Committee of the proposed antenna tower at the new Fire Station #2 construction site. The tower could be a source of potential revenue by leasing space for cell phone antennas. Varying antenna heights were discussed. Subsequent to this discussion, the Committee directed Staff to conduct further research and analysis and report back to the Committee.

The Committee was adjourned at 9:25 p.m.
Submitted by Dominic Panico, Deputy Chief