

TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Minutes of Meeting of April 17, 2019

Volume 66

No. 4

Members Present: Thomas Soyk, Deputy Commissioner of Parking, Acting Chairman
John P. Larson, Commissioner of Parking
James M. Bradley, Deputy Commissioner of Public Safety (for D. Chong)
Rick Hope, Commissioner Department of Public Works
Daniel Spencer, Deputy Corporation Counsel (for J. Callahan)
Katherine Crawford, Planner, Planning Department (for C. Gomez)
Melissa Briggs

Staff Members Present: Nicholas Kralik, Capt.-Commander, Traffic Div.
Anthony Marena, Transportation Engineer

Members Absent: Ken Burford

Staff Members Absent: Edward Ignaszewski, Supervisor of Enforcement
Stefania Mignone, Deputy Commissioner of DPW

Others Present: Lisa Lopilato, Secretary to Commissioner Larson

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion made, seconded and carried, the minutes of the March 20, 2019 meeting was approved.

II. OLD BUSINESS

1. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. – Request from Mr. Daniel Coots, New York State Department of Transportation, Region 8 to allow the “Hudson Link” buses to utilize the existing bus stop between Main Street and Hamilton Avenue.

The state will be relocating the bus stop sign closer to Hamilton Avenue as requested last month. The staff will review the operation after the stop location is revised. The staff recommended holding this item.

Acting Chairman Thomas Soyk stated that the signs have not been relocated and the Department of Transportation will be contacted again.

This item will be held.

2. Manor Avenue – Request from Ms. Melissa Zappavigna Guerin, 16 Manor Avenue to consider a speed bump, a one way, or “No Thru Traffic” to reduce the speeds of drivers.

A speed display sign which also collects data has been recently installed. The staff recommended holding this item to allow time to collect speed data.

Mr. James Guerin addressed the Commission and questioned how the speed display sign works. He reported that he felt that the device was not always working.

Acting Chairman Thomas Soyk replied that the machine works from 5 to 7 days and requires battery replacement. For the first week the sign will appear blank and only collects data. The second week it shows the speed display and also collects data. The unit will be checked to make sure it is operating the way it should be. The unit will remain at this location for another month or two.

This item is held.

3. Grandview Avenue – Request from Ms. Joan Conca and Ms. Shauna Prusky to discuss the parking problems on Grandview Avenue due to The Church in the Highlands Preschool.

This item is held to allow time for the Department of Public Safety to meet again with the Church.

Deputy Commissioner Bradley stated that Public Safety has met with the Church and has discussed the issue further with them.

No further action is required at this time.

4. 1203 Mamaroneck Avenue – Request from the Department of Public Safety to review this location. Patrons are often backing out of the parking spaces onto Mamaroneck Avenue. They have received complaints from residents and have observed vehicles illegally parking on the shoulder of Mamaroneck Avenue.

The staff was informed that the Building Department has issued a summons to the business owner for the additional driveway on Mamaroneck Avenue. Based on this the staff recommended that this item be removed from the agenda.

Deputy Commissioner Bradley requested that an update be provided from the Building Department.

On a motion made, seconded and carried, the Commission will remove this item from the agenda.

5. Old Mamaroneck Road and Gedney Way - Request from Mr. Matthew Welling, to install a pedestrian signal at this intersection. He feels that many of his classmates from Highlands Middle School walk to school and that adding both visual and audible signals would improve safety.

The staff discussed what was needed to accommodate the request. The improvements would require new sidewalk ramps and signal poles in order to comply with ADA requirements. The Department of Public Works stated that currently no sidewalk projects are scheduled in this area. The improvements could be included in a future capital project. The staff recommended, that as an interim

measure, the signal timing be reviewed and modified to allow additional time during the afternoon hours when the crossing guard is not present.

On a motion made, seconded and carried, the Commission recommended the approval of the staff recommendation.

6. Coralyn Avenue and Hazelton Avenue – Requests from Mr. Douglas Smith, Ms. Erynn Albert, Ms. Rhianna Jones and Ms. Elizabeth Illberg to lower the speed limit on Coralyn Avenue. Also requested were the installation of speed bumps on Coralyn Avenue and Hazelton Avenue, and the installation of stop signs and children at play signs on Coralyn Avenue. They feel that Coralyn Avenue is used as a shortcut and that motorists are speeding through their neighborhood.

A speed display sign which also collects data has been recently installed. The staff recommended holding this item to allow time to collect speed data.

This item will be held.

III. NEW BUSINESS

1. Heatherbloom Road and Burke Hospital Driveway – Requests from the Traffic Division of Parking, Dr. Jon Rogers and Ms. Melanie Kolby, residents of Heatherbloom Road to restrict right turns into Burke’s driveway from Heatherbloom Road. Ms. Kolby also suggested we consider lowering the speed limit to 25 MPH, permanent speed display signs, a median on Bryant to prevent left turns onto Hathaway Lane as well as speed humps. They feel that Heatherbloom Road is used as a shortcut to Burke and that motorists are speeding through their neighborhood.

The staff conducted observations during the morning and observed approximately 60 cars traveling on westbound Heatherbloom Road making a right into the site. The staff recommended that observations be conducted during the PM peak to determine the number of cars exiting the driveway

making a left onto Heatherbloom Road. The Department of Public Safety will be conducting enforcement in the area. The staff recommended holding this item.

Mr. Zack Salino, a member of the Gedney Association, addressed the Commission. Mr. Salino requested that Acting Chairman Thomas Soyk confirm that it was not his (Mr. Salino's) request for the restriction of right turns which Mr. Soyk did confirm and stated for the record. Mr. Salino read a letter provided on the Association's behalf. The letter stated that the traffic volumes and speeding on Heatherbloom Road, which is winding and narrow, has been a growing concern for the neighborhood. They are not traffic engineers, it stated, and trust that the City will make decisions for the greater good of the neighborhood and the City. The letter also stated that they appreciated the time and effort the traffic department is spending on this and they look forward to appropriate traffic calming measures to be instituted.

Brian Swift, Vice President, Plant Operations & Support Services and Jeffrey Menkes, President & CEO Burke Rehabilitation Hospital addressed the Commission. Mr. Swift stated that safety is paramount. He stated that prior to today's meeting, at 7:00AM, he observed the area for ten minutes and noticed that not all vehicles were turning into Burke. A restriction of the right turn into Burke would restrict access for patients in the area and would not have a positive impact. He also felt that other improvements could and should be made to the area to improve the situation.

Mr. Menkes stated he would like to work with the Gedney Association for a solution that won't cause a problem for the patients as well as their neighbors. Because we have an exit onto Mamaroneck Avenue, he stated, we are willing to put a new entrance into Burke adjacent with the current exit. We realize that Mamaroneck Avenue is a County Road and we must work together on the solution.

Acting Chairman Thomas Soyk stated that the information given will be presented to staff to be reviewed and this item will remain on the agenda for next month.

John McCarthy, Burke Chairman of the Board of Trustees, wished to make some final comments. He stated that not only is he a 72 year resident of the City of White Plains but he is also a 43 year resident of Ridgeway Circle. He requested that Burke not be penalized and stated that Burke is a major assets to the City of White Plains. He drives the area almost daily. Through his own observations he felt that most of the traffic is not entering Burke. He felt that the majority of the people who are traveling on Heatherbloom are continuing towards Mamaroneck Avenue.

Acting Chairman Thomas Soyk stated a further and a more broad study of the area will be conducted. We will use a device, he stated, that will give us more information during a longer period of time so that a further evaluation of the area can be made. Restricting turns are not always the answer and there are federal requirements on stop signs so they are not always possible to install at all locations. We will search for a solution.

This item will be held.

2. 421 Central Avenue – Request from Mr. Michael G. Calvi P.E., Orpheus Design Associates for approval of a “No Left Turn” from the driveway of the proposed office building at the above location. Mr. Calvi stated that Westchester County has suggested a restriction and requested concurrence from the Commission for the restriction.

The staff agreed with the Westchester County recommendation and recommended a “No Left Turn” from the driveway to 421 Central Avenue.

On a motion made, seconded and carried, the staff recommended the approval of the staff recommendation.

3. White Plains Train Station – Request from Mr. James DiDonato, Vice President of J&R Tours Ltd. to allow their shuttles to Purchase College to use the “Bus Lane” adjacent to the parking garage. Mr. DiDonato states due to the size of their buses (approximately 35 feet) they are not able to

use the shuttle area next to the taxi stand in the train station lot. He also states that they have been using the area adjacent to the garage for twenty years.

Due to construction in the train station lot, the larger shuttle buses are not able to access the designated shuttle area. The staff recommended that the larger shuttle buses be allowed to utilize the north side of New Street just east of Ferris Avenue. Currently this area is posted as a “No Parking Any Time” but is used as a layover area by County buses. The staff recommended revising the signage to accommodate the shuttle buses.

This area is difficult and the question remains if the area can be shared and used as a layover area. The County will be contacted to see what the options are and if the area can be shared. Perhaps some space in front of the bus lane could be used or another area should be considered. Additional research of the area needs to be done to find another location to accommodate the shuttles.

An additional stop will be created.

On a motion made, seconded and carried, the Commission recommended the approval of the creation of one space for a shuttle area.

4. Gedney Circle – Request from Mr. Cayne Letizia to consider additional parking restrictions on Gedney Circle. Currently, parking is restricted on one side of the road. Mr. Letizia states that the students from Stepinac are parking on the street and leaving garbage and debris. He would like to create a restriction to eliminate the current situation.

The staff reviewed the area and it appeared that the northern portion of Gedney Circle is being utilized by Stepinac students for parking. Creating a “No Parking 10AM-11AM” would reduce the number of all day parkers. The staff recommended that the residents be polled prior to making any recommendations.

Residents will be polled.

5. Main Street and Renaissance Square – Request from the Parking Department

Transportation Division to revise the ordinance for the 15 minute meters in the downtown area. The times of the 15 minute limit for the meters are currently not consistent.

The staff discussed the various current restrictions for the meters and felt that the different restrictions are confusing to the public. The staff recommended that the 15 minute meters be in effect from 9AM to 9PM (except Sundays). These spaces are specifically for areas where high turnover in parking is anticipated.

On a motion made, seconded and carried, the Commission recommended the approval of the staff recommendation.

IV. COMMON COUNCIL REFERRALS

1. Zoning Ordinance – Communication from The Planning Board regarding a proposed amendment to the City of White Plains Zoning Ordinance to amend the definition of “Recreation Facilities” to include “Electronic Games”, Laser Tag, E-Sports, and Virtual Reality Games/Rides and allow commercial indoor “Recreation Facilities” as a permitted principle use in the B-6 Zoning District.

The staff has no objections.

On a motion made seconded and carried the Commission recommended the approval of the proposed amendment.

2. Zoning Ordinance – Communication from The Planning Board regarding a proposed amendment to the City of White Plains Zoning Ordinance to amend Section 10.4.4, Notice of Hearing Before the Board, and 12.7 Notice of Hearing, to require the posting of signage on properties subject to a Public Hearing before the Common Council Planning Board, and Zoning Board of Appeals.

The staff has no objections.

On a motion made, seconded and carried, the Commission recommended the approval of the proposed amendment.

3. Zoning Ordinance – Communication from The Planning Board regarding a proposed amendment to the City of White Plains Zoning Ordinance to adopt new Affordable Housing Rental Program Regulations as Chapter 9-7 of the Municipal Code, and amending certain sections of the Zoning Ordinance with regard to Affordable Housing.

The staff has no objections.

On a motion made, seconded and carried, the Commission recommended the approval of the proposed amendment.

4. 65 Lake Street (Mount Hope A.M.E. Zion Church) – Request from DelBello Donnellan Weingarten Wise & Wiederkehr, LLP, on behalf of Mount Hope A.M.E. Zion Church for an extension to the special permit and site plan approval.

The staff has no objections.

On a motion made, seconded and carried, the Commission recommended the approval of the extension.

5. 95 South Broadway and 4 Lyon Place (Esplanade) – Request from Zarin & Steinmetz, on behalf of The Esplanade of White Plains Venture Partnership for an extension to the site plan approval.

The staff has not objections.

On a motion made, seconded and carried, the Commission recommended the approval of the extension.

6. Westchester Avenue and Franklin Avenue (The Collection) – Request from DelBello Donnellan Weingarten Wise & Wiederkehr, LLP, on behalf of Saber Chauncey WP, LLC for an extension to the special permit and site plan approval.

The staff has no objections.

On a motion made, seconded and carried, the Commission recommended the approval of the extension.

V. ADDENDUM

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion made, seconded and carried, the meeting adjourned at 9:04AM.