

# TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

## Minutes of Meeting of May 15, 2019

Volume 66

No. 5

Members Present: Thomas Soyk, Deputy Commissioner of Parking, Acting Chairman  
John P. Larson, Commissioner of Parking  
Nicholas Kralik, (for D. Chong)  
Rick Hope, Commissioner Department of Public Works  
Daniel Spencer, Deputy Corporation Counsel (for J. Callahan)  
Eileen McClain, Senior Planner, Planning Department (for C. Gomez)  
Melissa Briggs

Staff Members Present: Edward Ignaszewski, Supervisor of Enforcement  
U. Siriphonlai, Deputy Commissioner, DPW

Members Absent: Ken Burford

Staff Members Absent: Anthony Marena, Transportation Engineer

Others Present: Lisa Lopilato, Secretary to Commissioner Larson

### **I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**On a motion made, seconded and carried, the minutes of the April 17, 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.

*New York State DOT has relocated the bus stop closer to Hamilton Avenue as requested. The staff observed the operation of the new stop and felt that the new location minimized conflicts with other buses. The staff recommended approving the use of this bus stop.*

Deputy Corporation Counsel Dan Spencer asked which bus stop did the staff recommend? Acting Chairman Thomas Soyk responded that they relocated north of the existing County bus stop on that same block. This is to be used on the way out of town not into town. The sign that was posted originally for this stop was placed adjacent to the County sign. Currently, this stop is only used by the DOT.

**On a motion made, seconded and carried, the Commission recommended the approval of the staff recommendation with Deputy Corporation Counsel Daniel Spencer opposed.**

**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.

*The staff reviewed the data collected by the speed display sign. The data showed that the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed during the past 27 days was 22MPH. Based on the low speed in the area the staff did not recommend any additional changes to the area.*

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

**3. 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 installation of pedestrian indications will require new utility poles as well as sidewalk and sidewalk ramps in order to comply with ADA requirements. The staff recommended that these improvements be included in a future capital project. The staff also 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 staff recommended the approval of the staff recommendation.**

**4. 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.

*The staff reviewed the data collected by the speed display sign. The data showed that the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed during the past 42 days was approximately 23MPH. The prevailing speeds are already lower than the posted speed limit. The staff recommended adding additional curve warning signs in the area of the curves.*

Acting Chairman Thomas Soyk said they will also be reviewing the possibility of installing a bus stop sign as well as curve signs with advisory speed limits on them. This will alert drivers to slow down in the area which will hopefully help.

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

**5. Heatherbloom Road and Burke Hospital Driveway** – Request 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 bumps. They feel that Heatherbloom Road is used as a shortcut to Burke and that motorists are speeding through their neighborhood.

*The Department of Public Safety has conducted enforcement in the area. The speed sign data showed that approximately 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed to be approximately 37MPH. It is expected that the speed display sign will reduce the speeds slightly. The staff conducted additional observations at this intersection. The data showed that during the 7 hours observed, the right turn volumes (Heatherbloom westbound) varied between 8 to 32 percent of the total westbound volume. Staff members considered restricting the right turn in but the majority of the members (3 out of 4) were opposed to creating a right turn restriction. Based on this, the staff did not recommend any changes at this intersection.*

Acting Chairman Thomas Soyk stated that he did take a further look at the data after the staff made its recommendation. Upon his review he found that the 85th percentile speed is 38 MPH. This did not change after the speed was displayed which is indicative of cut through traffic. He discovered that the volume data, which was collected between 7AM and 6PM, showed 750 vehicles continued straight on the approach of Heatherbloom Road at the Burke driveway and 160 made the right turn into Burke. Data showed that approximately 17% of the traffic all day made the right turn. Acting Chairman Thomas Soyk stated he has received many emails from people in the neighborhood as well as Burke with their concerns. On a trial basis he proposed a recommendation to restrict the right turn from 7:00AM – 9:30AM. This restriction, based on the data provided, will bring down the numbers from 160 cars throughout the day by 60. This recommendation, if approved, will be done on a trial basis.

Captain Kralik expressed concerns that traffic would be diverted to other streets and cause congestion on those streets instead of being equally distributed throughout the area. He continued by

stating that Mamaroneck Avenue was not built to handle all of the traffic in the area. Deputy Corporation Counsel Daniel Spencer expressed concerns in not following the staff recommendation. After a brief discussion, it was decided that a time limited right turn restriction would be recommended for a trial period of six months.

Mr. Salino addressed the Commission. He stated that Heatherbloom Road is a very narrow road and he feels that traffic should be pushed to Mamaroneck Avenue. He believes that Mamaroneck Avenue was designed to handle larger volumes of traffic. Mr. Salino shared that there was also discussion amongst his neighbors regarding a possible sidewalk on the north side. If deemed appropriate, perhaps that could be considered later as a capital project.

Mr. Salino also reminded the Commission that part of the concern for himself and his neighbors was speeding through his neighborhood. He asked if there will be any follow up with the speeding problem in the area. Acting Chairman Thomas Soyk replied that the Police will be enforcing the area. He added that the city is looking into reducing speed limits in the neighborhoods. Unfortunately, at the present time, state law prohibits speeds of less than 30 mph. New York City has lowered speed limits to 25 mph throughout the City. Acting Chairman Thomas Soyk believes that at some point the pressure will be to do similar reductions to other communities throughout the state.

Captain Kralik requested data so that police enforcement could follow up.

**On a motion made, seconded and carried, the Commission recommended the approval of a right turn restriction during specified hours on a trial basis with Deputy Corporation Counsel Daniel Spencer opposed.**

**6. 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 has sent letters to the residents in the area but recommended that this item be held an additional month to allow time for additional responses.*

**This item will be held.**

### **III. NEW BUSINESS**

**1. Ria Drive and Bayne Place** – Request from Ms. Stern regarding cars parking on Ria Drive and Bayne Place during the school pick up and drop off times. She feels that is very congested during these times and that cars can hardly pass. Additionally, cars are parked facing the wrong way and in intersections where other motorists can't see oncoming traffic.

*The Department of Public Safety field reviewed the location several times and did not see any violations. Based on this the staff did not recommend any changes in the area.*

Acting Chairman Thomas Soyk stated that he visited the area yesterday afternoon and did see violations. Three cars were parked too close to the intersection. You are not supposed to park within thirty feet of the intersection. He recommends a “No Standing” sign against the corner of that intersection.

**On a motion made, seconded and carried the Commission recommended placement of a “No Standing” sign, Deputy Corporation Counsel Dan Spencer and Captain Nicholas Kralik opposed.**

**2. Hunt Place** – Request from Ms. Lucy Carpio, 11 Hunt Place to remove the “No Parking Any Time” on Hunt Place and to change it to a 2 hour limit.

*The staff agreed that the residents in the area be polled prior to making any recommendations.*

**Residents will be polled.**

**3. Bryant Avenue at Colonial Road** – Request from Mr. Joel Rudikoff, 29 Colonial Road to remove the “No Right Turn” on Bryant Avenue and Colonial Road. Mr. Rudikoff feels that this was installed when the high school was built to prevent students from driving through the neighborhood. He feels that this is not needed and an inconvenience to the residents.

*The staff recommended that the residents in the area be polled prior to making any recommendations.*

**Residents will be polled.**

#### **IV. COMMON COUNCIL REFERRALS**

**1. 44 South Broadway (NY Life Insurance Company)** – Request from Cuddy & Feder, LLP, on behalf of New York Life Insurance Company for an extension to the amended site plan approval associated with the installation of three new identification signs at 44 South Broadway.

*The staff has no objections.*

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

**2. 1111 Westchester Avenue (Westpark)** – Request from McCullough, Goldberg and Staudt, LLP, on behalf of Westpark Associates NY LLC, for a one year extension to the site plan amendment approval to allow the construction of a three story parking garage.

*The staff has no objections.*

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

**3. 20 Greenridge Avenue, (Hebrew Institute of White Plains)** – Request from Cuddy and Feder, LLP, on behalf of The Hebrew Institute of White Plains for an amended site plan approval to expand and renovate the existing place of worship.

*The staff reviewed the submitted application for expansion which states that the number of existing parking spaces will be reduced from 80 to 76 spaces after the proposed expansion. A review of the traffic report states that the proposed expansion would require an additional 41 parking spaces per the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance. The report states that the majority of the times the proposed sanctuary will not be used concurrently with the proposed social hall therefore the existing parking spaces are adequate. The staff felt that the use may change if the property is transferred therefore recommended that the zoning requirements for parking should be met.*

Bernard Adler, a licensed professional engineer in the State of New York and a former Transportation Commission member, addressed the Commission. He is presently a consultant for the Chazen Companies and has been a White Plains resident for 40 years. He speaks on behalf of the Hebrew Institute and is also a member.

The proposed expansion will be in both the sanctuary and the synagogue halls. Typically, week after week the parking lot is predominantly empty. Zoning requires 41 spaces for the sanctuary expansion which is slightly over 4,000 feet. The proposed Social Hall expansion is about the same and requires, if it were separate, an additional 40 spaces for a total of 81 spaces. The synagogue has 80 spaces three of which will be converted to transition spaces for handicapped parking. The total spaces available for the synagogue will be 77 towards the requirement. This synagogue has existed for 100 years and is presently experiencing a strong growth pattern. They do not anticipate closing and/or moving from this location. As an orthodox synagogue a majority of their members walk to services.



Deputy Chairman Thomas Soyk suggested showing on the plans an alternate plan which could be implemented if necessary, reconfiguring the spaces. It is necessary to show on the plans that you have the ability to provide the required spaces. Commissioner Rick Hope suggested that if dumpsters are used for garbage pickup those dumpsters could be moved to different locations when it isn't a pick up day and provide additional space.

**On a motion made, seconded and carried, the Commission recommended the approval of the staff recommendation by providing an alternate parking layout plan.**

**4. 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 commercial indoor “Recreation Facilities” as a permitted principle use the B-6 Zoning District.

*The staff has no objections.*

Eileen McClain stated that this amendment includes the B-1 district as well.

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

## **V. ADDENDUM**

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**On a motion made, seconded and carried, the meeting adjourned at 9:08AM.**