

# TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

## Minutes of Meeting of Wednesday, July 20, 2016 – 8:30AM

Volume 63

No. 9

Members Present: Thomas Soyk, Acting Chairman  
John P. Larson, Commissioner of Parking  
Anthony Carr, Deputy Commissioner of Public Works (for R. Hope)  
Daniel Spencer, Deputy Corporation Counsel (for J. Callahan)  
James R. Bradley, Deputy Commissioner (for D. Chong)  
Eileen McClain, Senior Planner (for C. Gomez)  
Melissa Briggs

Staff Members Present: Anthony Marena, Transportation Engineer  
Nicholas Kralik, Capt.-Commander, Traffic Div.  
Edward Ignaszewski, Supervisor of Enforcement

Members Absent: Ken Burford

Staff Members Absent:

Others Present: Lisa Lopilato, Secretary to the Commissioner of Parking

### **I. Approval of Minutes**

**On a motion made, seconded and carried, the minutes of the June 15, 2016 meeting were approved.**

## **II. Old Business**

**1. Hillside Terrace** - Request from Ms. Beth Kava to modify the existing parking regulation on Hillside Terrace from 1 hour parking, "7:30AM to 6:30PM" to 3 hour parking, "7:30AM to 6:30PM". She feels the one hour duration is too short.

*The staff has sent letters to the residents in the area and received a total of seventeen responses, only three were in favor of changes to the parking regulation. Based on this the staff did not recommend any changes.*

**On a motion made, seconded and carried, the Commission approved the staff recommendation.**

**2. Ridgeway** - Request from Mr. Steve Brady to create a "No Parking Any Time" on the north side of Ridgeway between Albemarle Road and Pilgrim Road.

*The staff has sent letters to the residents in the area and received a total of sixteen responses, only six were in favor of changes to the parking regulation. Based on this the staff did not recommend any changes.*

**On a motion made, seconded and carried, the Commission approved the staff recommendation.**

**3. Soundview Avenue** - Request from Dr. Garret Weber to conduct a study of the area. Dr. Weber feels that motorists often speed on this road and does not feel that it is safe for pedestrians whom are walking on the shoulder.

*The staff field conducted a survey of the area, the roadway width is approximately thirty feet. The staff recommended painting a shoulder line on the roadway which would delineate an area for pedestrians to use as well as giving motorists the impression that the roadway is narrower.*

Deputy Commissioner Carr questioned if a speed monitor machine could be placed in that area.

It was commented that this has already been done.

**On a motion made, seconded and carried, the Commission approved the staff recommendation.**

**III. New Business**

1. **Holland Avenue** - Request from Ms. Sarina Russell, 110 Holland Avenue to modify the parking regulation in front of her home to "No Parking 10A-11A". She feels the current 1 hour restriction is too short.

*The staff has already sent letters to the residents in the area and has only received one response.*

*The staff recommended that this item be held an additional month to allow more time for responses prior to making any recommendations.*

**On a motion made, seconded and carried, the Commission approved the staff recommendation.**

2. **North Kensico Avenue** - Request from Ms. Crystal Stowell, 10 Stewart Place to modify the parking regulation on North Kensico Avenue where the roadway turns sharply just before Ross Street. She feels that the roadway is too narrow to allow parking in the curve.

*The staff field reviewed the location and based on the pavement width around the turn, the staff recommended that the parking restriction be extended approximately 50 feet on the west side of North Kensico Avenue to include the area throughout the curve.*

**On a motion made, seconded and carried, the Commission approved the staff recommendation.**

3. **Driveways to Department of Public Safety** - Request from the Department of Public Safety to review the restrictions on their driveway. The driveway connects South Lexington Avenue to Quarropas Street. Some cars are using this driveway as a shortcut to avoid the nearby traffic signal. Currently signs exist informing drivers that this driveway is for "Police Vehicles Only" but are being ignored.

*The staff recommended that this area be posted with "Do Not Enter - Police Vehicles Only" signs at The City property line from the Quarropas Street approach since the driveway is only intended to serve police vehicles and staff not a public street.*

Correction of this problem must be supported with an ordinance to be brought before the Common Council. There was a brief discussion on sign placement and suggestion of a gate. Deputy Commissioner Bradley advised that the entire area is not owned by the City which could affect sign placement. Placement of the signs were suggested to be beyond the property line where the property is owned by the Federal Government. Staff must decide what ordinance needs to be submitted to the Common Council so they can act on it.

**On a motion made, seconded and carried, the Commission approved creation of an ordinance.**

**4. 100 Mamaroneck Avenue** - Request from taxi drivers to create a taxi stand for two cars in front of the Dollar Tree Store.

*The area requested for a taxi stand in front of the Dollar Tree Store is currently a loading zone. This loading zone is utilized for deliveries to the Dollar Tree during overnight hours. The staff recommended that the loading zone on the opposite side of the roadway in the vicinity of 99 Mamaroneck Avenue be used as an overnight taxi stand.*

Commissioner Larson stated that he believes the request is not for an overnight stand but one during day hours. There is a need for further review of the area to determine exactly what is requested and the best remedy for it.

Item is on hold.

**5. Winchester Street** - Request from Department of Parking, to review the parking regulations on Winchester Street. The end of the roadway currently does not have any restrictions.

*The staff recommended that the end of the roadway be posted as "No Parking Any Time".*

There are vehicles parked and there is a gap at the meters at the end of the roadway. The current condition is not obstructing but makes it difficult to turn around.

**On a motion made, seconded and carried, the Commission approved the staff recommendation.**

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

**1. 213 East Post Road (Alex Lounge Bar & Grill) - Request for a special permit for an accessory cabaret.**

*The staff has no traffic related concerns.*

**On a motion made, seconded and carried, the Commission approved the staff recommendation.**

#### **V. ADDENDUM**

An email communication from Ms. Briggs which lists numerous concerns relayed to her from the County Clerk's Office employees. In her communication she discussed complaints of parking expense, and various declining conditions in the White Plains Library Garage. With regards to the Library Garage, the items listed were: decaying asphalt and roof; wayward skateboarders; undesirables sleeping in stairwells and misplaced garbage. She stated that these concerns were also reported to the CSEA. The traffic at Martin Luther King Blvd and Quarropas and the corner of the Library and Martine Avenue were a concern as well. The current traffic conditions at these intersections make it dangerous to cross the street. Deputy Commissioner Soyk replied not all concerns can be addressed at the Transportation Commission Meeting, but some are in fact, County issues that need to be brought to their attention.

Items with regard to parking were addressed as a courtesy by Commissioner Larson. He questioned whether it was appropriate for the Commission to discuss some of the concerns in the communication. He informed Ms. Briggs of a history with the County CSEA in regards to employee

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parking. Last June the Commissioner met with County CSEA representative Tim Kronin. While Commissioner Larson could not support a specific discount just for the County employees, he did offer, what is offered to everybody, a discount program. In reply to his offer Commissioner Larson later received an email from Mr. Kronin which stated the County lacked the required amount of employee participation to be eligible for the program. The Commissioner went on to say that he appreciated the County employee's frustration because the City of White Plains does provide free parking to their employees and he suggested that if the County employees wish the same they should take that up with the County.

As to the parking permit fees, permit fees were increased for the first time in over five years and the raise was a modest one, less than 10%. This cost falls between 22 cents an hour and 58 cents an hour depending on how long you park your car in any given month.

The Commissioner went on to discuss maintenance, specifically within the Library Garage. There has been \$100,000.00 worth of work completed inside the garage and there is still more to be done. There are sections that appear to be City property that are in fact County property which the City cannot service because of liability issues. Those areas that are not maintained are most likely County property. He encouraged the County employees to report skateboarders and undesirables in the stairwells to the Police Department. The Police Department does routinely patrol but always call and they will respond.

Deputy Commissioner Soyk addressed the traffic concerns. The intersections of Dr. Martin Luther King at Quarropas will be researched by staff. Various directives were relayed to Mr. Anthony Marena.

It was agreed that the response to the County employee's concerns will be relayed by Ms. Briggs to the County employees.

Ms. McClain questioned Ms. Briggs with regards to an item in the email which was not addressed, a concern with East Post Road traffic. Ms. Briggs believes the concern was with traffic on East Post Road in the morning but was not certain of the details. The resident was to attend the meeting but did not and without the added information the concern could not be addressed.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**On a motion made, seconded and carried, the meeting adjourned at 8:55AM**