

VILLAGE OF OAK LAWN TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Village Hall Auditorium
9446 Raymond Avenue Oak Lawn, IL 60453
Thursday, September 3, 2020 #2020-4

I. ROLL CALL: Meeting called to order at 7:30 p.m.

A. Chairman: Ken Nork

B. Members: Drew Butler (*ABS*) Ken Nork
John Cody Andy Skoundrianos
Laurentine Grady Ted Sochacki
Norm Lupescu

C. Staff: Donald E. McKenna, Building & Zoning Administrator
Dennis Skoda, Public Works Department
Ofc. Mark Hollingsworth, Oak Lawn Police Department
Deanne Adasiak, Recording Secretary

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. McKenna.

II. APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES:

A motion to approve the Meeting Minutes #2020-03– July 2, 2020 was made by Member Grady and was seconded by Member Lupescu.

Roll call: Cody, yes; Grady, yes; Lupescu, yes; Nork, yes; Skoundrianos, abstain; Sochacki, yes.

Motion to approve passes: 5-0-1.

III. OLD BUSINESS:

A.) TC-1277-M-Request for traffic study east to west at 97th Street and 53rd Avenue:

Ms. Janet Masek, 5320 West 97th Street, Oak Lawn, Illinois.

The petitioner explained that she has been concerned the last few years with the increase of speeding cars. She commented that she has lived on 97th Street for over 30 years. She said she does expect traffic but as time moves on it appears lately the volume of traffic has increased. She expressed that her greater concern is the amount of speeding cars. The petitioner pointed out on 97th Street from Cicero Avenue to 52nd Avenue there are stop signs at the majority of intersections. She said from Cook Avenue to 54th Avenue it is an open stretch. The petitioner said what she has found over the years is that when the cars are travelling east or west in that area they really pick up speed. The petitioner commented that

there are a number of small children in the area and she also mentioned a group home across the street from her residence. She commented on the pedestrian traffic and of the children crossing the street to go to school. The petitioner said there have been many “near collisions” with cars speeding through the area. The petitioner expressed her appreciation to the Village and commented that our Police Department have been very responsive. She mentioned that the Police Department at one time put out a flashing pedometer sign and also have sat at the intersections. The petitioner expressed that she is here to find out what this Commission recommends for the safety of the area.

Member Grady asked if there has been a traffic study in the subject area. Mr. McKenna responded not yet. Mr. Skoda said there was a traffic study done some time ago. He said another traffic study can be done. Member Nork recalled the traffic study and said although there were a lot of cars there were only 1 or 2 speeding cars.

Member Lupescu asked about the group home. The petitioner explained that across from her home there is a group home for developmentally challenged individuals. She mentioned that there is a shuttle bus that picks up the residents from that group home to transport them to and from work. She mentioned that the shuttle bus is parked on the street and she added that her son also parks his car on the street. Member Lupescu asked the petitioner’s son what type of truck he owns. The petitioner replied that he has a 2019 Ford F-150 B-plate. Member Lupescu reminded the petitioner that it is against Village Ordinance to park a B-plate on the street between certain times.

Member Lupescu asked the other Commissioners if they want to do a traffic study for the next meeting. Member Grady asked the petitioner if there is more or less traffic since the pandemic. The petitioner replied that there seems to be a slight increase.

Mr. Skoda commented that the Village can place the counters for the study but he wanted to remind the Board that traffic controls always go on the lower volume street. He said in this case 97th Street will be the higher volume street and if a stop sign were approved it would go on 53rd Avenue not 97th Street. Mr. Skoda expressed that you cannot use a stop sign for speed control. The petitioner asked if there are any alternatives to stop signs that the Village has explored. Member Lupescu commented that *everyone* wants a stop sign. He said the problem with adding multiple stop signs is that cars go faster from stop sign to stop sign. The petitioner mentioned the speed bumps near 96th & 49th Avenue. Member Lupescu commented that those speed bumps have been there for years but that the Village has pulled away from adding speed bumps. He said that they are only utilized during the summer months.

A motion was made by Member Lupescu to request a traffic study between Cook and 53rd Avenue on 97th Street. The motion was seconded by Member Grady.

Roll call: Cody, yes; Grady, yes; Lupescu, yes; Nork, yes; Skoundrianos, yes; Sochacki, yes.

Motion passes: 6-0-0.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS:

A.) Chairman: None

B.) Members:

Member Lupescu made a motion to add the Pledge of Allegiance to the Traffic Safety Committee agenda. The motion was seconded by Member Grady.

Voice vote: All in favor, aye; all opposed, none.

Motion passes.

Member Lupescu commented that during discussions throughout the Traffic Safety Meeting he feels that the Commissioners have a tendency to talk over one another. He asked that when a Member speaks they should be recognized by the Chairman.

C.) Staff: None

V. ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to adjourn was made by Member Cody and was seconded by Member Lupescu.

Voice Vote: All in favor, aye.

Motion to adjourn passes.

The meeting ended at 7:48 p.m.