

**VILLAGE OF OAK LAWN
TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

Village Hall Auditorium
9446 Raymond Avenue Oak Lawn, IL 60453
Thursday, October 1, 2020 #2020-5

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

- A. Chairman:** Ken Nork
- B. Members:**

Drew Butler	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 Member Nork.

III. APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES:

A motion to approve the Meeting Minutes #2020-04– September 3, 2020 was made by Member Grady and was seconded by Member Sochacki.

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

Motion to approve passes: 6-0-1.

IV. 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 asked the Committee how the data is collected for the traffic study. Mr. Skoda explained that the traffic counters were placed in the street and he said he believes the counters were in front of the property address. Mr. Skoda commented that there is an open stretch in order to “catch” cars doing their normal business. He explained that the counters count the cars, vehicles, trucks, motorcycle, truck and trailers, etc. eastbound and westbound and the speed is tracked. The petitioner said she noticed the counters were placed closer to the stop sign and she feels that cars tend to slow as they approach the stop sign. The petitioner’s son expressed that as the cars are hitting the counter strip, they are hitting their brakes as they approach the stop sign. Mr. Skoda responded not necessarily. The petitioner’s son said he was outside one night and noticed the brake lights of almost every single car before they hit the counter strips. He added that the traffic headed eastbound are not getting up to their full speed. Mr. Skoda said if he moved the strip over one block

it would be the same situation. Ms. Masek said her thoughts were that the strips would be somewhere in the middle so there would be some distance between the stop signs. Ms. Masek commented that because of the pandemic there is a lower volume of cars.

Member Lupescu commented that there were only 7 vehicles over 35 mph during the study. Ms. Masek asked if there is a way to see the time of the speeding. Member Lupescu responded yes. Ms. Masek asked the Committee what is the next step if the Committee does not feel there is a need for a stop sign. Member Grady suggested that the petitioner resubmit her petition when schools are back in session. Ms. Masek asked if there are other alternatives to slow traffic. Member Lupescu said there is not much that the Committee can do other than hope that drivers do not speed.

Member Cody commented that 50% of the drivers in the traffic study were driving under 35 mph. The petitioner reiterated that is because the drivers are braking before they hit the stop sign. The petitioner asked if there is anything else used in the neighborhood to combat speeding. Member Grady said when Pete's Market opens perhaps there will be a change in the traffic patterns. The petitioner expressed that she appreciates the police presence as she feels it makes a difference. Member Butler commented that he is disappointed in the numbers but that the traffic numbers do not lie. He commented that he lives at 97th & 53rd Avenue and he understands the concern of cars speeding.

Ethan Masek, grandson of Janet Masek, 5320 W. 97th Street, Oak Lawn, Illinois

Ethan said he has to go to his grandmother's house before he goes to the middle school. He said cars fly down 97th Street and he worries that a car will hit him or his sister.

Commissioner Nork asked the petitioner how close she is to the School Zone. The petitioner responded that she is on 97th Street and the School Zone is on 99th Street.

A motion was made by Member Lupescu to deny Pet. #TC-1277-M Stop Sign request for east to west at 97th Street and 53rd Avenue. The motion was seconded by Member Cody.

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

Motion passes: 7-0-0.

V. NEW BUSINESS:

A.) TC-1279-SS- Request for a four-way Stop Sign at 97th and Karlov Avenue:

Mr. Robert Hirtz, 4104 West 97th Street, Oak Lawn, Illinois

The petitioner expressed concerns of the traffic in the area. He said he has lived in Oak Lawn since 1995 and has witnessed at least 9-10 smash ups at the corner of 97th & Karlov. The petitioner said there is a yield sign (north/south) at that corner that he feels that most drivers choose to ignore. The petitioner expressed concern because there are a lot of kids in the area. He said when he moved in the area in 1995 there was not a lot of foot traffic but that it has changed. The petitioner mentioned that he lives about 500 feet from the intersection and he had debris from accidents hit his car. He said every year there are accidents. He mentioned that he submitted a petition 6-7 years ago but that it went to dust.

The petitioner mentioned that he has also taken photographs of the last 6-7 years of accidents. The petitioner expressed that he feels that 97th Street is being used as a cut-through for most traffic. He said he purchased a radar gun and clocked a car that was driving 97 mph down 97th Street. Member Cody indicated that from Pulaski to Keeler there are no signs. He said there is a yield sign at Karlov but no other signs. The petitioner said that is correct. The petitioner said he would love to see a 4-way stop sign. He said a police officer brought to his attention that “Stop Signs are only good as people are willing to use them”. He expressed that yield signs are typically ignored. The petitioner reiterated concern of safety and said that his neighbor has two young children.

Mr. Rohit Dsouza, 4102 West 97th Street, Oak Lawn, Illinois

Mr. Dsouza said he has a 3 year old and a 10 year old. He said his car is typically parked out in front of the house. He mentioned that there was a time a driver blew the yield sign and did not stop and smashed into his car. He said the car was pushed onto the sidewalk. Mr. Dsouza said he has pictures of that accident. He said if his children were outside there would have been some type of injury. Mr. Dsouza said since he has been at that house, he has witnessed at least 6 car accidents. He added that when there is police presence, he does see a difference in the speed of traffic.

Trustee Terry Vorderer, 4th District Trustee, 9609 S. Kolin Avenue, Oak Lawn, Illinois

Trustee Vorderer said when the petitioner contacted him about his concerns he was well aware of a problem in that area. He said he wished he used his leadership to add a stop sign before Rich took the initiative. He said he personally has almost had a few accidents in that area. Trustee Vorderer said it is very busy because it is a high density area. Trustee Vorderer said his neighbor had a major collision at that intersection 2-3 years ago which resulted in injuries. Trustee Vorderer said that the intersection is a big concern and if there needs to be a traffic study then there should but he does not feel a traffic study is needed. Trustee Vorderer said we need an Ordinance to get the stop sign in before the winter season.

Member Cody asked staff if a traffic study was conducted would there be enough time to get the stop sign in before the winter. Trustee Vorderer said if the Committee feels that they need to do a study he understands that they should move forward. He said personally and as a Trustee he supports a stop sign at that intersection without a traffic study.

Member Grady asked if 97th Street or Karlov is the bigger concern. The petitioner responded both. Trustee Vorderer said 97th Street is a through street. He said a lot of cars use 97th Street to get to Pulaski. Trustee Vorderer added that there is a lot of traffic on Karlov as well.

Officer Hollingsworth said Mr. Hirtz did go through the correct channels. He said on August 25th the Police Chief was notified. Officer Hollingsworth said he was assigned in that area from August 25th – August 28th. He said he sat during the evening hours for 8 hours. Officer Hollingsworth said the fastest speed that he observed was 35 mph. Officer Hollingsworth said he was only there for 4 days. He said since March 25, 2010 until today there have been a total of 11 accidents at that intersection. He said 5 of those accidents were classified as injuries, 6 were considered property only. He said if a resident address such as Mr. Dsouza’s address, was used when a crash occurred it would not be included in his count; he said his count is only the intersection.

The petitioner reiterated concerns for the traffic and the number of accidents. He said he cannot determine whether 97th Street or Karlov is worse and he feels that both streets are very busy. Member Cody said he feels that there is a long stretch between Pulaski to Keeler and he supports a stop sign. Member Skoundrianos said he agrees with that sentiment and with the number of accidents he agrees with the Trustee to add a stop sign without the traffic study.

A motion was made by Member Cody to approve Pet. #TC-1279-SS-Request for a four-way Stop Sign at 97th and Karlov Avenue. The motion was seconded by Member Butler.

Roll call: Butler, yes; Cody, yes; Grady, no; Lupescu, yes; Nork, yes; Skoundrianos, yes; Sochacki, yes.

Motion to approve passes: 6-0-1.

B.) TC-1280-M – Request for Residential Permit Parking Only on the west side of Central Avenue between 88th Street and 89th Street

Mr. Alan Moyzis, 8846 S. Central Avenue, Oak Lawn, Illinois

Member Lupescu asked the petitioner when the people are parking in the subject area. The petitioner responded 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Member Lupescu said he drove by at 9 a.m., 10 a.m., 11 a.m. and Noon and he did not see one car parked on that block. The petitioner said they are there but that he recently noticed that the parking issues just stopped because he believes the tenants may be getting evicted. He said the tenants he is referring to rent the house across the street and there are typically 6-7 cars depending on the time of day. He said these people park in front of his house and the elderly woman's house on the corner. The petitioner said that the elderly neighbor cannot get her mail because the parked cars block her mailbox; he explained that the mail is delivered out of a car and the mail driver is not obligated to get out of their car. The petitioner added that another neighbor added a driveway to his property because he could never retrieve his mail. Member Grady asked the petitioner if the houses on the block have driveways. The petitioner replied yes.

Member Cody asked if the people that park in front of his home live on the block. The petitioner responded that they live in one house. Member Cody asked if they are residents on the block. The petitioner responded that they are renters. Member Cody explained to the petitioner that the petition request is for residential parking only; he said if they are residents they would have the right to park on that block. Member Lupescu said if they rent, they live on that block and would be able to obtain a permit to park on the block. The petitioner asked why the residents across the street are allowed to park in front of his home. Member Lupescu responded because it is a public street. Member Lupescu said if someone rents a home and pays rent they are a resident on that block. The petitioner said that the kids come and go and that the kids' friends bring a car or two and it goes on and on.

Officer Hollingsworth mentioned that he spoke to several of the petitioner's neighbors and that the neighbors are upset. Officer Hollingsworth said that a renter is a resident and if the resident has a guest over they can give a guest pass and that guest can park anywhere including in front of the petitioner's home. The petitioner commented that he disagrees. He said the residential parking permit should be for his side of the block and not across the street. Officer Hollingsworth said he understands the petitioner's concerns; he said if someone parked in front of his home he would have to allow it because it is not his assigned spot. He said he told the petitioner's neighbor if a car is parked in front of the mailbox within 12 feet on a mail day from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., the car can be ticketed. He said if the petitioner's neighbor cannot get her mail because of a parked car to please call the police as a \$50.00 ticket will add up.

The petitioner said the signs he is requesting are on the next block. Mr. McKenna explained to the petitioner that the signs he is requesting will not solve the problem. Member Cody reiterated that the residents with residential permits will be able to park anywhere on the block. The petitioner said the residential parking seems to work for the next block over. He expressed that they had a similar issue

with a neighbor that had 6 cars. He said the residential parking permit signs have been up on the next block for over two years and he feels that it works. He asked why it would not work for his block. Member Lupescu apologized and explained to the petitioner that there is nothing this Board could do; he said if it is residential parking only it will not solve the problem for the renter across the street who will still be able to park on either side of the block. The petitioner stated again that he wants the same signs as the residents on the next block. Member Cody explained again that the resident's guests can get guest parking. The petitioner responded that he does not believe that will happen.

Member Lupescu said that the petitioner mentioned that the renters may be evicted. He suggested keeping the petition on the next agenda and perhaps after a month the problem will resolve itself. Officer Hollingsworth suggested to the petitioner that when he calls the police if a car is parked in front of the neighbor's mailbox to make sure he gives an address so that Officer Hollingsworth can track it and when he returns next month he can report how many calls were placed.

A motion to table Pet. #TC-1280-M- Request for Residential Permit Parking Only on the west side of Central Avenue between 88th Street and 89th Street. The motion to table was seconded by Member Grady.

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

Motion to table passes: 7-0-0.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS:

A.) Chairman: None

B.) Members: None.

C.) Staff: None

VII. ADJOURNMENT:

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

Voice Vote: All in favor, aye.

Motion to adjourn passes.

The meeting ended at 8:16 p.m.