



TRANSPORTATION AND PARKING COMMITTEE

Wednesday, February 28, 2018

6:00 P.M. – 7:00 P.M.

Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center
Room 2402, Evanston, IL 60201

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ald. Wynne, Ald. Revelle, Ald. Fleming, A. Añón, L. Young, B. J. Miller, T. Dubin

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Parking Division Manager Jill Velan, Transportation and Mobility Coordinator Jessica Hyink, Acting Director of Administrative Services Kimberly Richardson

PRESIDING MEMBER: Ald. Wynne

1. Call to Order / Declaration of Quorum

Chairman Ald. Wynne declared a quorum at 6:06 P.M

2. Introduction of new Committee members – Barbara J. Miller and Terri Dubin

Barbara J Miller – is a resident and active cyclist.

Terri Dubin – is the new committee member from the plan commission replacing Jim Ford

3. Introduction of new Transportation and Mobility Coordinator – Jessica Hyink

Alderman Wynne introduced Jessica Hyink who gave some of her back ground. Jessica stated that she started with the city this month (February 2018) but prior to that she worked with the DeKalb-Sycamore Area Transportation Study with a focus on active transportation and public transit for about 3 years. Prior to that Jessica was a research coordinator at College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs.

4. Citizen Comments

No Citizen comments at this meeting

5. Approval of Meeting Minutes of October 25, 2017.

Minutes from the October 25, 2017 meeting were presented. A. Añón asked for phrasing to be corrected in regards to biking accommodations being looking into for Main street renovations. He wasn't looking specifically for bike lanes. Also Alex wanted to make sure that the potential problems at the bump outs are due to drivers and not due to pedestrians.

Item 1

**Motion to approve made by Ald. Revelle and seconded by Ald. Fleming
Vote called and taken. Motion passed unanimously.**

6. 2018 Transportation & Parking Committee Meeting Dates

Two alternate dates are on the schedule, the first one being for March. The current scheduled date is during Spring break (3/28/18) with the suggested alternate date of 3/21/18. All the committee members were ok with keeping the meeting on 3/28.

The second alternate date is during the month of August. The original schedule has the meeting on 8/22/18 during summer break, the alternate date being 8/29/18. Alderman Wynne suggests using the alternate date of 8/29/18 and the committee agrees

Item 2

Motion to approve made by Ald. Fleming and seconded by L. Young

Vote called and taken. Motion passed unanimously.

7. Discussion of Transportation & Parking Committee Membership

Parking Manager Jill Velan begins a synopsis of the last time the committee membership was updated. In 2015 there was a desire for a fourth alderman to join, so to keep an odd number of committee members (for voting purposes) a multimodal transportation member was added to the committee.

L. Young commented that she remembers being an advocate for a multimodal transportation member being added and when it was being discussed that the member that filled this role should have expertise in multiple modes of transportation.

Ald Revelle states that this was also around the time that the committee itself changed from the parking committee to the transportation and parking committee.

Jill Velan also brings up that there was a chamber member that became an ex officio member of the committee. Jill's understanding was that an ex officio member was kept through a transition time for the committee.

L. Young asks what being an ex officio member means.

J. Velan states that an ex officio member is a nonvoting member; they give background information, guidance, and expertise but do not have an actual vote. Jill continues, these changes back in 2015 have put the committee in a difficult position. Since there are 9 members in the ordinance then at least 5 members have to attend to reach a quorum. However, there haven't been 9 members on the committee for a few years so this resulted in a number of missed meetings over that span. So the discussion tonight is to try to determine if the committee should go back down to 7 members.

Ald. Wynne comments that the committee needs to go back to 7 members. There are 3 aldermen on the committee and there is not a 4th alderman who currently wants to be on the committee, and there are currently 7 on the committee so adding another citizen would bring the committee to 8 which would not work.

Ald. Revelle asked new member B. Miller if she thinks that she fits the criteria for a multimodal transportation member.

B.J. Miller states that she pretty well versed in transportation issues but wouldn't consider herself an expert.

L. Young asks if committee member Alex Añón could fit the role of multimodal transportation member. Alex is a part of the committee as a business owner.

B.J. Miller states that if they want to put in the ordinance that one of the resident members needs to fit the criteria of being a multimodal transportation member.

Ald. Wynne stated that this was the intention when the role was created in 2015, but finding a citizen with that fits the specific criteria who are also available is very difficult.

J Velan suggests thinking of an alternate way of thinking in regards to having a multimodal transportation member. Instead of looking a one person filling the role, the committee as a whole looks to have the expertise needed for this role. By trying to make a specific member fill this role it limits the number of people who could volunteer to be on the committee. Where the overall makeup of the committee could have the expertise needed.

Ald. Fleming states that if we keep the wording as is and a resident that meets the specific criteria is found then a 9th member would need to be added given the current configuration of the committee.

Ald. Wynne suggests that the committee recommend to the Rules Committee that the Transportation and Parking Committee go back to seven total members based on the current configuration of the committee.

B. J. Miller points out that the website doesn't include language to show the multimodal makeup and thinks that the purpose statement of the committee needs to be updated to reflect the current status of the committee.

Ald. Fleming suggests that the wording needs to suggest that the committee as a whole has the expertise of a multimodal transportation member as well as suggesting that accessibility needs be a focus added to the mission statement.

B. J. Miller suggests that a good model when crafting the updated ordinance could be the Complete Streets Policy of Roadway Users that was approved last June (2017)

Ald. Wynne asks J. Velan if she want to re-draft the memo and bring it back to the committee next month (March 2018).

J. Velan wants to make sure that there will be a quorum in March to review updated document. Acting Director of Administrative Services Kimberly Richardson states that the next Rules Committee meeting is in April (the committee only meets the first Monday of the month if

there are agenda items). So Kim suggests that if there is no quorum in March, that Jill send out the updated docs to committee members and still plan to take the updated ordinance to the Rules Committee in April 2018.

J. Velan brings up having a Chamber of Commerce member as an official ex officio member on the committee.

Ald. Wynne suggests that since the Chamber has not expressed interest that the committee look to eliminate the ex officio member. They could have a member come and observe and participate but not be an official part of the committee. Ald. Wynne brings up David Reynolds who has been the ex officio member for a very long time since she has been a part of the committee. She also mentions other committees in the city that had ex officio members during her tenure on the city council.

Ald. Wynne asks committee member T. Dubin if the Plan Commission still had an ex officio member.

T. Dubin stated that the Plan Commission just voted to remove their ex officio member the week prior.

Ald. Wynne goes over why committees used to have ex officio members and their benefits she then asks if having an ex officio member is needed on the Transportation and Parking Committee. She stated that she doesn't know when having an ex officio member was either added or removed from the committee ordinance.

D. Reynolds also states he wasn't sure if it was ever actually codified in the ordinance.

Ald. Fleming states that she doesn't want to diminish the ex officio's role, but she stated that there are three city staff members who could serve as this de facto role (referring to J. Velan, J. Hyink and M. Classen). Ald. Fleming also expressed concern about being in compliance if an ex officio member is added to the ordinance and the committee is unable to fill the role.

D. Reynolds says that an ex officio being a part of a committee was never a requirement, it was only for interested parties who wanted to help on a committee.

It was brought up that until recently the ex officio was listed as a member on the website.

Ald. Fleming also bring up that it seems other committees are phasing out this role.

Ald. Wynne stated that the committee should ask the Rules Committee for guidance in regards to an ex officio member. She also stated how important and vital D. Reynolds has been to the committee and hopes for his continued guidance. She also asks if Mr. Reynolds would still participate even if he no longer had the official ex officio title.

D. Reynolds said he would still like to participate and contribute.

Item 3 held over till next meeting for updated Ordinance wording and to ask the Rules Commission for guidance about the role of ex officio members going forward.

8. Discussion of Parking Analysis

J. Velan talks about the many issues in parking and talks about the scope of the proposed Comprehensive Parking analysis. Jill talked about how every area of the city has some sort of parking issue an example is given about how when the about my place area was updated on the web site, the actual city code was used without GIS taking into consideration what signage was actually on the street. Jill mentions that something may have been a motion and was passed however, the actual code may not have been updated and it's almost impossible to find when and where these changes originated. So people started getting rejected for parking permits on streets where they have been getting permits for years. She uses the example of districts 1 and 3.

Parking Operations Coordinator Marcos Classen stated that there are blocks that according by the ordinance are in District 1, however, the signs on the block have always read that the block was a part of District 3.

J. Velan continues on with the scope and brings up various issues the analysis would cover, including but not limited to Street Cleaning, Towing Policy, Loading Zone, Handicap Spaces, etc. Also looking at our current parking lots and what to do with them (redevelop, sell, etc.) The main point is that all these things are interrelated and it's about how parking is actually being used. One thing she has learned is that parking habits change faster than the regulations that support them. So you have a system that is more reactive than proactive. During her tenure here in Evanston Jill has spoken with many people and most agree that it's time that the city looks at the whole picture instead of only working on a case by case basis. So the plan is to bring in an outside consultant as this would be more efficient that using current city staff. This is just an overview and she wanted to include some goals and/or guiding principles. Jill reiterates that this is an open document and that she is looking for feedback to set up the analysis.

Ald. Fleming suggests that the area south of Main Street seems to be under represented. She brought up parking around St. Francis. She brings up the safe routes to school.

J. Velan spoke about how the current safe routes to school plan came to be and about how it needs to be reworked from the ground up.

M. Classen spoke about how the current plan doesn't really address which corners crossing guards are needed and which ones they are not needed at.

J. Velan just wanted to reiterate this list just represents people that have raised issues to her, and the plan is for a city wide restructure. This is a long term plan, setting up community meetings, testing out pilot programs etc.

B. J. Miller likes the idea of a comprehensive study but suggests that the guiding principles are a little vague and may need more of a breakdown. Also there should be some future facing goals not only goals in reference to the current status quo.

Ald. Wynne talks about a different consultant from a few years ago that discovered that there were 17 different types of parking signs throughout the city and that refining the signs has been an ongoing process since.

L Young asks about the specialty of the eventual consultant, and talked about how a parking consultant may not have the expertise in transportation and vice versa, and how the city is planning for a consultant to accommodate a multimodal transportation module.

J. Velan agrees with L. Young and thinks that sometimes a consultant will know that they need a contractor (or sub-consultant) to cover the areas that they are not able to. The city is also looking at potentially splitting up the RFP among different consultants as part of the process is looking at the developmental side (parking lots). The city is open either way and we are trying to be flexible when planning.

L. Young brings up the guiding principles or goals should include equitable access to public amenities also brought up the rapidly changing parking environment around the world with the hope that the consultant would be able to suggest practices that may work in Evanston.

Ald. Wynne seconds this sentiment and thinks that looking at how other areas are using parking can help Evanston shape its parking going forward.

T. Dubin suggests that the city sticks with 1 RFP instead of splitting it up. So whomever wins the RFP can put together the team to accomplish our goals

A. Añón asks if there any ideas in how to handle things like Uber, Peapod, Lyft, ETC.

J. Velan says that other cities are setting up car sharing areas and ask J. Hyink if she worked on any of these plans.

J. Hyink suggests that it's still such a new "problem" and that this is a hot button issue. Right now the concern is the increased traffic congestion caused by the extra vehicles and that parking is the next domino to fall.

J. Velan mentioned some areas in California that are starting to implement new procedures for car sharing vehicles.

Ald. Wynne brings up pilot program for Zip car and mentioned the upcoming congestion tax in New York.

L. Young asks if the committee would be able to comment on the RFP.

Ald. Wynne asks if Jill was planning on bringing the RFP back to the committee.

J. Velan mentioned that she was trying to get the process going. She also reiterated that she wouldn't be at the March meeting and that she doesn't want to lose any more time in 2018.

Ald. Wynne suggests circulating the RFP to the committee members once it's ready for feedback.

B. J. Miller brings up parking on Central Street Bridge

A. Añón asks what the budget for the analysis is.

K. Richardson states that the money was budgeted for and is coming out of the Parking Fund

J. Velan suggests that committee members send any suggestions to her if they come up with any ideas

9. Transportation and Mobility Updates

Ald. Wynne comments that because we ran out of time in the meeting that we would start the next meeting with the Transportation side of the agenda.

Ald. Fleming asks for CTA updates (nighttime and weekend)

Ald. Wynne asks about flag stops and asks about changes to Route 206.

J. Hyink asks for some clarification about what the committee wants to be covered.

10. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made by Ald Revelle and seconded by L. Young at 7:08 P.M. Vote called and then taken. Motion passed unanimously.

The next Committee Meeting is March 28, 2018.