



TRANSPORTATION AND PARKING COMMITTEE

Wednesday, January 23, 2019

6:00 P.M. – 7:30 P.M.

Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center
Room 2404, Evanston, IL 60201

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: B. J. Miller

STAFF PRESENT: Assistant City Manager Erika Storlie, Capital Planning and Engineering Bureau Chief Laura Biggs, Parking Manager Jill Velan, Transportation and Mobility Coordinator Jessica Hyink

PRESIDING MEMBER: Ald. Revelle

1. Call to Order / Declaration of Quorum

Chairman Ald. Revelle declared a quorum at 6:04 P.M.

2. Citizen Comments

Mr. Sammi talked about being looking to start a scooter share company here in Evanston with some Northwestern students and wanted to find out the process and help the city come up with a plan for scooter share companies going forward.

Transportation and Mobility Coordinator Jessica Hyink stated that she is currently working with Northwestern University and the current top concern is how the electric scooters would be charged. Jessica also mentions how she is looking to work with the city of Chicago in coming up with a city code.

Dan Joseph talked about a few different issues, starting with talking about adding bus shelter at Dodge and Crain. He also talked about how CTA signage is lacking especially when compared to signage at Pace bus stops. Finally he talked about how he believes that the suggested Pulse bus routes will start too late in the day for people with early flights and asks that earlier start times should be looked at.

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes of November 28, 2018

Item 1

Motion to approve made by Alderman Wynne and seconded by T. Dubin

A vote was called and taken. Motion passed unanimously (6-0).

4. Downtown Overnight Parking Restrictions - Discussion

Parking Manager Jill Velan talked about how reviewing the area has taken longer than expected. She also talked about how discussions with Public Works has generated some concerns about being able to complete work during shortened times. She also talked about how the recent poor

weather has given some fresh data in terms of work that needs to be completed overnight and that she plans on bringing this item back to the next meeting in February.

5. 717 Howard Lot - Update

Assistant City Manager Erika Storlie talked about the financing options for development of the lot. The Howard Street TIF was previously mentioned as how the lot development would be funded however the TIF is not currently producing enough to cover the development. The current recommendation from staff is for the Parking Fund to fully fund the development of the lot.

The questions about this course of action centered on if the TIF would be able to pay back the parking fund as this was something that wasn't originally the funding plan. It was also asked if a TIF fund has been used to pay back a city fund for development.

Erika Storlie stated that there were no recent examples but that TIF's had repaid funds in the past. A couple options being looked at are to extend the TIF's boundaries. Another potential option would be to try variable pricing in the lot to recoup development costs. Erika also talked about how the city is looking to rebuild the parking fund over the next couple of years.

The committee then directed staff to bring a report of the CIP (Capital Improvement Plan) 5 year plan as well as the current Parking Fund projections to the April meeting.

Alderman Fleming went over various reasons that she didn't approve this plan. She talked about how this wasn't an effective way to use the parking fund and that we should be looking at a more comprehensive plan. She also talked about how this was not part of the current plan and that given our current financials are that we should stick to the current plan in place.

Erika Storlie talked about the current bidding process for already planned developments and how it would help reduce cost if this lot was added into this process as opposed to being done separately later this year.

Capital Planning and Engineering Bureau Chief Laura Biggs talked about how this lot has been on the radar for a while and an actual timeline to develop was not ready when the CIP was set for 2019, however, the new businesses in the area has caused the need to relook at the needs in the area.

Jill Velan talks about how new businesses in the area have increased the need for parking and that we could also look at using this lot for valet parking on the weekend, which would increase the number of vehicles that could fit in the lot and could reduce stress in the area.

Item 2

Motion to recommend using the Parking Fund to fund development of the 717 Howard Lot with the option for the Howard TIF to pay back the Parking fund if it is expanded or increased made by Alderman Wynne and seconded by L. Young

A vote was called and taken. Motion passed 4-2 (Yea – Ald. Revelle, Ald. Wynne, T. Dubin, L. Young / Nay- Anon, Ald. Fleming)

6. Complete & Green Streets Policy (CGS)

Transportation and Mobility Coordinator Jessica Hyink talked about the five main metrics that are required based on the current policy but she indicated that there is additional information that she would like to present to the committee at a later time. The data was all presented in the packet but here are some of the talking points.

Mode Share -

The data is based on information given by residents through a survey and this can cause some issues specially when dealing with some newer travel options (such as Uber and Lyft). The data represents how an individual classifies this type of transportation in the Lyft case an individual could classify a Lyft ride as a carpool, as public transportation, or even as a taxicab. So there are additional steps needed to try to get better data from everyone involved. Jessica indicated that she was looking for direction as she feels that the current report/policy may not be capturing the data that the city needs in the best way.

Jessica went over the Livability checklist and talked about the difficulties in gathering data from various sources (residents, IDOT, running manned surveys, etc) and how the city needs to continue to work to find efficient ways to gather this data and make use of the information gleaned.

Alderman Fleming talks about how our policy doesn't include the entire street like other cities as we exclude sidewalks from the policy here in Evanston. She references the 50/50 policy for sidewalk repairs and how she feels this is unfair and not robust enough. She wonders when streets are being repaired why the upgrades/fixes to the sidewalks aren't made. Or when we plow a snow from a street why are we taking into consideration the sidewalks. It's as if the city is not truly considering pedestrian traffic and mainly only considering vehicular traffic and to a lesser degree bicycle traffic.

Alex Añón spoke about how he felt there hasn't been much traction with the CGS policy in the ten years since it was first discussed and then passed in 2017. He talked about the city not really have a true bike network and how improvements needed to be made. He also asked for clarification about exemptions given to projects since the adoption of the CGS policy and what qualifies as an "approved exemption" since according to the memo provided to council no projects have received an approved exemption.

Capital Planning and Engineering Bureau Chief Laura Biggs spoke about how all projects that were planned took into consideration the CGS policy but individual projects may have been unable to incorporate certain aspects of the CGS, using the width of the street on Main Street as an example. The standard that the CGS policy sets is that all projects would be reviewed and there would be no approved exemptions from the review process. After being reviewed if an exemption was then given, the reasons would be clearly documented.

Jessica talked about refining the questions in the checklist as there are too many open ended questions also we have questions too many questions that are too specific and maybe do not need to be asked to everyone. She is looking to bring additional information that is not covered by the scope of the policy to future meetings throughout the year as she feels this data is pertinent and important for the committee to be informed about.

7. Parklet Policy Introduction

Transportation and Mobility Coordinator Jessica Hyink talked about the recent pilot program that ended and that the city needs to come up with a permanent solution. There has been occasional interest from some businesses about obtaining a parklet however if the city wants to look to expand this policy then some guidelines need to be established. This introduction is just to come up with a policy not to seek out new companies or look to expand how many parklets are in Evanston. Staff is looking for direction into how to create the application and review process for companies that may look to get a parklet in the future.

Alderman Wynne talked about how she felt the pilot at Hewn was successful and could really help some businesses thrive.

Alderman Fleming asked that when developing the policy that staff look at how to handle blocks where there are multiple restaurants. Her concern was that if a parklet was approved then a second business on the same block applies how would that work.

Jessica talked about how like the pilot at Hewn that she was looking at making parklets public spaces not for an individual restaurant, also not a sidewalk café with it being an area where food would not be sold, just additional seating for patrons of the area. We also have to consider parking that would be lost and work with the various departments involved.

8. Commercial Loading Zone Policy - Discussion

Parking Manager Jill Velan stated that staff still needed time to review and recommended policy and will bring this item back to the February meeting. She mentioned that we do have some outstanding request and wanted the committees' thoughts on whether she should bring the policy with all the outstanding requests or if she should be the policy to the next meeting then follow up the following month (March) with the requests using the new policy on those requests. The committee agreed that we should do the latter so the policy would be brought to the next meeting in February.

9. ParkEvanston App Wallet Incentive - Discussion

Parking Manager Jill Velan talked about the ParkEvanston app that the city has been using for about a year. One of the options that people have is the option to load money onto the wallet instead of doing individual transactions. Regardless of the type of transaction (wallet or individual) there is a \$.35 convenience fee charged to the patron unless they park for the maximum time allowed (during the same parking session). There is a savings to the city if a person loads funds into the wallet as opposed to paying for individual transactions so the city is looking to incentivize patrons into using the wallet by offering a \$5 credit when \$20 is loaded. This incentive is also looking to be timed with the new meter rates that go into effect on March 1st, 2019. This credit comes would cover the convenience fee for approximately 13, one hour parking sessions.

Item 3

Motion to recommend an incentive of a 5 dollar credit when 20 dollars are loaded onto the ParkEvanston mobile app (in a single transaction) during a 90 day promotional period was made

by Alderman Revelle and seconded by Alderman Wynne, A vote was called and taken. Motion passed unanimously (6-0).

10. Street Cleaning Restrictions / Enforcement – Discussion

Alderman Fleming led the discussion stating that this issue came up because one of her residents received a parking ticket for parking on a street after the street was cleaned but before the restricted time limit was up on their block.

Alderman Wynne stated that she thought that the current policy that once a street was cleaned that parking enforcement would no longer ticket that block.

Jill Velan spoke about how the street cleaning process has evolved. Currently we have reduced the window where someone can't park due to a restriction to one 4 hour window once a month (some areas are twice a month).

Alderman Fleming asked if Parking Enforcement Officers (PEO's) were the street cleaners were or if they coordinated with street sweepers.

Parking Operations Coordinator Marcos Classen spoke about how PEO's were schedule and described that PEO's were scheduled to an area independent of where Public Works staff was.

A. Añón asked if technology could be used by parking enforcement to see if Public Works had already cleaned an area.

Jill stated if we went that route then vehicle that never moved would not be ticketed, but ultimately that the restriction is for the full four hour window so even if someone parks after the street is swept they are in violation.

11. Parking Updates

Transportation and Mobility Coordinator Jessica Hyink talked about the CTA Red/Purple line Modernization Program that was recently reported in the Evanston Round Table however this report was based on old data from back in 2010 and does not represent any current CTA plans and the CTA does not currently have any plans to consolidate and CTA train stops.

Jessica also talked about the Pace Bus Stop Program and how Pace is looking to install bus shelters at no cost to the city. The shelters will have ads but those ads will meet certain city requirements.

Jessica also talked about Pace's plant to only service posted Bus stops. Flagged stops can be difficult for bus providers as every block isn't necessarily ADA complaint also it causes busses to fall behind schedule staff is collecting additional information so Jessica plans on bringing additional information from Pace at the next meeting in February.

12. Adjournment

A Motion to adjourn was made by Alderman Wynne at 8:33 P.M. A vote was called and then taken. Motion passed unanimously (6-0).

The next Committee Meeting is February 27, 2019.