



TRANSPORTATION AND PARKING COMMITTEE

Wednesday, September 25, 2019

6:00 P.M. – 7:30 P.M.

Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center

Room 2404, Evanston, IL 60201

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: B. Kaplan

STAFF PRESENT: Interim Parking Manager Mike Rivera, Transportation and Mobility Coordinator Jessica Hyink, City Planning and Engineering Bureau Chief Laura Biggs, Officer McCray, Officer Brooks

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

Dan Joseph – Spoke about CTA issues and how they do not have the same standards as Pace

Ruben – Talked about lack of Sunday bus service and that the west side of town doesn't have enough coverage

Dan Fagerstein – Talked about how he is in favor of item 3 on the agenda and agrees with the staffs appraisal of the area. He is a small business owner and he also thinks that there is not enough parking for shoppers near Chicago Ave. and South Blvd.

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes of August 28, 2019

There was a question about the actual speeds of electric bicycles not being specified in the minutes.

An amendment to paragraph 4 of the minutes was made.

“This version of the ordinance would allow for the use of electric bicycles that are class one or class two (max speed up to 20 mph).

Item 1

Motion to approve amended minutes made by Ald. Wynne and seconded by Miller. A vote was called and taken. Motion passed unanimously (4-0) 1 abstain

- 4. Amending Title 10, Chapter 11, Section 12, Schedule XII (B) "Parking Meter Zones" Adding Paid Parking on Greenwood Street between Chicago Avenue and Sherman Avenue – Action**
Interim Parking Manager Michael Rivera talked about how adding a parking zone in this area would create turnover in an area that is mainly used for long term parking by commuters. This would help the nearby businesses create turnover for about 20-22 parking spaces in the area

Item 2

Motion to approve staff recommendations made by Ald. Fleming and seconded by B.J. Miller A vote was called and taken. Motion passed unanimously (5-0)

- 5. Amending Title 10, Chapter 11, Section 12, Schedule XII (B) "Parking Meter Zones" Adding Paid Parking on South Boulevard from Chicago Avenue east to Driveway of 516 South Blvd - Action**

Interim Parking Manager Michael Rivera talked about how this item is very similar to the last one. This change would affect about 5-6 parking spaces and would be beneficial to some long standing businesses in the area.

Alderman Wynne also talked about how this has been an issue for a long time in this area and that she supports this change.

Item 3

Motion to approve made by Ald. Wynne and seconded by Miller A vote was called and taken. Motion passed unanimously (5-0)

- 6. Adding Paid Parking on Sherman Avenue from the alley North of Main Street to the alley South of Washington- Action**

Interim Parking Manager Michael Rivera spoke about how staff realized that Sherman Avenue between Main Street and the Alley South of Washington Street has no parking restrictions and is often taken up by commuters. Due to its proximity to the el and Metra stations and the Main-Dempster Mile District, it is recommended that the street be converted to 2 hour paid parking from 8:00am - 5:00pm/4 hour from 4:00-9:00pm at the standard rate of \$1.50 an hour. This would match the parking restrictions in the surrounding area.

Item 4

Motion to approve made by Ald Wynne and seconded by Ald Fleming A vote was called and taken. Motion passed unanimously (6-0)

- 7. Business District Parking Permits**

Interim Parking Manager Mike Rivera talked about parking difficulties for employees in the Main Dempster mile and Central St. business district. These areas don't have access to city owner

garages. A big problem with these is that these businesses in question are located close to established residential permit districts. So staff was tasked with coming up with a way to alleviate parking issues in those areas. The current plan would be a 6-month pilot program offering Evanston small businesses a parking permit. The \$50 a month permit would allow for the licensee of a small business (see details below) to park one vehicle in a Residential Parking District near the business district.

Alderman Fleming asked how many permits would be issued to each business.

M. Rivera stated that the current plan would be to only issue one permit per business.

Alderman Revelle talked about reservations about implementing this plan around the Central Street businesses, and she would like to have surveys done around the area to try to determine the impact in the area so she suggested removing that area from the pilot program.

Item 5

Motion to approve Business Permit only Main / Dempster for 6 months made by Ald. Wynne and seconded by Ald Fleming. A vote was called and taken. Motion passed (5-1) Nay – Alex

A referral for a future meeting was made by Alderman Fleming regarding Official Business Permit issues

8. Sunday Bus Service – Referral

Transportation and Mobility Coordinator Jessica Hyink spoke about this referral from Alderman Fleming. She spoke about how most areas are within a quarter mile of current public transportation on Mondays - Saturdays. She talked about how doing an analysis of the current CTA service is more difficult because there aren't set stops. CTA busses allow for passengers to flag them down at any intersection. She spoke about how on Sundays this ratio changes to a ½ mile radius and how that is mostly including CTA train stations (a lot of which are not currently handicap accessible). Jessica talked about how Sunday service works in Niles and how Pace was not currently looking to entering into any other like the one they have Niles but may be interested in expanding services but costs need to be looked at.

Pace is looking for a commitment from the City before beginning a cost analysis on extending service on Sundays, they would want a an inter-governmental agreement. City of Evanston does not currently contribute to any services provided by Pace. So there is no precedent for what split may be for Sunday service costs.

Alderman Fleming talked about her surprise about the lack of Sunday service, especially considering how not all train stations are not ADA compliant. She also spoke about the lack of consideration for people who work on Sundays.

Alderman Wynne talked about how we need to start discussions about resuming Sunday service on Dodge Ave.

Jessica said that there is a misconception that CTA and Pace do not want to provide service. The problem is coming up with enough funding to be able to provide service. The ridership does not warrant them providing the service.

Alderman Fleming said that we (the City) need to know the actual figures so that council can make an educated decision about the City subsidizing Sunday Service

There were questions about getting reps from both Pace and the CTA to come to a meeting as well as getting actual ridership numbers.

9. Bicycles on Sidewalk - Referral

Transportation and Mobility Coordinator Jessica Hyink spoke about this referral from Alderman Fiske. Currently the ordinance states that bicycles are not allowed on the sidewalks in business districts but are allowed in non-business districts. She talked about the difficulties when it comes to collecting data and that previously the City used a consultant to gather rider data.

Alderman Revelle talked about how it is difficult to even discuss this topic without current data.

City Planning and Engineering Bureau Chief Laura Biggs added that pedestrian density matters. More densely area may not be an issue in areas where there aren't as many businesses Riding on sidewalks in some areas should be acceptable.

Officer McCray talked about the need to update current signage.

Officer Brooks talked about not only updating signage but to also look at where the signs are placed. He suggests that midblock signage may be easier for bikers to observe.

Some other suggestions included changing the colors of the street markings, using A-Frame signage on the sidewalk so they'd be eye level for most riders, and increasing education opportunities for bike riders.

The infrastructure issues also need to be addressed.

10. Adjournment

A Motion to adjourn was made by Ald. Fleming and 2nd by T. Dubin at 7:49 P.M. A vote was called and then taken. Motion passed unanimously (5-0).

The next Committee Meeting is November 20, 2019.