

VILLAGE OF SCHILLER PARK – PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES OF 8/16/2016

Call to Order:

Chairman Moses Diaz called the meeting to Order at 6:34 p.m.

Roll Call: Present: Trustee Diaz, Trustee Catherine Gorzynski and Mayor Barbara Piltaver

Also in attendance: Village Manager Brad Townsend, Village Clerk Claudia Irsuto, Police Chief Tom Fragakis, Police Detective Joe DeSimone, Assistant Village Attorney Frank Abel, Police CSO Shabbir Patel, Assistant to the Village Manager Brian Bursiek

Persons Wishing to be Heard: No public comment.

Business:

On-Street Handicapped Parking Space Program

Assistant Village Manager Bursiek said this program involves posting a handicapped sign in a residential neighborhood for an approved person to park their vehicle on-street. The space is not assigned to a particular person. Any approved person is able to use the space when available. Others are prohibited from parking in the spaces. He offered examples of notable petitions and how they were handled. Everything is administered by staff, as opposed to bringing petitions to the Village Board. Some are difficult to decide, but staff works to be consistent. He said guiding factors are proof of existing medical problems, physical disability, access problems, and challenges with special disability equipment. Typical documentation of status includes a physician's report or letter and a State of Illinois handicapped placard. Disqualifying factors are a driveway and or garage upon which to park a vehicle.

There was extensive discussion of alternatives, impact on neighbors, and the need for an annual survey to verify continued approval to park. Staff completed a survey earlier this year and determined that over 30 spaces were justified. Consensus of the Committee was for staff to prepare an updated letter for renewal, and require all applicants to provide current supporting documentation.

Garden Court Permit Parking petition

About 20 residents of Garden Court submitted a petition requesting on-street permit parking. Mayor Piltaver noted there is permit parking on Soreng Avenue. Committee members discussed the merits of extending parking, signage, police officers writing tickets, and time limits to allow everyone a chance to park in limited spaces available. CSO Patel remarked that everyone on Garden Ct has private parking space and that we should encourage them to use it for that purpose. Assistant Village Manager Bursiek suggested that we look at parking for the entire area; i.e., Soreng Ave., the west connecting end, and Garden Ct.

There was some discussion concerning the pro's and con's of the Village administering a parking permit program. Committee members and staff concluded that this would be burdensome and potentially create unintended conflict. Consensus of the Committee was for staff to develop an outline of a plan that would focus on the entire area, use of signs, time limits, and license plate enforcement. Then,

arrange a meeting with resident Jill Gaffney and a couple of others from Soreng Ave. Also, contact Trustee Rick Desecki and for advice on a couple of Garden Ct. residents.

Metra Train Depot Parking

Assistant Village Manager Bursiek explained that the payment machines frequently malfunction. One of the two has been out of service for 4 months. This has resulted in down time, loss of revenue, and costly repairs. A new machine would cost \$3,000. Low ridership makes that option not feasible. CSO Patel said this confuses and disrupts commuters. Brian said they researched options, including an iron box, and found a new approach using an internet application. He said there is a fee for the app. Given the low ridership, he estimates that increasing the parking fee from \$1.50 to \$2.00 would cover the cost. Village Manager Townsend said audited income last fiscal year was \$9,800 and expenses were \$9,400, not counting personnel time of the CSO and others. Mayor Piltaver suggested that we also accept payment on our website. Discussion.

Consensus of the Committee was for staff to research the app and on-line payment options further. If feasible, propose the parking app on a trial basis. Verify that an increase in the parking fee is necessary.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Recorded by: B. Townsend