

Village of La Grange Park
Traffic, Safety & Engineering Committee
Minutes
April 11, 2012

A meeting of the La Grange Park Traffic, Safety & Engineering Committee was scheduled for 7:04 p.m. on April 11, 2012, in the Board Room of the La Grange Park Village Hall. Committee Chairman, Paul Graham called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. Clerk Seidel called the roll.

Members in attendance were:

Committee Chairman: Paul Graham
Committee Member: Steve May
Committee Member: James Seguin
Committee Member: Keith Krysa
Committee Member: Eric Johnson
Committee Member: Brian Lisek

Also in attendance:

Police Chief: Dan McCollum
Village Engineer: Paul Flood
Village Attorney: Cathy Keating
Village Clerk: Amanda Seidel

Clerk Seidel informed the Chairman a quorum was present.

Chief McCollum handed the Committee the LaGrange Park Police Department Speed Study Report for Woodlawn Avenue from Ashland to Catherine.

Chairman Graham discussed the purpose of the night's meeting and introduced the Committee and others present.

The Committee discussed the Rules for Public Comment. A motion to approve the Rules for Public Comment used by the Village of LaGrange Park Village Board Meetings and Village Board Work Session was made by Mr. Steve May. The motion was seconded by Mr. James Seguin. The motion to approve Rules for Public Comment passed unanimously on a voice vote.

Chairman Graham said he would entertain a motion to approve minutes of March 20, 2008. Mr. Steve May made a motion to approve the minutes of March 20, 2008. The motion was seconded by Mr. Keith Krysa. The motion to approve minutes of March 20, 2008 passed unanimously on a voice vote.

The Committee moved on to discussion of a stop sign request at Woodlawn and Ashland. Discussion started regarding guidance and uniformity with clarification from Engineer Paul Flood. Attorney Keating explained and clarified the rules in regards to a non home rule community and the regulations in regards to stop sign placement not warranted by guidelines.

Engineer Flood clarified the restrictions between 2 way stops and four way stops and mentioned there are specific criteria to meet to warrant placement of 4 way stop signs.

Chairman Graham moved on to Public Comment. Mr. Tony Soucek of 501 N. Ashland explained his petition and letter requesting stop signs on Woodlawn. He explained the change of traffic over the years and his concern for safety.

Chief McCollum mentioned the 2003 Kenig, Lindgren, O'Hara & Aboona Traffic Study which classifies Woodlawn as a collector street. Chief McCollum read page 18 paragraph 2 of the Traffic Study and handed the Committee a copy of page 18. It was mentioned that Woodlawn currently has no stop signs due to the Traffic Study.

It was clarified by Tony Soucek that his request, which is the scope of the night's discussion, is to switch the placement of stop signs in two locations; Catherine & Woodlawn and Spring & Woodlawn.

The Committee expressed concern over safety and if switching stop signs would divert the problem else where. Discussion moved to history of other streets and other stop sign requests as well as examples from other communities.

The Committee then discussed possible options in regards to the traffic problems on Woodlawn. The possibility was discussed to put up a no right turn sign from LaGrange Road onto Woodlawn during certain hours.

Chairman Graham went around the Committee for their opinions on Mr. Soucek's request. Mr. Seguin was in favor of leaving the stop signs alone or the possibility of flipping one for pedestrians to safely cross Woodlawn, he also expressed concern over Village Fire Trucks. Mr. Krysa agreed with Mr. Seguin. Mr. Lisek was in favor of Mr. Soucek's request due to safety concerns. Mr. Johnson said he was possibly in favor of flipping the stop sign by Village Hall and it was worth looking at traffic flow control from LaGrange Road. Mr. May was not in favor of the request due to not meeting requirements that warrant a change in stop signs. Chairman Graham was in favor of keeping the stop signs the way they currently are.

Chief McCollum clarified, to be able to switch stop signs; in accordance to the Manual the Village needs to stop the less traveled streets. Chief McCollum also had great concern over stopping a major traveled street and if the stop sign would be in legal compliance. Attorney Keating clarified the legal authorization from the Manual.

Chairman Graham said he would entertain a motion. Mr. James Seguin made a motion to deny the request by Mr. Soucek to switch placement of stop signs in two locations on Woodlawn. The motion was seconded by Mr. Keith Krysa. The motion to deny the request passed unanimously on a voice vote.

The Committee discussed looking into traffic counts from LaGrange Road onto Woodlawn. Chief McCollum and Engineer Flood mentioned they could place counters on Woodlawn, Richmond, Pine, Brewster and Elmwood to get counts going west from LaGrange Road.

Mr. James Seguin made a motion to get additional data for Woodlawn Avenue which has already been done by Chief McCollum and get traffic counts from other Roads going westbound from LaGrange Road to get a base line. The motion was seconded by Mr. Steve May. Mr. Brian Lisek was against this motion with the rest of the Committee voting in favor. The motion passed by a vote of 5 to 1.

The Committee decided to schedule the next meeting date after the traffic counts were done by Engineer Flood and Chief McCollum.

At the end of this discussion, there was no further business to be brought before the Traffic, Safety & Engineering Committee, so Chairman Graham said he would entertain a motion to adjourn. There was a motion by Mr. Eric Johnson to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Brian Lisek seconded the motion and the motion to adjourn passed unanimously on a voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda G. Seidel

Village Clerk