

APPROVED
MINUTES OF THE PEDESTRIAN & BICYCLE COMMISSION
VILLAGE OF NORTHBROOK
COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS
November 8, 2023

Commissioners Present (6):

Chairman Mike Pfeifer
Frank Bleeker
Angus Duthie
Kathy Hofschield
Jim O'Connell
Tom Tebbe

Members Not Present (1):

A.C. Buehler

Others Present:

Denise Handler – 1233 Candlewood Hill Road
Mary Pat Pastuovic – 1315 Candlewood Hill Road
Jane Pyke – 1323 Candlewood Hill Road
Jackie Hestad – 2112 Center Avenue
Ted Gaty – 2226 Center Avenue
Dorie Gaty – 2226 Center Avenue
Joanne Mock – 2419 Center Avenue
Joe Andrews – 2636 Chesapeake Lane
Brian Mahoney – 2639 Chesapeake Lane
David Whitlock – 1339 Crestwood Drive
Alison Whitlock – 1339 Crestwood Drive
Donna Taylor – 1263 Eastwood Lane
Sally Kroha – 1239 Mount Vernon Terrace
Dick Dragiewicz – 1247 Mount Vernon Terrace
Marion Miehl – 2451 Partridge Lane
Peter Miehl – 2451 Partridge Lane
George Miller – 2408 Peachtree Lane
Nancy Morrison – 36 The Court of Cobblestone
Cre Ledbetter – 13 The Court of Island Point
Barbara Spoerl – 19 The Court of Island Point
Dave Papritz – 2026 Walters Avenue
Lea Papritz – 2026 Walters Avenue
Susan Schueler – 2040 Walters Avenue
Mike Mulvihill – 2043 Walters Avenue
Gail Truelsen – 2137 Walters Avenue

1 Sandra Weiss – 2144 Walters Avenue
2 Jerry Weiss – 2144 Walters Avenue
3 Carolyn Gessner – 2218 Walters Avenue
4 Jeff Clavey – 2319 Walters Avenue
5 Stesen S Potts – 2349 Walters Avenue
6 Camille Lambert – 2349 Walters Avenue
7 Dan Gavenda – 2533 Walters Avenue
8 Shelly Gavenda – 2533 Walters Avenue
9 Marc Muskat – 2657 Walters Avenue
10 Karen Muskat – 2657 Walters Avenue
11 Noha Ekdawi – 2699 Walters Avenue

12
13 **Staff Present:**

14 Jack Bielak, Village Engineer
15 Aram Beladi, Assistant Village Engineer
16 Michael Weller, Project Manager

17
18 **Call to Order**

19 Chairman Pfeifer called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. in the Sandra "Sandy" Frum Board
20 Room at Village Hall.

21
22 **1) Review of the Minutes from August 30, 2023 Meeting**

23 Member O'Connell made a motion, seconded by Member Tebbe to accept the minutes of the
24 August 30, 2023 meeting as presented. On a voice vote, the motion to approve the minutes as
25 presented passed, with no member abstaining.

26
27 **2) Hear from the Audience on Topics not on the Agenda**

28 Bielak stated that they would hear from the Audience on topics not on the agenda.

29
30 No one from the Audience brought forth any topics.

31
32 **3) Old Business**

33 Chairman Pfeifer stated that they would move on to old business. He explained that old
34 business was the Walters Avenue Project.

35
36 Bielak presented Memo 3a describing the Walters Avenue Project and the Phases that Staff had
37 gone through so far and the Phases Staff would go through in the future.

38
39 Beilak stated that they would hear from the Audience on topics related to Walters Avenue. He
40 asked that residents come to the podium, if physically able, and give their name before
41 speaking.

42
43 Resident Brian Mahoney of 2639 Chesapeake Lane asked if the reports mentioned in the
44 Walters Avenue memo were online.

1
2 Bielak replied that he was currently putting together a project page for the Walters Avenue
3 Project on the Village website. He stated that a summary and updates would be put there.
4

5 Bielak stated that the next step would be Phase I engineering in 2024. He explained that two
6 open houses would be included in Phase I. He stated that all correspondence from residents
7 was being stored and would be given to the Phase I consultant.
8

9 Resident Susan Schueler of 2040 Walters Avenue asked if the memo should mention that
10 eighty-eight residents wrote letters to the Village and with many other residents calling the
11 Village.
12

13 Bielak explained that all correspondence would be stored and would be recorded as part of the
14 Phase I.
15

16 Resident Schueler stated that before it was mentioned that 300 letters were sent to residents.
17 She explained that the memo mentioned 600.
18

19 Bielak responded that he looked into how many letters were sent and the exact number was
20 638 letters.
21

22 Resident Schueler stated that she and everyone else present were opposed to cutting down
23 trees. She explained that the Village should not consider Option 2 going forward.
24

25 Resident Mahoney stated that he walked Walters Avenue everyday and on average he saw two
26 or three bikers at most and that some of the trees being cut down he planted himself. He
27 explained that the parking spaces were unused and there was already a perfect footprint for
28 bikers. Resident Mahoney asked where the money for this project was coming from.
29

30 Bielak replied that \$927,000.00 would come from federal grant funding, the water main portion
31 of the project would be paid for from the water fund, and rest of the project would be paid for
32 from the general fund.
33

34 Resident Mahoney stated that he had heard from Jim Baxa that the entire project would cost
35 \$4,100,000.00. He asked if that was in today's dollars. He explained that when the project was
36 being built, that would not be enough.
37

38 Bielak replied that there was potential to request additional grant funding.
39

40 Resident David Whitlock of 1339 Crestwood Drive stated that he biked in Northbrook,
41 particularly on Walters Avenue. He explained that the biking conditions were already adequate
42 and there was no need to spend more money.
43

1 Resident Karen Muskat of 2657 Walters Avenue stated that families already use the sidewalk
2 and there was no need to build a bike path.

3
4 Resident George Miller of 2408 Peachtree Lane stated that he was an avid biker in Northbrook.
5 He explained that he had never felt discouraged from biking in Northbrook and it was
6 unnecessary to have bike lanes. Resident Miller stated that many people were moving in on
7 Walters Avenue and that was due to the current dimensions of the parkway. He explained that
8 adding asphalt would make Walters Avenue feel like an apartment building.

9
10 Resident Carolyn Gessner of 2218 Walters Avenue stated that cutting down trees goes against
11 the climate action plan.

12
13 Resident Dave Papritz of 2026 Walters Avenue stated this project was an unnecessary effort
14 that wasted time and money.

15
16 Resident Gessner asked if Option 2 was chosen, would it then go to the Village Board.

17
18 Bielak responded that first the Village would go through Phase I which included two open
19 houses. He stated that after Phase I the Village would compile a report and move on the Phase
20 II.

21
22 Bielak stated that every year the Village Board reviewed the Capital Improvement Plan, which
23 encompassed all projects, including Walters Avenue. He explained that the final approval for all
24 projects came down to the Village Board.

25
26 Resident Gessner stated that she did not want the residents' comments to be ignored.

27
28 A Resident that did not identify themselves stated that Northbrook was Tree City USA and this
29 project went against that.

30
31 Resident Noha Ekdawi of 2699 Walters Avenue stated that the parking spaces currently
32 provided safety for her children when waiting for the bus. She explained that putting in bike
33 lanes would get rid of that safety. Resident Ekdawi asked if the Commission could stop Option 2
34 from happening tonight.

35
36 Bielak stated that he wanted it to be clear that the consultant had recommended Option 2, and
37 the Commission had accepted that recommendation. He explained that this did not mean the
38 Village was going with Option 2. He elaborated that all options had to be considered before
39 deciding what to move forward with.

40
41 Resident Ekdawi asked if the minutes were being recorded.

42
43 Bielak responded that minutes were being recorded by Weller.

1 Resident Mike Mulvihill of 2043 Walters Avenue asked who would be giving approval to cut
2 down the trees.

3
4 Bielak responded that the Village Staff would decide if the trees would be okay to be cut down
5 during Phase II. He explained that the decision would include assessing the trees' health. He
6 stated that the Village was no where near the point of finalizing any plans and that Phase I had
7 not even been started.

8
9 Member O'Connell stated that when the consultant presented to the Commission on the
10 different options, the Commission did not know the number of trees that would be cut down.
11 He explained that no one on the Commission wanted to cut down the trees. Member O'Connell
12 stated that the Shermer Roadway and Sidepath Improvements Project was currently being
13 designed going from Walters Avenue to Willow Road that connected to an existing sidepath in
14 Glenview. He explained that the Commission wanted to have a project connecting to this new
15 sidepath, and Walters Avenue was the best east-west corridor for this connection. Member
16 O'Connell stated that the Village did a resident survey asking what residents wanted more of in
17 the Village. He explained that one of the top answers was adding more bike lanes. He reiterated
18 that the Commission did not want to cut down trees. Member O'Connell stated that the Village
19 would also see which trees were healthy trees. He explained that if they were healthy then the
20 Commission did not want them to be cut down.

21
22 Resident Mary Pat Pastuovic of 1315 Candlewood Hill Road asked if they would be emailed
23 regarding future open houses.

24
25 A Resident that did not identify themselves stated that words like stakeholder and corridor
26 were dehumanizing.

27
28 Resident Sally Kroha of 1239 Mount Vernon Terrace asked why the Village could not just
29 shutdown Option 2 right now.

30
31 Bielak responded that the Village would already be doing engineering survey and design for the
32 water main and roadway work on Walters Avenue. He stated that having a consultant look at
33 the bike lanes at the same time meant they could save money compared to doing them all
34 separately. He explained that it would be considered underhanded to take away an option
35 before having a consultant look at it. He elaborated that the Village needed to consider all
36 options, and then make a decision when they had all of the facts.

37
38 A resident that did not identify themselves asked if anyone wrote letters stating that they were
39 pro cutting down trees.

40
41 Bielak replied that no one wanted to cut down the trees. He reiterated that Option 2 was not
42 the final option.

1 A resident that did not identify themselves asked if the Shermer Sidepath Project went through
2 the same process.

3
4 Bielak replied that the Shermer Roadway and Sidepath Improvements Project did go through
5 the same process as the Walters Avenue Project was going through right now.

6
7 A resident that did not identify themselves asked if a study had been done to count bikers.

8
9 Bielak replied that the Pre-Phase I study only considered the size and typical sections of Walters
10 Avenue. He explained that a more detailed study was typical of Phase I. He reiterated that the
11 Pre-Phase I was not required, but the Village did it to gather feedback from residents before
12 Phase I.

13
14 Resident Mahoney stated that even on sunny days, people were not using Walters Avenue from
15 biking.

16
17 There were no further comments from the Audience.

18 19 **4) New Business**

20 Chairman Pfeifer stated that they would move on to new business.

21
22 Bielak stated that the RTA Bike Shelter Project was reaching completion and included grant
23 funding. He explained that bike sharrows and the concrete pad for the bike shelter had already
24 been placed. He elaborated that the contractor still needed to install wayfinding signs and the
25 bike shelter, the latter of which was due to be delivered within the next few weeks.

26
27 Bielak stated that the Shermer Roadway and Sidepath Improvements Project was into Phase II.
28 He explained that the Village was currently talking with the School District and other agencies
29 on the corridor to gather their feedback on design elements. He elaborated that the Shermer
30 Roadway and Sidepath Improvements Project also included grant funding.

31
32 Bielak stated that the Skokie Valley Trail Project was still in a holding phase with right-of-way
33 acquisition. He explained that the Village was working with Cook County, Lake County, and
34 other agencies to get land lease agreements with Union Pacific and ComEd.

35
36 Member Bleeker asked if there was any headway with getting approval.

37
38 Bielak replied that they were expecting a reply from Union Pacific and ComEd soon.

39
40 Member Hofschield asked if there had been any decisions on the Lake Cook Road crossing.

41
42 Bielak replied that Lake County was still in Phase I for that design.

1 **5) Hear from Commissioners Concerning New Topics**

2 Chairman Pfeifer stated that they would hear from Commissioners concerning new topics.

3
4 Member Hofschield stated that the Northbrook Public Library had asked whether the
5 Commission wanted to do any more Bike Banter. She explained that turnout had been very
6 minimal.

7
8 Bielak stated that Staff could advertise the Bike Banter event in the Northbrook Voice. He
9 explained that the Commission could request that Staff put other information or events in
10 Northbrook Voice.

11
12 Chairman Pfeifer stated that they could put links to informational videos and articles regarding
13 bike safety on the Commission's webpage.

14
15 Bielak stated that the Commission should send any ideas his way. He explained that he would
16 then see how it could be implemented.

17
18 **6) Next Meeting Date: To Be Determined**

19 The next meeting is scheduled for February 14, 2024 at 7:00 P.M. in the Terrace Room at Village
20 Hall.

21
22 **7) Adjourn**

23 There being no further business, Member O'Connell made a motion, seconded by Member
24 Tebbe to adjourn the meeting. On a voice vote, the motion was unanimously carried and the
25 meeting adjourned at 8:14 P.M.

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43 Respectfully submitted,
44 Michael Weller