

Township High School District #113 & City of Highland Park
Highland Park High School Advisory Group
Meeting Minutes January 25 2017 – 7:00PM
SD 113 Admin Offices, 1040 Park Avenue West, Highland Park, IL

7 pm.

1. **Call to Order:** by Chairman Jenks 7:05PM

2. **Roll Call:** Present: Chair Dan Jenks, Patrick Sassen, Joey Spathis, Debbie Hymen, Torrie Behrens, and Michelle Holleman and arriving late Police Chief Shafter

Absent: Jim Coretti, Joni Friedman, Monika Kornberg,

Other Staff: Dan Mortensen and Sgt. Chris O’Neill

3. **Approve Minutes:** Approved

4. **Chair’s Comments:** Skipped because nothing was new.

5. **Questions from the public:** None.

6. **Traffic Measurement around HPHS:** At the March 2016 meeting it was decided that District 113 would re-measure the traffic around HPHS for comparison with earlier studies. Before the group was started, traffic was measured twice. There was a concern that during construction there was an increase of traffic. This concern was found to be true by 8%. Because of this the district worked to improve traffic by promoting walking and riding bikes, the bus ridership and carpooling as reasons why this topic is important. Dan M.: Erikson Engineering will provide an estimate but Gilbane won’t be ready until the 1st or 2nd week of October 2017 to do this re-measurement. There was discussion about this being a good time of year because it is before the bad weather typically arrives and it’s long enough after school starts for drivers to get accustomed to the traffic patterns. Dan M. is going to provide a cost for this re-measurement. The current construction won’t impact current parking spaces. As the construction team moved back construction fence HPHS was able to gain a few more parking spaces. Discussion on tennis court resurfacing – there was \$207,000 previously approved for the resurfacing, moving them would be more expensive. Answered questions: The last traffic measurement was made in September. The measurements will be the same with improvements. Same firm will be doing the measurements. There is an agreement and discussion on if we’ve talked about this topic already. Chief Shafer arrives and confirms what time of year the re-measurement will be conducted. Benchmarking for the future to provide a designation on if it’s successful is the goal.

7. **Bus Survey & potential bus initiatives for 2017 -2018:** After the November 2016 meeting Patrick provided a survey to families who live in the distance less than 1.5 miles from the school and therefore do not qualify for free bus service. Patrick provided a power point presentation on the survey results. The survey was sent by email and there were 86 replies. There were 8 questions. Q1: 78% get to school by walking, riding the bikes, or getting a ride from a parent. This is expected because it's easy to get rides. Q2: 43% biking not combined with extra curricular. Q3: within 15 minutes before the start of the school day is when the majority of students arrive. Q4: Yes Q5: 51% definitely or likely would take advantage if bus service to them was provided. This correlates with where they live. 25 of 42 lived between the 1 mile and 1.5 mile distance. Discussion on the early bus and how that had no ridership. This may have been because it was early, not because there was no interest. Dan J: Adding one stop to existing routes may not make a difference in timing, or bus load, but increase ridership and decrease traffic. Debbie reminds the group that an additional stop may not be free and discusses the high school's bills aren't being paid by the State. Dan J. wants to look at out of pocket expenses for an additional route. If all conversations are shut down because the state of IL then why are we discussing anything? Discussion on the need for an analytical review. Debbie notes the need to plan out for 2 years. Dan J. notes that there are other values as the primary goal of education including other values to the community including an obligation to the neighbors, without spending additional money. Inquiring and proposals are good because it promotes questions. Q6: Higher desire for bus riders in the morning than afternoon. Q7: the further the students from the school the greater the interest Q8: cost neutral would be less than 20 minutes. Dan J: Trying and publicizing can at least compare if it worked and encourage changing rule. Letting students walk to an existing stop is a cost neutral option. There's no one easy solution to this problem but there may be many small solutions that make an impact. Michelle notes that ridership is low, roughly 10% riding, and agrees with Dan J. about if you can get to a stop then the district should be able to pick them up. Joey notes that a small percentage of students see transportation as an issue. Are there other options we can look at than the bus. And carpooling is always a great way to cut down. Michelle notes that out of the 86 responding that they may be interested that is a large amount. Plus 16 year olds cannot drive others. Riding home may be different. Michele suggests an uber pool for students. Patrick notes more PM ridership, and there are less in the winter.
8. **Potential Parking Initiatives:** City spots are 25% full. School 268 capacity 266 sold, some staff spots open, all spots for carpool sold after Joey's suggestion from last meeting. Patrick wants to add 10 – 20 more carpool spots. We all learn more about how the carpool lot works. Noting that the preferred spot is one of the largest driving factors. Also cost, and decreasing people.
9. **Traffic Patterns, Parking, Safety:** Vine lot full advantage being taken, impressed with progress. Going south on vine lot using cones and creating the behaviors needed.

10. **Police Update:** Bad weather and more violations in the morning. The most violations are in front of the school. Quicker issues in the morning, and with the service officers they see more compliance.
11. **Vine Lot:** To replace the junipers add landscaping remains under investigation, funding would need to be private. Landscaping may not limit PE space. Dan J. noted an improvement on the flat space. Patrick: there were 2 PE fields now less, and there are 3-4 PE classes using the lots at a time. 2 programs use the field. So these lots are at a premium and prevent shuttling students from the school. Dan J. would like an architect's input on the trees, and impact on the PE space. Next meeting come to a conclusion if that space is available. Must be a persuasive argument. Lighting on the Vine lot – the photo shown has changed – junipers are now up on a 36 inch berm and this was a change order. Already modified. Dan J. agrees it was better than before, but asks if there is anything else that can be done. No lighting updates. No neighbor complaints, Debbie notes the need for the lights for safety.
12. **Woodpath Crosswalk:** crosswalk, sign size, communication one sign size with city. City is following a manual current size is 48X48 inches, the range at a minimum is 30X30. Dan M. spoke with Erikson about the sign size and their recommendation was the 48X48 for safety since it's on an S curve and the district supports that and to keep the existing sign, but it is the city's decision. Michelle notes the reason it is the size is for safety not aesthetics.
13. **April 26th 2017 meeting agenda:** end discussion on Woodpath, like to finish landscaping, sidewalk from the theater to bus formal presentation and issue recommendations to close, changes to ordinance, Questions on process and timelines on a change. Amendment on lighting and safety issues. Maybe waiting on the traffic study before making decisions.
14. **Other business:** none
15. **Adjourn:** 8:30 pm.