1. Call to Order

Chairman Gelfund called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

2. Pledge to the Flag

Chairman Gelfund led the Pledge to the Flag.

3. Roll-call

Commissioners Antonio Costantino, Donald Gelfund, James Lee, Georjean Nickell, Claude Petit, Scott Troiani, Acting Public Works Director Andrew Letson, Village Engineer James Amelio, Officer Michael Knapp, and Trustee Barry Bass were present.

Commissioner Mark Bonner was excused. Commissioner James Lee was absent.

4. Report by Chair

Chairman Gelfund reported that the Traffic Commission is comprised of resident volunteers appointed by the Mayor and Village Board of Trustees to review, analyze, discuss, and recommend objective traffic safety initiatives to the Village Board. Chairman Gelfund welcomed everyone in the audience and requested that they complete a speaker request form if they wish to speak on any items on the agenda.

Chairman Gelfund also reported that he was recently at a Village Board meeting and it appears that a commercial development on the 4300 block of Touhy Avenue is going to be approved. This development includes a Starbucks and measures have been put in place to minimize the impact of traffic on the neighborhood.

5. Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Nickell moved to approve the minutes of the October 13, 2016 Traffic Commission meeting as presented. Commissioner Troiani seconded.
The motion was unanimously approved.

6. Unfinished Business

None

7. New Business

a. Approval of 2017 Meeting Dates

Chairman Gelfund presented the proposed meeting dates for 2017. Mr. Letson noted that the February meeting had been moved up a week due to a conflict with the Budget Workshop. Commissioner Nickell moved to approve the 2017 meeting dates, Commissioner Costantino seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

b. Consideration of a Request for Restricted Parking on the 6400 Block of Kimball Avenue

Mr. Letson provided a brief presentation of the request for restricted parking in the designated parkway parking on the 6400 block of Kimball Avenue. The Police Department had conducted a survey of the parking area over 12 days and found that at least one vehicle had been unmoved during that time period. Staff recommended that parking be restricted to no more than three hour increments.

Following the presentation, the petitioner Mr. Mark Ahmad stated that the reason for the request was to allow for the parkway parking to be cleaned and snow removed, to prevent individuals from parking for long periods of time, and to provide more available spaces for his employees and patrons.

Commissioner Nickell inquired how many parking spaces are available behind Mr. Ahmad’s building. Mr. Ahmad responded that there are eight, including a handicapped parking stall.

Ms. Marla Lampert of 6431 N. Kimball Avenue inquired if the recommended restriction would be a problem for the petitioner’s employees. Officer Knapp responded that everybody, including the petitioner’s employees, would be subject to the restriction. Mr. Ahmad stated that if the restriction would affect his employees, he would prefer to prohibit overnight parking.

Mr. Pablo Alcantara of 6432 N. Kimball Avenue expressed concern that individuals who are currently parking in the designated parkway parking stalls will move north into the neighborhood if a parking restriction is put into place.
Commissioner Nickell inquired to who was notified of the request. Mr. Letson responded that all of the properties on the 6400 block of Kimball received a letter from the Chief of Police.

Commissioner Nickell asked the residents who were present if they had any concern with prohibiting overnight parking. Both indicated that they did not have a concern.

General discussion was had among the Commission regarding the merits of a three hour restriction compared to prohibiting overnight parking.

Ms. Lampert stated that she would not be in favor of a restriction that would push the problem further into the neighborhood.

Trustee Bass expressed a concern with a general lack of available parking on Kimball Avenue.

Chairman Gelfund asked if there is a specific requirement for the length of time that a car can be parking in one spot on the street. Officer Knapp stated that the Police Department responds to complaints and has general guidelines to determine if a car is abandoned, but there is no specific time limit.

Commissioner Nickell moved to prohibit parking between 9:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. in the designated parkway parking stalls on the east side of Kimball Avenue between Devon Avenue and the alley to the north. Commissioner Troiani seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

Following the discussion, Commissioner Nickell requested that a future discussion be held regarding situations where certain residential properties are oversaturated with vehicles. She suggested that the Village consider developing a tier system for vehicle stickers where property owners would pay more for additional vehicles above a specified threshold. Mr. Letson stated that he would review the request with staff and determine the most appropriate venue for the discussion.

c. Review of a Request for IDOT to Review the Speed Limit on Lincoln Avenue

Mr. Amelio informed the Commission that the Village had submitted a request to the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) to review the speed limit on Lincoln Avenue. The current speed limit is 35 miles per hour. IDOT has responded and stated that they will perform a speed study and respond to the Village when that is complete. Mr. Amelio stated that he expects the study to take three to four months to complete and an update will be presented to the Commission when it is available.

8. Public Forum
Mr. Stan Wilk of 4830 W. Chase Avenue expressed concern regarding proposed hotel located at 7250 N. Cicero Avenue and suggested that curb cuts be eliminated on Chase and Jarlath Avenues and that access be provided only from Cicero Avenue.

Commissioner Troiani stated that he lives on the 4400 block of Chase Avenue and is also concerned about traffic generated from the proposed hotel.

Chairman Gelfund inquired if a curb cut would be allowed on Cicero Avenue. Mr. Amelio stated that the matter would need to be reviewed by IDOT as Cicero Avenue is a State route.

Mr. Nick Hatzopoulos of 6446 N. Kimball Avenue inquired the status of the Devon Avenue Enhancement Project that was previously presented to the Traffic Commission. Mr. Amelio stated that the project is currently in the Phase I Engineering design phase and it is expected that phase of the project will be complete soon. Mr. Letson stated that the plans will be brought back to the Traffic Commission for review following changes made due to comments from IDOT. The Commission will then be asked to make a recommendation and the project will be brought to the Village Board for endorsement.

9. Report by Staff

Mr. Amelio provided an update to a request from Trustee Bass regarding the crossings of the new multi-use recreation paths at various roadways. Mr. Amelio stated that the plan is to install in street signage on Pratt Avenue to remind motorists to stop for pedestrians in the crosswalk. In addition, staff will continue to review the crossing at Devon Avenue.

10. Good of the Order

Commissioner Petit expressed that he is very happy with the new paths and that he feels they are a great asset for the community.

11. Adjournment

Commissioner Petit moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m. Commissioner Troiani seconded. The motion was approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert LaMantia
Chief of Police