1. Call to Order

Chairman Troiani called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

2. Pledge to the Flag

Chairman Troiani led the Pledge to the Flag.

3. Roll-call

Present
Commissioner Antonio Costantino
Commissioner John Ernst
Commissioner Victor Stojanoff
Commissioner Scott Troiani
Commissioner Stanley Wilk
James Amelio, Village Engineer
Nadim Badran, Assistant to the Public Works Director
Ashley Engelmann, Assistant Village Manager
Doug Hammel, Community Development Manager
Jesal Patel, Trustee Liaison
Bruce Rottner, Chief of Police (Interim)

Absent
Commissioner Mark Bonner
Commissioner James Lee

4. Report by Chair

a. Chairman Troiani welcomed interim Police Chief Bruce Rottner to the Village, and expressed his gratitude at having worked with retired Chief Robert LaMantia. Chairman Troiani noted that Chief LaMantia always conducted himself professionally and would be missed in the Village.

b. Chairman Troiani welcomed new Commissioner Victor Stojanoff. Commissioner Stojanoff stated that he has lived in the village for the last 24 years and is happy to have the opportunity to serve the community.
5. Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Wilk moved to approve the minutes of the September 28, 2017 Traffic Commission meeting, as presented. Commissioner Costantino seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

6. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business to report.

7. New Business

a. Request for Alley Vacation – 6400 Block of Drake Avenue

Mr. Doug Hammel introduced the item to the Commission. Mr. Hammel explained the alley being considered for vacation is the southern half of the north/south alley to the west of 6400 Drake Avenue. The consideration for vacation is in response to a proposed new development on the site requiring additional space to meet the landscaping and parking guidelines of the Village. Mr. Hammel noted that the northern portion of the vacation would be closed off severing access to the northern end of the alley, however, a 16 foot utility easement would be maintained to allow access to overhead power lines.

Mr. Hammel introduced Steve Bauer, an attorney from Meltzer, Purtill, & Stelle LLC, a law firm representing the site developers. Mr. Bauer noted that the congregants of the synagogue do not drive on the Sabbath, so traffic and parking issues should not be a concern. Mr. Bauer also stated that they spoke with the owners of the adjacent bank property and they did not express concerns regarding the vacation. Commissioner Wilk asked how many houses would be impacted. Mr. Bauer stated residents would have access from Arthur Avenue.

Chairman Troiani asked Chief Rottner if he had any police concerns. Chief Rottner stated the police department does not have any concerns.

Two members of the public requested to speak on the matter:

- Resident Art Ross stated that he wants to see greater traffic control in the area. Mr. Ross stated that vehicles use the side streets to cut through from Pratt Avenue to Devon Avenue. Mr. Ross is concerned the development could lead to an increase in traffic concerns.

- Resident Gregory Fry stated that he was not aware of the development. Mr. Fry stated that he needs two points of access to his garage, and the development would not allow for that. Mr. Fry stated that utility trucks and landscapers often block the alley so a second access point is important.

Chairman Troiani requested a motion. Commissioner Wilk motioned to recommend the alley vacation for approval. Commissioner Stojanoff seconded the motion. The
motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

b. 2018 Schedule of Meetings

Assistant Village Manager, Ashley Engelmann presented the proposed 2018 Traffic Commission Meeting dates. Chairman Troiani asked the Commission if there were concerns about the selected dates. No objections to the schedule were made.

c. Review of Two-Way Stop Sign Request from the Village of Skokie

i. Intersection of Jarvis and Kedvale Avenues

Village Engineer, James Amelio stated that the request for the north/south stop sign came from the Village Engineer of Skokie. Mr. Amelio stated the intersection was assessed on a number of items such as traffic counts and accident data, and recommended north/south stop signs be installed.

ii. Intersection of Jarvis and Lowell Avenues

Mr. Amelio stated that the Village also performed an assessment of the Jarvis/Lowell intersection as well and recommended north/south stop signs be installed.

Commissioner Costantino made the motion to recommend the stop signs be installed. Commissioner Ernst seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously upon a roll call vote.

Member Ernst inquired if the Village has ever done a comprehensive stop sign study, to which staff responded not in recent years.

8. Public Forum

None

9. Report by Staff

Ms. Engelmann stated that Public Works Director Andrew Letson had his first baby on Monday, December 11th. The Commission congratulated the Letson family.

10. Good of the Order

Commissioner Stojanoff stated that the Village should look into ways to increase the safety of Lincolnwood Drive along I-94, as many cars have hit the fence. Commissioner Ernst stated that the Village should look to install more stop signs where possible. Commissioner Ernst is concerned with the number of vehicles that ignore stop signs and school buses.
Mr. Amelio reported that the Village is looking into the safety concerns along I-94 and Lincolnwood Drive and would provide an update to the Commission in the future.

11. Adjournment

Commissioner Ernst moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m. Commissioner Costantino seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Nadim Badran
Assistant to the Public Works Director