



City of Racine

City Hall
730 Washington Ave.
Racine, WI 53403
www.cityofracine.org

Meeting Minutes - Final Traffic Commission

*Chairman Martin DeFatte, Alderman Gregory Holding, Commissioner Richard Jones, Atty.
Nicole Loop, Lt. James Dobbs, Charles French*

Monday, May 19, 2008

5:15 PM

City Hall, Room 301

Call To Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:15 P.M.

PRESENT: 5 - Gregory Holding, Nicole Loop, James Dobbs, Charles French and Richard Jones

EXCUSED: 1 - Martin DeFatte

Also Present: Alderman Anderson, Alderman DeHahn, Alderman Mozol

Approval of Minutes for the April 28, 2008 Meeting

*Motion made by Holding, seconded by Loop to approve the minutes as printed.
Passed unanimously.*

New Business

1. [07-1436](#) **Subject:** Communication from the Alderman of the 7th District, on behalf of Terry Martini, 3701 Monterey Drive, requesting the placement of a stop sign on the north/south corners of Carlton Drive and LaSalle Street.

Recommendation (01-28-08): Defer

Recommendation (05-19-08): Receive and File

Fiscal Note: N/A

John Rooney described the traffic study for the intersection of Carlton Drive and La Salle Street. Rooney noted the traffic study was to see if all-way stops were warranted at this location, as well as checking for speeding on La Salle Street in the north and southbound directions, and also to see the level of pedestrian activity at this location. Rooney noted both manual and tube counts were performed at the intersection and noted approximately 2,700 vehicles north and southbound on La Salle Street per day. He noted the average daily traffic on Carlton Drive is approximately 1,300 vehicles per day. He noted the minor street volume, which is Carlton Drive, is being stopped which is standard protocol. He noted over the last 5-year study period there have only been eight accidents at this location. He noted two of the accidents north and southbound were related to an illegal turn and speeding too fast for conditions, and noted the remaining six accidents were eastbound and were due to failure of the yield right-of-way or disregarding traffic control. He noted these accident rates are well below the warrant level of five accidents per year for four-way stops. He did comment on the bush line on the southwest corner of the intersection; this bush line exceeds the height of 30 inches

and is in the vision triangle. He noted while it didn't appear to be well above the 30 inches, a notification was sent to the UNIT to issue an order to trim those bushes.

Richard Jones noted that perhaps the accidents in the eastbound direction were due to the height of the bush line at this location.

John Rooney noted there were no issues with sight lines or parking conditions that created a hazard, and also noted approximately 47 pedestrians use the intersection at the peak hour; however, nearly 95% of those cross the stop approaches on the east and west side of the intersection. He also noted the speeds on the 3700 block of La Salle indicated the average speed was 27.5 mph and the 85% percentile was 33.4 mph. He indicated while the 85% speeds appear slightly high, it is expected on a collector street with an ADT of over 2,500 vehicles. He recommended no changes in traffic control be made at the intersection, but indicated some target enforcement by Racine Police Department may be in order.

A discussion ensued regarding the traffic study. Alderman DeHahn reiterated the issues with the sight lines and was glad the issue regarding the bushes and vision triangle was being turned over to the UNIT. Alderman DeHahn asked that a copy of the minutes be sent to Terry Martini.

After further discussion, a motion was made by Holding, seconded by Jones to receive and file the communication and recommend the Racine Police Department do some targeted speed enforcement. Passed unanimously.

Recommended to be Received and Filed

2. [08-1822](#)

Subject: Communication from Mayor Becker wishing to discuss returning Marquette Street and ML King Drive back to two-way streets.

Recommendation of the Traffic Commission (05-19-08): Defer

Recommendation of the Public Works and Services Committee (05-27-08): That the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized and directed to enter into a professional services agreement with Ayres Associates, Waukesha, WI, for a full traffic impact analysis to examine the feasibility of converting Marquette Street and Dr. ML King, Jr. Drive from one-way to two-way traffic for the lump sum of \$19,000.00.

Further recommend that since this item was not included in the 2008 budget, that it be referred to the Finance and Personnel Committee for appropriate funding.

Fiscal Note: Not applicable at this time.

John Rooney informed the Traffic Commission that the item to study two-way traffic on Marquette and M.L. King Drive was deferred by the Public Works and Services Committee. He noted traffic proposals were received and the Committee is considering entering into a contract to have the traffic impact analysis done. He noted this was information only, and asked the item be deferred until the Public Works and Services Committee acts.

A motion was made by Jones, seconded by Holding to defer. Passed unanimously.

Deferred3. [08-1846](#)

Subject: Communication from the Alderman of the 15th District wishing to discuss upgrading warning lights, for fire trucks, at certain intersections.

Recommendation (4-28-08): Defer

Recommendation (5-19-08): Defer

Alderman Mozol discussed upgrading warning lights for the fire trucks, particularly at the intersection of 8th St. and Washington Avenue. He noted he felt the existing warning lights were antiquated and thought they could be upgraded.

John Rooney noted he would contact the Fire Chief to see if this is something he was interested in pursuing.

Richard Jones gave a brief history of the Safety Building and indicated if this is something the Fire Chief is desirous of, perhaps it could be incorporated with the 7th Street reconstruction project in 2011 and receive some State funding as part of the traffic warning system.

A motion was made by Holding, seconded by Jones to defer the item. Passed unanimously.

Deferred4. [08-2061](#)

Subject: Communication from Second District Alderman wishing to discuss if a four-way stop sign is warranted at 18th & Center Street.

Recommendation: Receive and file.

Fiscal Note: N/A

Alderman Anderson appeared before the Commission and wondered if a four-way stop would be warranted at 18th St. and Center St. He wasn't sure if there were higher than normal accident rates at this intersection; however, he did understand a four-way stop sign once existed at this location and was particularly concerned with speeding in the area. He asked if the Police Department could deploy a speed trailer at this location.

Charlie French noted this intersection has come up at Neighborhood Watch meetings. He doesn't feel a need for a full-blown traffic study, and endorsed doing some speed enforcement in the area.

After further discussion, a motion was made by Jones, seconded by Loop to receive and file this communication and asked the Police Department to do targeted speed enforcement in the area.

*Members voting Aye: Jones, Loop, French, Dobbs
Members voting Noe: Holding*

Motion passed 4:1.

Recommended to be Received and Filed

Next Meeting Date

The next Traffic Commission meeting will be June 16, 2008, in Room 301 at City Hall.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:04 P.M.

If you are disabled and have accessibility needs or need information interpreted for you, please contact the Engineering Department, 636-9166, at least 48 hours prior to this meeting.