



City of Racine

Meeting Minutes

Traffic Commission

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

*Chairman Martin DeFatte, Mark Kowbel,
Charles French, Alderman John M. Engel,
Richard Jones, Deputy Chief Thomas Christensen,
Scott Letteney*

Monday, April 17, 2006

5:15 PM

Room 301 - City Hall

1. Call To Order

PRESENT: 6 - Martin DeFatte, Mark Kowbel, John M. Engel, Richard Jones, Thomas Christensen and Scott Letteney

EXCUSED: 1 - Charles French

Also Present: Tom Cook, John Knuteson

2. Approval of Minutes for the March 20, 2006, Meeting

Meeting called to order at 5:15 PM.

A motion was made by Engel, seconded by Kowbel to approve the minutes as printed. Passed unanimously.

to Approve the Minutes

3. [06-1618](#)

Subject: Communication from Thomas Cook and local residents requesting to appear before the committee to discuss the removal of Parking Restrictions in the 500 block of 14th Street; with the closing of Winslow School this will allow residents ample parking.

Recommendation: The request to remove No Parking Any Time on 14th Street 75 feet east and west of Park Avenue, both sides, be approved.

Fiscal Note: There is a nominal cost to remove the signs.

Rooney discussed the parking restrictions at the intersection of 14th Street and Park Avenue. He noted in reviewing the safe stopping distances and site lines at the intersection, the existing parking restrictions were put in the right location. However, he indicated they were probably put there without study nearly 20 years ago. He compared them to intersections east and west of Park Avenue and noted similar geometries with no parking restrictions and indicated that the accident rates at those locations were lower and higher. In response to a question by Rick Jones, Rooney indicated that no minimum requirement is made for parking restrictions except for the State Statutes which indicate you cannot park within 15 feet of a crosswalk. Rooney noted that when there are complaints or problematic intersections, site lines are checked and parking restrictions are increased to provide better site distances. He found no apparent reason why the

parking restrictions couldn't be removed at this time and perhaps looked at in a year.

Recommended For Adoption

4. [06-1680](#) **Subject:** Communication from Whey Chai Chinese Restaurant requesting a "No Parking Anytime" sign be placed on the 4th Street side of the building at 400 Main Street; the primary use of this area is a loading zone for the delivery business. The delivery hours are: 11:00 A.M. to 10:00 P.M. seven days a week.

Recommendation: Defer this item.

Rooney read the communication from Whey Chai Chinese Restaurant requesting a No Parking Any Time sign being placed in lieu of a Loading Zone sign. He noted the restaurant owners are under the impression this is a new restriction, when in fact, the parking restrictions for a loading zone have always existed. He noted supplemental plaques were added last year to let people know when they couldn't park in loading zones to provide more on-street parking after the loading zones were not in effect. Rooney noted the request to place a No Parking Zone at this location would not be appropriate and that a meter could be placed at this location.

Jones asked the Assistant Commissioner of Public Works to perhaps look at a new area privilege parking restriction with extended time limits at a different fee for those businesses interested in getting a longer loading zone restriction placed by their business.

Deferred

5. [06-1787](#) **Subject:** (Direct Referral) Communication from the Assistant Commissioner of Public Works/Engineering submitting the request of John Knuteson requesting a traffic study at the intersection of 5th Street and Wisconsin Avenue.

Recommendation: Recommends that No Parking Any Time be installed on Wisconsin Avenue, east side, from 5th Street north 84 feet.

Fiscal Note: The estimated cost of this signage will result in an installation cost of \$100.00 and an annual maintenance cost of \$40.00.

Rooney indicated he met with John Knuteson at the intersection of Fifth Street and Wisconsin Avenue to discuss problems with collisions on the east approach of Fifth Street with southbound traffic on Wisconsin Avenue. Rooney indicated based on the accident analysis and collision diagrams, there is a problem with southbound vehicles colliding with eastbound vehicles at this location. He noted from the study performed that the two parking meter spaces north of the intersection on the east side of the street created a difficult site line for motorists on the east approach. He recommended removing those two parking meter spaces and installing No Parking Any Time on the east

side of Wisconsin Avenue from Fifth Street 84 feet north.

Attorney John Knuteson spoke in favor of the parking restriction as he has noted several accidents near his attorney's office over the last few years.

Recommended For Adoption

6. [06-1667](#) **Subject:** Item 15 of 7-19-05, being a communication from the Mayor wishing to discuss the parking restrictions along Hoffert Drive and Kewaunee Street.

Recommendation: The communication be received and filed.

Fiscal Note: N/A

Rooney explained the layout of the new Hoffert Drive as it relates to the new Lake Michigan pathway. He noted Kewaunee Street has now been obliterated and the new Hoffert Drive runs from Barker Street all the way up to the extension of St. Patrick's Street where it extends into the old Hoffert Drive. He noted parking restrictions have to be placed on this section of the new Hoffert Drive on both sides as it is going to serve two-way traffic and is simply not wide enough to provide parking on either side.

Recommended to be Received and Filed

7. [06-1837](#) **Subject:** In accordance with Section 2-95 of the Municipal Code of the General Ordinances of the City of Racine, recommends that the following requests for changes in traffic code be granted:

A. Recommends that Section 94-141(1) of Schedule F relating to "No parking any time," be amended:

By Deleting:

1. Kewaunee Street, north side, from east terminus west 200 feet.
2. Kewaunee Street, south side, from east terminus west 240 feet.
3. 14th Street, north side, 75 feet east and west of Park Avenue.
4. 14th Street, south side, 75 feet east and west of Park Avenue.
5. Wisconsin Avenue, both sides, from Fifth Street north 45 feet.

By Including:

1. Hoffert Drive, both sides, from Barker Street to St. Patrick Street.
2. Wisconsin Avenue, east side, from Fifth Street north 84 feet.
3. Wisconsin Avenue, west side, from Fifth Street north 45 feet.

Recommendation: Approval of changes in traffic code.

A motion was made by Christensen, seconded by Kowbel, that this file be Recommended For Adoption .

The Traffic Commission adjourned at 5:48 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
John C. Rooney, Secretary
Traffic Commission

Approved by Martin DeFatte, Chairman
Traffic Commission

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