



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, February 16, 2009

5:15 PM

City Hall, Room 301

Call To Order

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

PRESENT: 6 - Gregory Holding, Nicole Loop, James Dobbs, Martin DeFatte, Charles French and Richard Jones

Also Present: Bernice Moore, Joe Mooney, Jay Christie, Jermaine Weatherspoon

Approval of Minutes for the January 19, 2009 Meeting

The minutes of the January 19, 2009 meeting were approved as printed. Passed unanimously.

New Business

1. [08-2694](#) **Subject:** Communication from the Alderman of the 11th District, on behalf of Cherie Griffin - 2425 Washington Avenue, wishing to discuss her concerns about the intersection of Washington Avenue and Holmes Avenue.

Recommendation (10-20-08): Defer

Recommendaton (02-16-09): Receive and file.

Fiscal Note: N/A

John Rooney described the crash history at the intersection at Washington Avenue and Holmes Avenue. He noted the ADT and crash rate. He noted raw crash rate was not problematic at the intersection and of the nine (9) crashes that have occurred over the last five (5) years, all nine (9) were uncorrectable by traffic control. He noted reasons for the accidents from inattentive driving to driving too fast for conditions to driving under the influence. He noted the Racine Police Department did a speed survey with a speed trailer in that area and noted the area was not problematic for speeds. He noted the average speeds of 32 mph and 85% of speeds of 36 mph on a 30 mph posted connected highway. He also noted the percentage of vehicles over 11 mph over the speed limit was only at 1.16 % which is not considered problematic by State standards. He noted that Washington Avenue was resurfaced from West Boulevard to Ninth Street in 2002 by WISDOT. He noted that as part of the study for the design work, all intersections were evaluated for geometric or signalization changes based on crash history, and this intersection was not identified as a problem area. He asked that the communication be received and filed and that advance warning signs be posted to help motorists know of the curve in the road. He indicated these signs did not require motorists to reduce speeds, but were for information only.

Motion made by Jones, seconded by Holding to approve the installation of signs and receive and file the item. Passed unanimously.

Recommended to be Received and Filed

2. [08-2941](#)

Subject: Communication from the Alderman of the 2nd District, wishing to discuss traffic control at the intersection of Franklin Street and 20th Street.

Recommendation (12-15-08): Defer

Recommendation (02-16-09): Receive and file.

Fiscal Note: N/A

John Rooney described the traffic study at 20th Street and Franklin Street. He noted the traffic was counted using a one-hour manual count during the peak hour of school dismissal in the area. He noted the warrants based on volume for an all-way stop were not met. He also noted there were four (4) accidents over the five-year study period with only two (2) of them being correctable by traffic control. He recommended that no changes in traffic control be made.

Alderman Anderson expressed interest in doing the study because of the change in school operations at that location. He accepted the results of the study.

Motion made by Jones, seconded by Dobbs to receive and file. Passed unanimously.

Recommended to be Received and Filed

3. [09-3092](#)

Subject: Communication from the Assistant Commissioner of Public Works/Engineering wishing to discuss the removal of traffic signals at the intersection of N. Main Street and Walton Avenue.

Recommendation: A study to remove the traffic signals at N. Main Street and Walton Avenue in accordance with Section 4B.02 of the 2003 Edition of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices be approved.

Fiscal Note: The study will be done by staff and there is a nominal cost to perform the study.

John Rooney described the history of the installation of traffic signals at the intersection of N. Main Street and Walton Avenue. He noted the traffic signals were installed in 1991 notwithstanding the recommendation of the Traffic Commission in 1990 to not install them. He noted in the late 1980's a study was done at this location. It was determined warrants were not met and the most logical solution to the pedestrian crossing to the zoo was to relocate the zoo entrance to the northeast corner of the intersection of Goold and Main Street. He noted with the 2008 completion of the zoo renovations, this entrance now exists and indicated the signals at Walton Avenue and Main Street are no longer necessary. He asked that a study be done in accordance with the MUTCD to remove the traffic signals at this location. He noted the study would be conducted over a 90-day period and he would report

back to the Traffic Commission the results of that study.

Jay Christie, on behalf of the zoo, appeared before the Commission. He did note some zoo staff members use the Walton Avenue intersection to cross as employees can enter at the Walton Avenue location. He noted some events that are large, such as Animal Crackers or the Jazz Series, sometimes utilize the Walton Avenue location as an exit during the event; however, he noted those events were usually infrequent. He had concerns about some habitual users of the Walton Avenue signals to get to the zoo, but noted he didn't see any issue with using Goold Street as the appropriate way to cross Main Street to get to the new zoo entrance.

Motion made by Dobbs, seconded by Loop to authorize the study. Passed unanimously.

Recommended For Approval

4. [09-3144](#)

Subject: Communication from the residents of the 900 and 1000 block of Racine Street requesting the alternate side parking restriction on the 900 block of Racine Street during the winter months be lifted.

Recommendation: Receive and file.

Fiscal Note: N/A

Bernice Moore appeared before the Commission and described the parking availability off street in the area. She noted parking was prohibited on the west side many years ago and she noted most people who live on that side of the street have off street parking. She experienced her car being towed from the street during snow removal this past winter. She simply asked for more attention to snow plowing and asked that no change in parking restrictions be made.

Jermaine Weatherspoon appeared before the Commission and preferred an alternate street side parking change on the street to deal with snow during the winter months.

Rick Jones explained some of the problems with plowing narrow streets such as this and noted it wasn't practical to sign these types of streets because of the issues of people forgetting to move their cars. He noted the plowing situation would probably be worse. He noted he would add this street to a list to be reviewed for more frequent plowing if time permitted to clean up the other side of the street that was not posted with the parking restriction.

Motion made by French, seconded by Loop to receive and file. Passed unanimously.

Recommended to be Received and Filed

5. [09-3187](#)

Subject: Communication from Joseph Mooney, requesting to meet with the appropriate committees to discuss beer permits issued for Monument Square and additional signage.

Recommendation of the Public Safety & Licensing Committee on 2-9-09: That Director Snow work with Mr. Mooney on his concerns as well as the item going before the Traffic Commission for their input on the signage that is requested and the item be received and filed.

Recommendation of the Traffic Commission (02-16-09): Receive and file.

Fiscal Note: N/A

Joe Mooney appeared before the Commission and noted he is responsible for beer sales for events, such as First Fridays, in Monument Square. He noted there was a concern at the Public Safety and Licensing Committee meeting for all events at Monument Square where beer is served and people take the beer off the square premises. He noted he's only licensed and insured for Monument Square and asked that the City provide four (4) signs to be placed at all corners of Monument Square indicating alcohol beverages have to stay in that location.

Rick Jones noted the Park, Recreation and Cultural Services Department has jurisdiction over Monument Square, and the Public Works Sign Shop could work with the Parks Department to create signs for a charge if that is what is required. He asked that the item be received and filed.

Motion made by French, seconded by Jones to receive and file. Passed unanimously.

Recommended to be Received and Filed

Next Meeting Date

The next Traffic Commission meeting will be on Monday, March 16, 2009, in Room 301 at City Hall.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:06 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.