



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, October 20, 2008

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: Sgt. Kupper attended on behalf of Lt. Dobbs, Alderman Weidner, Alderman Friedel, Alderman Kaplan, Craig Stuhr, Ann Schemel, Patty Trasher, Anita Vital, Cherie Griffen

Approval of Minutes for the September 15, 2008 Meeting

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

New Business

1. [07-0184](#) **Subject:** (Direct Referral) Communication from the Mayor wishing to discuss the elimination of parking restrictions on Memorial Drive, north of State Street.

Recommendation (2-19-07): Defer

Recommendation (10-20-08): Receive and file.

Fiscal Note: N/A

John Rooney explained the request for parking restrictions on Memorial Drive, north of State Street by the Mayor. He noted the northbound parking lane is posted "No Parking Monday through Friday 3:30 P.M. - 6:30 P.M." and the southbound parking lane is posted "No Parking Monday through Friday 6:00 A.M. - 8:00 A.M.". He noted the traffic volume justifies the restriction and is consistent with other arterial streets in Racine that have the same parking restriction. He noted the percent and volume of traffic that occurs during the A.M. and P.M. peak hours, and noted ITE Traffic Engineering handbook standards for parking prohibitions when peak hour volumes exceed certain levels. He noted those levels can restrict parking within 150 feet of the approach and departure of the intersection, and if the peak hour volume gets greater it can actually prohibit parking for the entire block. He noted those areas requested to having parking restrictions removed exceeded the ITE standards for parking restrictions within 150 feet of approach and departure of an intersection, and in one instance volumes exceeded the parking prohibition for the entire block. He noted because of the short lengths of the block, generally 300 feet, even the approach and departure prohibition would warrant removing parking along the entire

side of the street during those peak hours. He noted that outside these peak hour restrictions, parking is allowed for 19 1/2 hours out of the 24 hours of the day. Rooney made a request that the item be received and filed.

A motion was made by French, seconded by Loop to receive and file the item. Passed unanimously.

Recommended to be Received and Filed

2. [08-2472](#)

Subject: Communication from the Alderman of the 4th District, submitting a petition on behalf of his constituents, requesting a 4-way stop sign be placed at the intersection of Hagerer St. and Green St.

Recommendation: Receive and file.

Fiscal Note: N/A

John Rooney submitted a speed trailer report from the Racine Police Department that indicates that no speeding problem exists on Green Street. He noted from this speed trailer report approximately 600 vehicles a day use this street which is indicative of local traffic, and the average speed was 20 mph and the 85% speed is 26 mph. According to the speed trailer report only 0.36% of the vehicles traveled more than 11 mph over the speed limit. He noted the Police Department reported that based on State of Wisconsin standards, this location is not problematic for speeding. He asked that this item be received and filed.

Alderman Kaplan thanked the Traffic Commission and the Police Department for looking into the matter.

Craig Stuhr appeared before the Commission and still insisted there was a problem at this location.

After further discussion, a motion was made by Jones, seconded by French to receive and file. Passed unanimously.

Recommended to be Received and Filed

3. [08-2531](#)

Subject: Communication from the Alderman of the 10th District requesting a new stop sign on Gillen Street at Madison Street.

Recommendation (9-15-08): Defer

Recommendation (10-20-08): Receive and file.

Fiscal Note: N/A

John Rooney submitted a traffic study for the intersection of Gillen Street and Madison Street. He noted the intersection is uncontrolled, and less than 500 vehicles a day used this intersection. He noted two accidents occurred at this intersection over the last five years, and only one of them was a correctable accident. He noted the one accident, the motorist failed to yield the right-of-way to the motorist to the right when they were entering the intersection at the same time. He noted the other accident was excessive speeds. A collision happened and the motorist fled the scene. He noted none of the warrants were met for additional traffic control and asked that the item be received and filed.

Alderman Friedel insisted stop signs would be an improvement at this location and believes they do control speed, and cited another area in his district. He noted Gillen Street provided several blocks of no stopping and asked that stop signs be placed facing east and westbound traffic.

A motion made by Holding to place stop signs east and west on Gillen Street. With no second, the motion died. After further discussion, a motion was made by Loop, seconded by French to receive and file the item. On a roll call vote, the members voted:

AYE: French, Jones, Kupper, Loop

NOE: Holding

Motion passed 4:1

Recommended to be Received and Filed

4. [08-2614](#)

Subject: Communication from the Alderman of the 6th District on behalf of the residents at the intersection of Clarence, Columbia and Carmel Streets for additional traffic signs.

Recommendation (9-15-08): Defer

Recommendation (10-20-08): Receive and file.

Fiscal Note: N/A

John Rooney reviewed the traffic study for the intersection of Carmel, Clarence and Columbia. He noted the traffic volumes and indicated the volume was extremely light, southbound coming from the north. He noted out of the 1,145 vehicles a day estimated to use this intersection, only fifty vehicles were southbound. He noted that is why the southbound movements of the intersection remained uncontrolled, because of the low traffic volume. He noted the heaviest movements are on Columbia westbound and the northbound movements off of Clarence and Carmel. He noted the northbound movements are both stop controlled and the westbound off of Columbia was left uncontrolled, as well, because of the grade coming up the hill. He noted no accidents related to intersection traffic control have occurred at this location. He noted two accidents have occurred in the last five years. One involved a parked car pulling out into traffic, and the other involving a car hitting the door that was opened from a parked car. He noted accidents generally indicate driver familiarity with the intersection and felt the geometric change with the island installed six years ago, and the signage that was put up with it is adequate. He asked that the item be received and filed.

Alderman Weidner stated that traffic from the north heading south needs to yield.

Two residents from Carmel Avenue appeared before the Commission and noted the problem with some of the speeding cars down Carmel Avenue and their disregard for the stop signs that are there now. They asked for some assistance with speed bumps or "Children Present" signs.

Alderman Holding noted the "Children Present" signs cannot be installed. It conflicts with an existing ordinance that does not allow children to be playing in the streets.

John Rooney noted that speed bumps are not part of the policy of the Department of

Public Works for street installation.

Alderman Holding suggested in getting some signs to warn motorists to slow down in the area, and stated those could be picked up from local stores and placed on private property.

After further discussion, a motion was made by Holding, seconded by French to receive and file the item. Passed unanimously.

Recommended to be Received and Filed

5. [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

Cherie Griffin appeared before the Commission and noted problems with vehicles leaving the roadway, twice hitting her home on the southeast corner of Holmes and Washington Avenue. She noted she has lived there 11 years and has seen many accidents, vehicles hitting the street lights, parked cars, and even other homes in the area. She asked that perhaps the speed limit could be reduced or some better signage be put out there regarding the curve and the roadway. She also noted a fatal motorcycle accident that occurred at this location.

John Rooney noted that when the road was rebuilt by Wisconsin Department of Transportation in 2002, they did install reflective raised pavement markers in the roadway to help motorists navigate the curves at night time and also placed some chevron signs showing the curvature in the road. He noted he could review the signage in the area and review crash data to see if there were any problems. He further noted the consulting engineer, who prepared the plans for the project, also checked every intersection for crash rates. He noted two intersections were upgraded and geometries were improved. He noted the intersection of 14th and Washington was improved with signals and some geometric changes. He also noted the intersection of 9th and Marquette and Washington was modified as well. He didn't believe Holmes Avenue required any major changes.

Sgt. Kupper noted he could set the speed trailer out at this location and get some speed data for the Engineering Department to review as well.

After further discussion, a motion was made by Jones, seconded by Holding to defer the item for study. Passed unanimously.

Deferred

6. [08-2729](#)

Subject: Communication from Anita Vital, Education Manager for the Racine/Kenosha Community Action Agency Head Start Program, requesting a "No Parking/Bus Loading Zone" sign be placed at 1923 Green Street.

Recommendation: The request to install "No stopping, standing or parking from 7:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. on any school day except for school buses and mass transit vehicles owned and operated by the City" on Green Street, east side, from Yout Street south 130 feet be

granted.

Fiscal Note: The estimated cost of this signage will result in an installation cost of \$200.00 and an annual maintenance cost of \$80.00.

Anita Vital appeared before the Commission representing the Racine/Kenosha Community Action Agency Head Start program. She noted St. John Nepomuk School is being used for 3 - 5 year old preschool Monday through Thursday from 7:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. She noted there are approximately 238 students using the facility and requested signage be placed for three buses that drop children off at the school.

John Rooney noted he would look at the parking signs that were placed when St. John Nepomuk was an active grade school, and stated signage would be placed at that location.

A motion made by Jones, seconded by Holding to approve the request "No Parking Bus Loading Zone" signs at the school. Passed unanimously.

Recommended For Approval

7. [08-2830](#)

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 (9) of Schedule F of the Municipal Code of the General Ordinances of the City of Racine relative to "No stopping, standing or parking from 7:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. on any school day except for school buses and mass transit vehicles owned and operated by the City" be amended:

By Including:

1. Green Street, east side, from Yout Street south 130 feet.

Recommended For Approval

Next Meeting Date

The next Traffic Commission meeting will be November 17, 2008 - 5:15 P.M. in Room 301 at City Hall.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 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.