



# City of Racine

## Meeting Minutes

### Traffic Commission

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

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Monday, May 21, 2007

5:15 PM

Room 301- City Hall

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#### Call To Order

*Meeting was called to order at 5:17 P.M.*

**PRESENT:** 6 - Ronald D. Hart, Steven Hurley, Martin DeFatte, Charles French, Richard Jones and Scott Letteney

**EXCUSED:** 1 - Jarvis Finley

**Also Present:** Alderman Maack, Alderman Wisneski, Alderman Weidner, Karen Flynn (RUSD), Gail Bergstrom (Durham), William and Nancy Scharding, Michele Howard

#### Approval of Minutes for the April 16, 2007 Meeting

*Motion made by Jones, seconded by Hart to approve the minutes as printed.*

**to Approve the Minutes**

#### New Business

1. [06-2918](#) **Subject:** (Direct Referral) Communication from the Alderman of the 5th District, on behalf of Dan Malnar, 1922 Geneva St, requesting the City enact an ordinance which would require school buses to use their stop signs when picking up and dropping off students.

**Recommendation:** Receive and file.

**Fiscal Note:** N/A

*Alderman Maack cited several areas where crossing does occur, per Racine Unified School District and Durham.*

*Karen Flynn noted that up to 20% of the stops busses make, they do require kids to cross at that location.*

*Rick Jones noted that can't be standardized and that either it's an all or nothing proposition for busses to use their flashing warning lights when stopping in the City of Racine.*

*Scott Letteney commented that drivers should be able to figure out when they are supposed to stop and when they are not supposed to stop based on the use of the flashing stop sign on the bus.*

*Assistant Chief Hurley cited traffic difficulties if this were to be passed at a local level.*

*Rick Jones noted this item should be addressed at the State level and perhaps a change in the State law. He recommended the alderman write a letter to the State Legislature asking them to consider a change which puts the City in a better position to adopt State law.*

*After further discussion, a motion was made by Jones and seconded by French to receive and file the communication.*

*Members voted aye: Hart, French, DeFatte, Jones*

*Members voted no: Letteney*

*Motion passed: 4 to 1*

**Recommended to be Received and Filed**

2. [07-0451](#) **Subject:** Communication from the Alderman of the 5th District requesting the City of Racine work with both DRC and HSSA to install Pedestrian Right of Way signs at crosswalks throughout the Downtown area.  
**Alderman Maack invited to the meeting.**

**Recommendation:** Defer

**Fiscal Note:** N/A

*Alderman Maack cited difficulties crossing City streets, particularly in the Downtown area. He indicated a way to make those crossings pedestrian friendly, would be to provide signs that could be placed in the right of way, perhaps on center line noting the pedestrians have right-of-way.*

*There was a question raised whether the State of Wisconsin would allow that on connecting highways.*

*John Rooney noted they use those types of devices in Lake Geneva and Door County on State connecting highways and did note MUTCD does not allow their use at signalized intersections. He indicated estimates could be made on how much these devices cost and where they could be used, and this item should be deferred. He noted that he could bring back some information at the following meeting which would show cost and how much would have to be budgeted for these devices. He also noted some agreements would have to be made for these signs to be put out in the morning and removed in the evening and also maintained during the day in case they were knocked over by traffic.*

*A motion was made by Letteney, seconded by Hart to defer. Passed unanimously.*

**Deferred**

3. [07-0514](#) **Subject:** Communication from the Alderman of the 11th District requesting installation of a stop sign at Biscayne and Monarch.

**Recommendation:** Receive and file.

**Fiscal Note:** N/A

*Alderman Holding appeared before the Commission and noted multiple cars parking near the intersection because of the high density living area. He noted some of his constituents wanted stop signs.*

*John Rooney explained the reasoning behind leaving T-intersections uncontrolled. He explained the State law which indicates motorists on the terminating leg of T-intersections must yield right-of-way to those on the through leg of the T-intersection. He also stated there are zero (0) accidents at this location and didn't believe it had volume that would warrant more traffic control. He also noted some T-intersections are controlled for reasons to provide a predominant left turn off the terminating leg. He noted this is not the case at this location.*

*Alderman Hart indicated he was in support of a stop sign at the location and made a motion to install a stop sign at this time. There was no second and the motion failed.*

*After further discussion, a motion was made by Hart, seconded by French to receive and file the communication. Passed unanimously.*

**Recommended to be Received and Filed**4. [07-0515](#)

**Subject:** Communication from the Aldermen of the 9th and 12th District requesting the City paint bright white crosswalk stripes on each of the crosswalks at the intersections of Washington Ave. and Arthur/Blaine/Hayes/Grove. **Aldermen Karas and Wisneski invited to the meeting.**

**Recommendation:** Defer**Fiscal Note:** N/A

*Alderman Wisneski appeared before the Commission and asked that the City consider enhanced crosswalk markings in the West Racine business area. He noted in the area he noticed the pavement markings were worn and barely visible. He noted there would be more foot traffic in the area, particularly with the development near Grove Avenue and Washington Avenue.*

*John Rooney noted the City only marks crosswalks, parking stalls, and street lines once a year. He noted due to budget cuts, the twice a year marking program has been reduced to once a year. He also noted the City only uses latex paint which is not as durable as epoxy paint. He noted the epoxy paint uses a different type of machine. He further noted the City does not put down preformed pavement markings as well and he noted those are costly to install. He indicated if the aldermen would support funding such a program, this work could be considered and put out for a Public Works contract.*

*Rick Jones noted that a policy would probably have to be developed to determine which areas need these enhanced crosswalk markings because the requests would increase if no policy was in place. He also noted if the aldermen were not willing to fund a program like this, it is not worth considering or talking about.*

*John Rooney noted he could get some price quotes on these types of pavement markings for crosswalks and bring that information back to a following meeting.*

*After further discussion, a motion was made by Jones, seconded by French to defer. Passed unanimously.*

**Deferred**

5.     [07-0516](#)     **Subject:** Communication from the Aldermen of the 9th and 12th District requesting that some kind of "Pedestrians have Right of Way" or "Caution: Pedestrians" signage be installed on Washington Ave. on the westbound approach to the intersection of Washington and Grove. **Aldermen Karas and Wisneski invited to the meeting.**

**Recommendation:** Defer

**Fiscal Note:** N/A

*Based on discussion of Item 07-0451, a motion was made by Letteney, seconded by Hart to defer. Passed unanimously.*

**Deferred**

6.     [07-0650](#)     **Subject:** Communication from the Higher Ground Ministries, 1330 Martin Luther King Drive, requesting a "Reserved Parking" sign be placed on Martin Luther King Drive or Albert Street for their pastor.

**Recommendation:** Receive and file.

**Fiscal Note:** N/A

*Michele Howard appeared before the Commission and asked for reserved parking for their pastor at the Higher Ground Ministries, 1330 Dr. M. L. King Jr. Drive.*

*John Rooney noted that private parking is not allowed in the public right-of-way. He noted even those who request parking for disabled and pay for that sign realize it is a public space, and anyone with the proper credentials can use it.*

*After further discussion, a motion was made by Hart, seconded by Letteney to receive and file. Passed unanimously.*

**Recommended to be Received and Filed**

7.     [07-0527](#)     **Subject:** School crossing guard locations for the 2007 summer school session.

M.L. King and West  
Arthur and Kinzie  
17th and Grange  
Bate and Taylor  
LaSalle and Romaine

21st and Kentucky  
16th and Grange  
17th and Taylor  
Blue River and Lathrop  
Arthur and Washington  
Kinzie and Osbourne  
Goold and LaSalle  
Graceland and Ohio  
17th and West  
Drexel and Durand  
6th and Howland  
Blue River and Kentucky  
Arthur and Osbourne  
Kewaunee and Main St

**Recommendation:** Approve crossing guard locations for the 2007 summer school session with the addition of Kewaunee and Main St.

**Fiscal Note:** Estimated salary cost is \$18,000 with funding available in Account 101.310.502, Police - Other Salaries.

*John Rooney submitted the crossing guard locations for the 2007 summer school program. He noted these locations were submitted by the Racine Police Department.*

*Charles French asked if Janes School was on the list.*

*John Rooney believes it wasn't on the summer crossing guard location as it is a permanent guard location being it is a year-round school. He noted he would contact Dan DeMatthew at the Racine Police Department to verify if Kewaunee Street and Main Street needs to be added to this list.*

*Motion made by Hart, seconded by Letteney to approve the list. Passed unanimously.*

**Recommended For Acceptance**

### **Next Meeting Date**

*The next meeting will be on June 18, 2007.*

### **Adjournment**

**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.**