



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, September 15, 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: John Rooney, Alderman Kaplan, Alderman Mozol, Alderman Friedel, Alderman Weidner, Ron Carls, Pete Wicklund (Journal Times)

Approval of Minutes for the August 18, 2008 Meeting

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

New Business

1. [08-2473](#) **Subject:** Communication from the Alderman of the Fourth District, asking to address parking issues at Racine's Blue Wave Beach (North Beach) during special events.

Recommendation of the Public Safety & Licensing Committee on 08-11-08: That the item be referred to the Traffic Committee.

Fiscal Note: N/A

Recommendation of the Traffic Commission (9-15-08): Refer to the Board of Park, Recreation and Cultural Services.

Fiscal Note: N/A

Alderman Kaplan appeared before the Commission and was concerned about the lack of enforcement of no parking signs near the North Beach park, along the newly constructed Hoffert Drive. He indicated he has heard enforcement has been waived during special events, and feels most people now ignore the signs and park their vehicles in the picnic areas. He believes it is unsafe and causing damage to the grassed-in areas.

After further discussion, the Traffic Commission referred the item to the Park and Recreation Department for discussion, since this is a City park and they have jurisdiction. The Police Department was also asked to be involved in that Board of Park, Recreation and Cultural Services meeting as well.

Motion made by Jones, seconded by Holding to refer the communication to the Board

of Park, Recreation and Cultural Services. Passed unanimously.

Recommended For Further Consideration

2. [08-2530](#)

Subject: Communication from the Alderman of the 10th District requesting stop sign reversal at Ashland Avenue and Bate Street.

Recommendation (09-15-08): Defer

Fiscal Note: N/A

Alderman Friedel appeared before the Commission and asked that the stop sign at Ashland Avenue and Bate Street be reversed. He cited the reversal of three stop signs on Kearney Avenue in 2003, and noted the reversal helped eliminate some cut-through traffic and speeding, but he has seen traffic migrate over to Ashland Avenue.

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

Deferred

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

Fiscal Note: N/A

Alderman Friedel asked that a traffic study be done at the intersection of Gillen Street and Madison Street. He noted the intersection was uncontrolled and cited a recent motorcycle accident at that location.

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

Deferred

4. [08-2532](#)

Subject: Communication from the Alderman of the 10th District wishing to discuss restricted parking on the west side of Hamilton Avenue near the corner of Durand Avenue.

Recommendation: The request to install No Parking at Any Time on Hamilton Avenue, west side, from Durand Avenue north 40 feet be granted.

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.

Alderman Friedel asked that parking restrictions be installed on the west side of Hamilton Avenue, north of Durand Avenue. He noted there have been issues of vehicles parking along that stretch of the road with good visibility on Durand Avenue. He noted these vehicles are parked there with "For Sale" signs on them and said it was difficult to get the police to enforce getting those cars moved and asked that the parking restriction be installed. He noted there would be no issue of neighborhoods

having some on-street parking eliminated in this area.

Motion made by Jones, seconded by Loop to approve the request. Passed unanimously.

Recommended For Approval

5. [08-2536](#)

Subject: Communication from the Assistant Commissioner of Public Works/Engineering wishing to discuss parking restrictions on Oakes Road, from 16th Street to 21st Street.

Recommendation: The request to install No Parking at Any Time on Oakes Road, both sides, from 16th Street south 2,900 feet be granted.

Fiscal Note: The cost of signage is paid for through shared revenue funding.

John Rooney noted that Oakes Road, from 16th Street to 21st Street has been opened to traffic since Labor Day weekend. He noted the right-of-way has been platted and approved by the Common Council. He asked that No Parking restrictions be placed on the entire length of the roadway on both sides. He noted this is a four lane arterial carrying heavy truck traffic to the industrial facilities and landfill in this area.

Motion made by Holding, seconded by French to approve. Passed unanimously.

Recommended For Approval

6. [08-2564](#)

Subject: Communication from the Assistant Commissioner of Public Works/Engineering, on behalf of the Mayor, requesting the removal of parking restrictions on Albert, between Memorial and Blake.

Recommendation: The request to remove No Parking from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. except on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays on Albert Street, north side, from 160 feet west of North Memorial Drive, west 80 feet be granted.

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

John Rooney submitted a request, on behalf of the Mayor, to remove time-of-day parking restrictions on the north side of Albert Street, between Memorial and Blake. Rooney noted these restrictions were put up in 1996 when Gallo Manufacturing was on N. Memorial Drive. He noted Gallo Manufacturing exited the alley way with their trucks and needed the restrictions on the north side of the street to facilitate the movement of those trucks. He noted Gallo Manufacturing has moved to Caledonia, and concurred with the request to remove the parking restrictions.

Motion made by Dobbs, seconded by French to approve the request. Passed unanimously.

Recommended For Approval

7. [08-2595](#)

Subject: Communication from the Alderman of the 15th District requesting to meet with the appropriate committee to discuss off-road

accidents at South and Main St. where moving a road sign, adding street lights and cutting tree limbs may improve the intersection.

Recommendation: Receive and file.

Fiscal Note: N/A

Alderman Mozol and Ron Carls appeared before the Commission. Ron Carls noted there have been four accidents, in approximately the last twenty months at this intersection. He cited reasons for the accident being motorists had difficulty seeing the signs at the intersection because trees have covered up the street name signs and restricted lighting of the intersection.

Alderman Mozol asked that a road sign for South Street be moved to the east side of the street on a light pole where it can be more easily read, and that trees be trimmed to facilitate better lighting in the area.

Motion made by Jones, seconded by French to receive and file the communication and ask the City Forester to trim the trees in the area, and the Sign Shop to move the sign to the light pole. Passed unanimously.

Recommended to be Received and Filed

8. [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

Fiscal Note: N/A

Alderman Weidner appeared before the Commission and asked that some type of traffic control be used for southbound vehicles on Clarence and Carmel at the intersection of Clarence, Columbia, and Carmel Streets. She noted two movements northbound on Clarence and Carmel were stopped control, and Columbia was uncontrolled on the east approach. Alderman Weidner felt these uncontrolled movements pose a risk for vehicles and pedestrians in the area.

John Rooney noted the traffic island was built back in 2002. He noted the island was built because of the expansive intersection with vehicles traveling through the intersection any way they wanted, and also to eliminate the storing of snow in the intersection making it difficult to see around. He noted the intersection was signed based on the geometric improvement based on engineering judgment. He noted a recent survey by the Police Department database indicated no accidents have occurred at this location.

After further discussion, a motion was made by Jones, seconded by Holding to defer the item for study and report back to the Traffic Commission.

Deferred

9. [08-2685](#)

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 of the Municipal Code of the General Ordinances of the City of Racine relative to "No parking at any time" be amended:

By Including:

1. Hamilton Avenue, west side, from Durand Avenue north 40 feet.
2. Oakes Road, both sides, from 16th Street south 2,900 feet.

B. Recommends that Section 94-141 (1f) of Schedule F of the Municipal Code of the General Ordinances of the City of Racine relative to "No parking from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. except on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays" be amended:

By Deleting:

1. Albert Street, north side, from 160 feet west of North Memorial Drive, west 80 feet.

Recommended For Approval

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting of the Traffic Commission will be October 20, 2008 at 5:15 P.M. 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.