



City of Racine

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

Meeting Minutes - Final Traffic Commission

Chairman Alderman Sandy Weidner
Atty. Nicole Loop
Charles French
John Heckenlively
Lt. Chuck Weitzel
Mark Yehlen

Monday, September 17, 2012

5:15 PM

City Hall, Room 301

Call To Order

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

PRESENT: 4 - Nicole Loop, Charles French, John Heckenlively and Mark Yehlen

EXCUSED: 2 - Lt. Chuck Weitzel and Chairman Weidner

Also Present: John Rooney, Jim Rooney, Tom Ryan, Alderman Kaplan, Donna Meinert, Christi Beerntsen

Approval of Minutes for the August 20, 2012 Meeting

The minutes of the August 20, 2012 meeting were approved as printed. Passed unanimously.

New Business

1. [12-7775](#) **Subject:** Communication from the Alderman of the 4th District, requesting a Right Turn Only from Hoffert Drive onto Michigan Blvd, directing traffic to the north.

Recommendation of the Traffic Commission on 06-18-12: Defer

Recommendation of the Traffic Commission on 09-17-12:
Receive and file.

Fiscal Note: N/A

John Rooney explained the study for the right-turn only from Hoffert Dr. onto Michigan Blvd. He noted a study was conducted over an approximate 60-day period. He noted traffic counts and speed counts were taken on Michigan Blvd. The Engineering Department also conducted traffic counts on Yout St., Chatham St. and English St. to establish baseline volumes and directional splits of traffic. He noted after that study was completed, Hoffert Dr. was channelized over to the right and signs were posted for right-turn only exiting Hoffert Dr. to northbound Michigan Blvd. He noted the signage and channelization was put in place for approximately 2 weeks to let motorists get used to the traffic pattern that was being proposed at this location.

He noted after that, then two separate week-long counts were taken at the exact locations for both the volume directional split and speeds on Michigan Blvd. He also noted on seven different days, hourly counts were taken between the hours of 3:00 P.M. and 4:00 P.M. to see if there was compliance with the right-turn only movement that was required. He noted during baseline traffic counts the traffic volume on Yout St. and Chatham St. were minimal, as far as average daily traffic is concerned, with reasonable 50/50 splits in opposing directions. He noted on Michigan Blvd. the northbound directional split was 63%, and the southbound directional split was 37%. He also noted an ADT on Michigan Blvd. of approximately 2,700 vehicles. He noted the ADT on English St. was just over 500 vehicles and there was an approximate 80% bi-directional split westbound with a 20% bi-directional split eastbound. He did note that also during the seven different days for manual counts at the intersection 19% of the vehicles took a left turn to go southbound on Michigan Blvd. 24% of the traffic continued through the intersection to westbound on English St. and 57% of the movements were right-turn northbound on Michigan Blvd. He also noted during the time the right-turn only was posted the bi-directional traffic splits on English St. and Michigan Blvd. were virtually unchanged. He also noted there was no significant change to bi-directional splits on Yout St. and Chatham St. He also noted the speeds on Michigan Blvd. did not indicate a speeding problem. He noted the speed study showed average speeds of 26 mph and 85% speeds of 32 mph. He noted this is very similar to other streets posted 25 mph in the City of Racine. He noted based on this study, the directional split of traffic on Michigan Blvd. is most likely seasonal and noted the restrictions to require right-turn only movement did not change the directional split of traffic volume on Michigan Blvd. before or after the right-turn only signs were installed. He also noted the bi-directional split on English St. was the same before and after. He noted it appears there is not a predominant movement of traffic making a left turn on Hoffert Dr. to go southbound on Michigan Blvd. creating the scoop the loop pattern of traffic described by residents of the area. He also noted 80% westbound traffic volume is due largely, in part, to the alignment with the exit of Hoffert Dr. He recommended the traffic control remain unchanged at this location and indicated the seasonal traffic will probably revert back to lower traffic volumes and perhaps more evenly distribute the directional splits during the off-peak summer months of September through May. He felt signing for right-turn only at this location would only make otherwise law abiding motorists and the violators of the law who wish to continue through the intersection or make that left turn. He noted without any enforcement of the movement being restricted to right-turn only by the Police Department, the signs would really amount to nothing more than a feel-good measure to try to persuade motorists to exit to the north.

Some residents of the neighborhood were concerned the one-way signs at the top of Hoffert Dr. gave an impression to motorists they should continue in that one-way direction to the west on English St. and thought they should be removed during the study.

John Rooney noted those signs face north and southbound traffic and have to remain in place so motorists do not enter the wrong way down Hoffert Dr. He also noted the right-turn only signs were prominently placed on that approach of Hoffert Dr. facing traffic coming up Hoffert Dr.

Residents indicated this was a quality-of-life issue that they felt needs to be addressed and felt this was an inexpensive way to help in that regard.

Mark Yehlen indicated that traffic control measures are usually installed to change traffic patterns and motorists were to solve vehicular problems. He felt neither one of these would be accomplished with the temporary signage and felt this exhaustive study showed that very few people complied with the change in the traffic pattern.

Residents were also concerned the Police Department didn't provide enough attention to the area during the study period and didn't even bother issuing warning tickets.

After further discussion, a motion was made by Yehlen, seconded by Heckenlively to receive and file the communication. Passed unanimously.

Recommended to be Received and Filed

2. [12-7992](#)

Subject: Communication from Pastor Daryn Crenshaw of the Christ Baptist Church (1034 West Boulevard), requesting removal of the "No Parking Anytime" sign at Lindermann Avenue and West Boulevard.

Recommendation of the Traffic Commission on 08-20-12: Defer

Recommendation of the Traffic Commission on 09-17-12: The parking restrictions on Lindermann Avenue between West Blvd. and Grove Ave. be removed.

Fiscal Note: N/A

John Rooney explained the reasons the no parking signs were installed on Lindermann Avenue at this location. He noted these were installed for businesses in the area many years ago. He noted there is ample street width to remove the parking restrictions and allow parking to once again happen on the street. He noted there was a request by Alderman McCarthy to not grant the permission to remove the parking signs because of some issues with non-compliance of a conditional use permit by the applicant.

Mark Yehlen noted he had no objections to the request and made a motion to remove the parking restrictions. A motion was seconded by Heckenlively. Passed unanimously.

Recommended For Approval

3. [12-8136](#)

Subject: (Direct Referral) Communication from the Assistant Commissioner of Public Works/City Engineer, on behalf of residents on Michigan Blvd., requesting to rescind Resolution 12-3313.

Recommendation of the Traffic Commission on 09-17-12: Resolution 12-3313 be rescinded.

Fiscal Note: N/A

James Rooney and Tom Ryan appeared before the Commission.

Secretary Rooney noted he asked that the item be referred back to the Traffic Commission at Common Council, but the item was approved. He wanted the item to be considered to be rescinded so the item could be brought up for discussion again.

Both Jim Rooney and Tom Ryan noted the restriction should really be a seasonal one and time-of-day when the operation of the park is in full use.

Secretary Rooney noted this makes more sense than the no parking any time restriction which would be in effect 365 days a year, 24 hours a day, and would really prohibit alternate street side parking in that area.

Nicole Loop recommended the Commissioners just consider rescinding the resolution and a new item could be brought in to consider the other requests for the change in the parking restriction dates and times.

After further discussion, a motion was made by Yehlen, seconded by Heckenlively to rescind Resolution 12-3313. Passed unanimously.

Recommended For Approval

4. [12-8187](#)

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 Deleting

1. Michigan Blvd., east side, from Barker Street south 124 feet
2. Michigan Blvd., east side, from Barker Street north 91 feet
3. Michigan Blvd., west side, from Barker Street south 120 feet
4. Michigan Blvd., west side, from Barker Street north 87 feet
5. Lindermann Ave., south side, from West Boulevard and Grove Avenue

B. Recommends that Section 94-141 (22) of Schedule F of the Municipal Code of the General Ordinances of the City of Racine relative to "No parking from 6:00 A.M. to 11:00 A.M., except Sundays & holidays" be amended:

By Deleting

1. Lindermann Ave., north side, from Grove Avenue east 150 feet

C. Recommends that Section 94-143 (15) of Schedule G of the Municipal Code of the General Ordinances of the City of Racine relative to "Two-hour parking from 9:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M., except on Sundays & holidays" be amended:

By Deleting

1. Lindermann Ave., north side, from Grove Avenue to West Boulevard.

Recommended For Approval

Next Meeting Date

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:19 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.