



City of Racine

Meeting Minutes

Traffic Commission

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

*Chairman Martin DeFatte, Mark Kowbel,
Charles French, Alderman John M. Engel,
Richard Jones, Deputy Chief Thomas Christensen,
Scott Letteney*

Monday, March 20, 2006

5:15 PM

Room 301 - City Hall

1. Call To Order

Meeting was called to order at 5:15 P.M. by Chairman DeFatte.

PRESENT: 4 - Martin Defatte, Mark Kowbel, Richard Jones and Thomas Christensen

EXCUSED: 2 - Charles French and John M. Engel

2. Approval of Minutes for the February 20, 2006 Meeting

A motion was made by Deputy Chief Christensen, seconded by Jones, that this file be to Approve the Minutes .

3. [06-1647-A](#)

Subject: Communication from the Racine Zoological Society requesting exclusive use of Lakeview Park for competitors and other needs and the blocking of traffic from Michigan Boulevard beginning at Lakeview Park heading north to Goold Street and Goold Street west to Main Street.

Referred to Traffic Commission and to the Board of Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services.

Traffic Commission 3-20-06 Recommendation: This communication be referred to the Public Works and Services Committee.

Fiscal Note: N/A

Rooney asked this item be referred to Public Works and Services Committee.

Recommended For Adoption

4. [06-1618](#)

Subject: Communication from Thomas Cook and local residents requesting to appear before the committee to discuss the removal of Parking Restrictions in the 500 block of 14th Street; with the closing of Winslow School this will allow residents ample parking.

Recommendation: Defer this item for study.

Fiscal Note: N/A

Rooney indicated the intersection of 14th and Park Street has no parking for 75 feet on both sides of the intersection in the east and west direction. He noted this parking restriction was approved back in 1986. He indicated there was no apparent study for the restriction. He indicated the request was from residents in the area and read the minutes from the 1986 meeting.

Tom Cook appeared before the Traffic Commission and noted with Winslow School closing, St. Luke's Emergency Care facility, restaurants, and other businesses on 14th Street being gone in recent years, traffic has decreased quite a bit. He indicated with less traffic there's less potential for accidents. He noted there is real difficulty in finding parking in the area. In response to a question by Rick Jones, Tom Cook indicated many of the homes in this immediate area are multi-family and with no driveway access, find it very difficult to find a place to park.

Scott Letteney noted the similar geometry to the adjoining intersections at College and Villa, along with the similar building setbacks and wondered why a restriction was placed at this intersection and not the other two.

After further discussion, a motion was made by Jones and seconded by Kowbel to defer this item for study. Passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Jones, seconded by Kowbel, that this file be Deferred .

5. [06-1456](#)

Subject: Item 15 of February 7, 2006 communication from the 5th District Alderman on behalf of Mary Meyers, requesting parking changes in the 2200 block of Douglas Avenue.

Recommendation: Recommends that "No Parking from 6:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M. on Monday through Friday" be installed on "Douglas Avenue, west side, from 190 feet south of Layard Avenue south 550 feet and Douglas Avenue, east side, from 230 feet south of Layard Avenue south 370 feet".

Fiscal Note: The estimated cost of this signage will result in an installation cost of \$400.00 and an annual maintenance cost of \$160.00.

Rooney indicated the business at 2226 was looking for some additional on-street parking at the last meeting and it was deferred at that time to see if more parking could be allowed on street in the 2100 and 2200 blocks of Douglas Avenue.

Rooney noted he contacted the other property owners in this corridor along with Park and Recreation for parking in front of Douglas Park and the Cesar Chevaz Community Center.

He noted he received no objections from anybody regarding allowing additional on-street parking. Rooney noted back in 1995 the parking was eliminated in this block because there wasn't a need at that time, and it was disjointed.

Rooney noted that allowing parking after 6 P.M. and on the weekends in this area should not be a problem as far as traffic is concerned, with the fact that parking is allowed in this area north of Layard Street after 6 P.M. on weekdays and all day on Saturdays and Sundays.

The motion was made by Christensen, seconded by Kowbel to approve the request for the parking change. Passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Deputy Chief Christensen, seconded by Kowbel, that this file be Recommended For Adoption .

6. [06-1587](#)

Subject: Item 19 of 2-22-06, being a communication from the Business Manager at the Racine Library in regards to restricting the parking on Ohio Street across from Goodland School.

Recommendation: A No Parking Any Time be installed on "Ohio Street, east side, from Graceland Boulevard north 80 feet".

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.

Dan Schultz of the Racine Public Library appeared before the Commission. He asked that "No Parking Anytime" be placed in front of the drop box across from Goodland School on Ohio School near Graceland Park.

All of the Traffic Commission members had no problem with the request. They did ask that the drop box possibly be located further south towards Graceland Blvd.

Rooney indicated he would check to see if the box could be located further south and posted "No Parking" where it would be more advantageous for a vision triangle at that corner.

A motion was made by Kowbel, seconded by Jones to approve the "No Parking Anytime" for the drop box on Ohio Street and asked to have the relocation of the drop box be looked into.

Passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Kowbel, seconded by Jones, that this file be Recommended For Adoption .

7. [05-1291](#)

Subject: Item 17 of 12-06-05, communication from the Alderman of the 8th District requesting to meet with the appropriate committee to discuss parking restrictions in the 1100 Block of North Memorial Drive.

Recommendation: The communication be received and filed.

Fiscal Note: N/A

Rooney noted this item has been on the agenda for the past several months and indicated he did not hear from Alderman Shakoor whether he was going to attend the meeting or not.

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

A motion was made by Deputy Chief Christensen, seconded by Villarreal, that this file be Recommended to be Received and Filed .

8. [06-1682](#) **Subject:** (Direct Referral) Communication from the Assistant Commissioner of Public Works/Engineering requesting the traffic code be updated for one-way streets.

Recommendation: Amending the traffic code relating to "One-way streets" to include, "West Street between, between Gideon Court and Marquette Street, westbound" and "West Street between, between LaSalle Street and Gideon Court, eastbound".

Fiscal Note: N/A

Rooney indicated there is a one-way street designation on West Street between LaSalle and Marquette Streets. He noted that it is not in the Traffic Code Book and needs to be there. He asked the Commission approve entering the language into the Traffic Code for the existing condition.

A motion was made by Kowbel, seconded by Jones to approved the request. Passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Kowbel, seconded by Jones, that this file be Recommended For Adoption .

9. [06-1727](#) **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 94-81(b) of Schedule E of the Municipal Code of the General Ordinances of the City of Racine relative to "One-way streets" be amended:

By Including:

- 1. West Street between, between Gideon Court and Marquette Street, westbound.**
- 2. West Street between, between LaSalle Street and Gideon Court, eastbound.**

B. Recommends that Section 94-141(1) of Schedule F relating to "No parking any time," be amended:

By Deleting:

- 1. Douglas Avenue, both sides, from Goold Street to Layard Avenue.**

By Including:

1. Douglas Avenue, both sides, from Goold Street north 270 feet.
2. Douglas Avenue, west side, from Layard Avenue south 190 feet.
3. Douglas Avenue, east side, from Layard Avenue south 230 feet.
4. Ohio Street, east side, from Graceland Boulevard north 80 feet.

C. Recommends that Section 94-141(23) of Schedule F relating to "No parking from 6:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M. on Monday through Friday, be amended:

By Including:

1. Douglas Avenue, west side, from 190 feet south of Layard Avenue south 550 feet.
2. Douglas Avenue, east side, from 230 feet south of Layard Avenue south 370 feet.

Recommendation: Approval of changes in traffic code.

Fiscal Note: N/A

A motion was made by Jones, seconded by Kowbel, that this file be Recommended For Adoption .

Miscellaneous

10. [06-1725](#) **Subject:** (Direct Referral) Communication from the Assistant Commissioner of Public Works/Engineering requesting the Hospital Directional Signs near St. Luke's Hospital be removed.
- Recommendation:** The removal of all Hospital directional signs for St. Luke's Hospital in accordance with the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices as St. Luke's Hospital no longer provides "continuous emergency care capability, with a physician on duty 24 hours per day, seven days per week is available."

Fiscal Note: N/A

Rooney noted he had contacted All Saints Medical Group after an inquiry about hospital directional signs near St. Luke's Hospital at 14th and Wisconsin. He noted the concern

was St. Luke's did not provide 24 hour emergency care and that the hospital signs may be misinforming people that emergency care is available at those locations. He checked the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices and it stated in the MUTCD that those hospital directional signs should only be installed if 24 hour a day, 7 day a week emergency care is available by an attending physician.

He noted after contacting All Saints, they submitted in writing a letter that this type of emergency care was not available at this site. He asked the Traffic Commission to approve removing the hospital directional signs in this area.

A motion was made by Jones, seconded by Christensen to remove the hospital directional signs near St. Luke's Hospital at 14th and Wisconsin. Passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Jones, seconded by Deputy Chief Christensen, that this file be Recommended For Adoption .

11. [06-1667](#)

Subject: Item 15 of 7-19-05, being a communication from the Mayor wishing to discuss the parking restrictions along Hoeffert Drive and Kewaunee Street.

Recommendation: Deferred to the April 17th meeting.

Fiscal Note: N/A

The next item on Miscellaneous Business, Chairman DeFatte inquired about the request of the Mayor to discuss parking restrictions along Hoeffert Drive and Kewaunee Street.

Rooney noted that project is under construction and would like to get this item on the April agenda for final determination. He noted the new Hoeffert Drive is narrow in width and isn't set up to support parking. He noted the parking lots down by Kids Cove and the North Beach Oasis are going to be expanded during this construction project. He noted this item will be on the April agenda for discussion. This is information only and no action was required.

The Traffic Commission adjourned at 5:46 P.M.

*Respectfully submitted,
John C. Rooney, Secretary
Traffic Commission*

*Approved by Martin DeFatte, Chairman
Traffic Commission*

Deferred

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.