



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, November 17, 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; Sgt. Kupper attended on behalf of Lt. Dobbs; Alderman Anderson; Officer Cera; Nicala Aiello

Approval of Minutes for the October 20, 2008 Meeting

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

New Business

1. [08-2321](#) **Subject:** Communication from the Alderman of the 8th District requesting installing crosswalks in the 1500 - 1700 Blocks of West 6th Street.

Recommendation (08-18-08): Defer

Recommendation (11-17-08): Receive and file.

Fiscal Note: N/A

John Rooney noted the average and 85% speed shown from the Racine Police Department speed trailer report were below the posted speed limit. He noted 85 out of 100 drivers drive at, or below, 29 mph on this road that is posted 30 mph. He felt the speed problem did not exist and asked that the item be received and filed.

Nikki Aiello appeared before the Commission and indicated the trailer most likely reduced speeds because of its presence and position in the parking lane. She noted vehicles that come up two across generally had to slow down to get into the inside lane. She also commented the speed trailer was out while the road work was just being finished up and the speed trailer was out there approximately a day or two with the barricades and said that would have slowed speeds down as well.

John Rooney noted it was his understanding the speed trailer was to be put out by the Racine Police Department after all the maintenance work on the street was completed.

Rick Jones asked Sgt. Kupper if any accidents on the corridor were avoidable. Sgt. Kupper replied no, and stated most of the accidents involving pedestrians were

mid-block.

There was some discussion about parking violations within T-intersections. Charlie French suggested a Neighborhood Watch meeting, and notifying the Church of parking violations at the intersection would aide pedestrians crossing at the proper location.

Rick Jones discussed the location of the existing school crossing.

After further discussion, a motion was made by Jones, seconded by Holding to receive and file the communication. Jones asked that when the road is resurfaced for reconstruction that the school crossing guard be studied at that time.

Recommended to be Received and Filed

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

Recommendation (11-17-08): Receive and file.

Fiscal Note: N/A

Alderman Holding noted that Alderman Friedel could not attend the meeting.

John Rooney went through the traffic study and noted only two accidents have occurred at Ashland and Bate over the last 5 years. He noted those accidents were failure to have control or driving too fast for conditions. Both accidents occurred in snowy, icy conditions where the driver slid through the stop controlled approach of the intersection. He noted those accidents were not correctable. Rooney noted the speed study indicated 85% speeds of around 32 mph on Ashland Avenue, and noted that was fairly typical of most streets in the City of Racine with a speed limited posted at 25 mph. He noted the average speed was just over 27 mph. He commented stop sign reversal on Kearney Avenue that occurred approximately five years ago, was in response to much higher 85% speeds. He noted the 85% speeds on that stretch was around 37 mph. He asked the item be received and filed.

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

Recommended to be Received and Filed

3. [08-2845](#)

Subject: Communication from the Racine Police Department requesting all parking signs around Fratt School (3501 Kinzie Ave) be changed to "No Stopping/Standing" on the east side 7:00 AM to 4:00 PM, "Loading Zone" signs on west side 7:00 AM to 4:00 PM, and "Loading Zone" signs on Kinzie in the front of the school 7:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

Recommendation: Schedule F of Section 94-141 be amended to create "No stopping, standing or parking from 7:00 A.M. to 5:30 P.M. on any school day except for school buses."

Further recommends that this new section be amended to include "Kinzie Avenue, south side, from Cleveland Avenue to Arthur Avenue."

Recommends that Schedule F of Section 94-141 be amended to create "No stopping, standing or parking from 7:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. on any school day except for school buses."

Further recommends that this new section be amended to include "Arthur Avenue, west side, from Kinzie Avenue to Lindermann Avenue."

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

Officer Cera appeared before the Commission and described some of the problems with issuing citations around Fratt School. He noted that most of the parking restrictions around the school start at 7:30 A.M. and noted because of the school start time the restrictions on Arthur and Kinzie Avenue should be moved up to 7:00 A.M. for better enforcement of parents violating parking in areas where buses needed to unload students in the morning.

After further discussion, a motion was made by Jones, seconded by Loop to approve the school parking restrictions to start at 7:00 A.M. Passed unanimously.

Recommended For Approval

4. [08-2864](#)

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

Recommendation: The request to approve posting the speed limit of 30 miles per hour on Oakes Road, from 16th Street southward to the City limits, be granted.

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

John Rooney noted that Oakes Road needs to be approved for 30 mph from 16th Street south to the City limits. He noted the newly constructed area, between 16th Street and 21st Street, extended, was posted 30 mph under the construction contract, but it needs to be added to the Administrative Code. He noted both portions of Oakes Road, north and south of this project area in the Village of Mt. Pleasant are posted 30 mph as well.

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

Recommended For Approval

5. [08-2879](#)

Subject: Communication from the Alderman of the 2nd District, requesting additional parking spaces at the Wadewitz COP house at 1750 Mead Street.

Recommendation (11-17-08): Defer

Alderman Anderson appeared before the Commission and asked for restricted parking at the COP House located at 1750 Mead Street. He noted there was difficulty with some of the parole officers finding a place to park on 18th Street.

Charlie French explained some of the history of the 18th Street mall and how the planters came to be on the street and the parking arrangements that exist. He also noted during Neighborhood Watch meetings at that location, parking is at a premium, and perhaps restricting it just for law enforcement employees who work at the COP house may not be wise.

Rick Jones asked that the City Attorney's Office to look into whether or not parole officers are considered law enforcement, because the only appropriate signage that could go up would be to reserve some spaces for law enforcement vehicles only.

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

Deferred6. [08-2923](#)

Subject: (Direct Referral) Communication from Chief Wahlen requesting to change the "No Parking" restriction on Center Street, in front of the Racine Police Department, between the entrances/exits to the parking lot just north of the Safety Building, to a "Law Enforcement Parking Only" restriction.

Recommendation: The request to approve removing "No Parking Any Time" on Center Street, and add "Law Enforcement Vehicle Parking Only" on Center Street adjacent to the Safety Building 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.

John Rooney noted that Chief Wahlen requested some additional space for law enforcement vehicles on the west side of Center Street, between Washington Avenue and 8th Street. He noted this was the area that was between the two driveways that is currently posted "No Parking at Any Time."

A motion was made by Jones, seconded by Holding to approve the request. Passed unanimously.

Recommended For Approval7. [08-2960](#)

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 94-52 (1) of Schedule A, relating to "Speed limits increased - Thirty miles per hour", be amended:

By Including:

1. Oakes Road, from 16th Street southward to City limits.

B. 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. Center Street, west side, from Washington Avenue to Eighth Street.

By Including:

1. Center Street, west side, from Washington south 90 feet.

C. 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 Deleting:

1. Arthur Avenue, west side, from Kinzie Avenue south 200 feet.

D. Recommends that Section 94-141 (36) 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 5:30 P.M. on any school day except for school buses and mass transit vehicles owned and operated by the City" be amended:

By Deleting:

1. Kinzie Avenue, south side, from Cleveland Avenue to Arthur Avenue.

E. Recommends that Section 94-147 (a) of Schedule H of the Municipal Code of the General Ordinances of the City of Racine relative to "Stopping, standing, or parking prohibited in places reserved for law enforcement vehicles; where permitted" be amended:

By Deleting:

1. Center Street, west side, from Eighth Street north 120 feet.

By Including:

1. Center Street, west side, from Eighth Street north 270 feet.

Recommended For Approval

Next Meeting Date

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:04 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.