



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, Jeremiah Ladd*

Monday, May 18, 2009

5:15 PM

City Hall, Room 301

Call To Order

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

PRESENT: 7 - Gregory Holding, Nicole Loop, James Dobbs, Martin DeFatte, Charles French, Richard Jones and Jeremiah Ladd

Also Present: Alderman Weidner, Robert Lewis, Jose Arteaga, Laura Jocius, David Beach, Jack Schumann

Approval of Minutes for the April 20, 2009 Meeting

The minutes of the April 20, 2009 meeting were approved as printed. Passed unanimously.

New Business

1. [08-2983](#) **Subject:** Communication from the Alderman of the 11th District, on behalf of Robert Lewis - 2045 Deane Blvd., requesting a 4-way stop at Deane Blvd. and 20th Street.

Recommendation (01-19-09): Defer

Recommendation (05-18-09): Receive and file.

Fiscal Note: N/A

Robert Lewis appeared before the Commission and explained his request for a 4-way stop sign at Deane Blvd. and 20th Street.

John Rooney explained the Engineering study and indicated the warrants were not met for an all-way stop, and speeding did not appear to be the problem based on the speed study conducted with pneumatic tube counters.

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

*On a roll call vote, members voting aye: French, Ladd, Jones, Dobbs, Letteney
Members voting naye: Holding
Motion passed 5:1*

Recommended to be Received and Filed

2. [09-3342](#) **Subject:** Communication from the Alderman of the 11th District, on behalf of Laura Jocius of 3415 Southwood, requesting a 4-way stop at

Southwood Dr. and Emstan Hills Rd.

Recommendation (04-20-09): Defer

Laura Jocius appeared before the Commission and noted the problems with cut-through traffic and speeding on Southwood Drive. She noted that Southwood is a big cut-through between Durand Avenue and Taylor Avenue and the speeding and safety for the children are a major concern.

John Rooney went through the traffic study and noted that warrants were not met for an all-way stop. He noted there is a high volume of traffic, almost 10:1 on Southwood at Emstan Hills Drive, and the minor volume traffic is being stopped. He noted the speed problem does exist and recommended targeted speed enforcement be performed by the Racine Police Department.

Alderman Holding suggested alternating stop signs to control the speed.

John Rooney noted that stop signs are not meant to control speed, but rather to assign right-of-way.

Lt. Dobbs noted a speed enforcement and a trailer would be put up in this area.

Rick Jones asked that the item be deferred to do an overall neighborhood study of the traffic control at each intersection. He noted that basket-weave pattern for the subdivision may be required.

After further discussion, a motion was made by Dobbs, seconded by French. Passed unanimously.

Deferred

3. [09-3494](#)

Subject: Communication from the Alderman of the 13th District, requesting "No Parking" signs be installed in the alley behind 3121 Washington Avenue. This is a T-alley, bounded by Grove Avenue on the west.

Recommendation: The request to install "No Parking at Any Time" in the east-west alley south of Washington Avenue, east of Grove Avenue, both sides, be granted.

Fiscal Note: The estimated cost of this signage will result in an installation cost of \$200 and an annual maintenance cost of \$80.

Alderman Spangenberg submitted a communication to post No Parking in the alley behind 3121 Washington Avenue.

Rick Jones noted the request was due to the Farmer's Market, and the vehicles parked in this east-west leg of this T-alley were causing problems with people accessing the Farmer's Market.

Motion made by Holding, seconded by Jones to approve the request for No Parking. Passed unanimously.

Recommended For Approval

4. [09-3533](#)

Subject: Communication from the Alderman of the 6th District, on behalf of the Riverwood Condo Association, requesting a "Not a Through Street" sign be placed in the 2700 block of Old Mill Drive.

Recommendation: The request to install a "Not a Through Street" sign in the 2700 block of Old Mill Drive, be granted.

Fiscal Note: The estimated cost of this signage will result in an installation cost of \$100 and an annual maintenance cost of \$40.

Alderman Weidner appeared before the Commission and asked that a "Not a Through" street sign be placed in the 2700 block of Old Mill Drive.

John Rooney noted he had no problem with the request. It is actually administrative in nature and is not part of the traffic code that needs to be amended.

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

Recommended For Approval

5. [09-3313](#)

Subject: Communication from Jose Arteaga wishing to discuss handicap parking spaces at 1330 State Street.

Recommendation (04-20-09): Defer

Recommendation (05-18-09): Receive and file.

Fiscal Note: N/A

Nicole Loop reported that the restrictions for a disabled handicap space in the public right-of-way is not something the City would endorse. She noted she has looked into time-of-day or day-of-week restrictions and discouraged a request for a private citizen to restrict a disabled person's ability to use the public right-of-way.

Rick Jones offered Mr. Arteaga a possibility to lease parking space in the Transit Center parking lot.

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

Recommended to be Received and Filed

6. [09-3325](#)

Subject: Communication from St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church requesting current "No Parking" signs be changed to "Loading Zone" signs at 1100 Grand Avenue.

Recommendation (04-20-09): Defer

Recommendation (05-18-09): Receive and file.

Fiscal Note: N/A

In the absence of anyone returning to the Traffic Commission regarding the request, a motion was made by Holding, seconded by Loop to receive and file. Passed unanimously.

Recommended to be Received and Filed

7. [09-3499](#)

Subject: Communication from the Assistant Commissioner of Public Works/Engineering wishing to designate a westbound left turn lane at 16th Street and Taylor Avenue.

Recommendation: The request to install a mandatory left turn lane on 16th Street, westbound, to Taylor Avenue, southbound; be granted.

Further recommends that Section 94-93, Mandatory left turns, be amended to include; The operator of a vehicle proceeding westerly on 16th Street and approaching Taylor Avenue in the lane furthest to the left shall turn left onto Taylor Avenue and shall not proceed in any other direction.

Fiscal Note: The nominal cost to sign, pavement mark and modify the signal heads at this location is budgeted in the 2009 Capital Improvement Program.

John Rooney explained to the Traffic Commission the need for a designated west-bound left-turn lane at 16th Street and Taylor Avenue. He noted it would be done as part of the Taylor Avenue reconstruct project, from 16th Street to Washington Avenue. Adding a designated left-turn lane, in conjunction with the protected left-turn phase, would greatly increase efficiency and levels of service at the intersection.

Motion made by Hart, seconded by Loop to approve. Passed unanimously.

Recommended For Approval

8. [09-3543](#)

Subject: Communication from David Beach, on behalf of Olympia Brown Unitarian Universalist Church, requesting a handicap crosswalk ramp on Seventh Street, across from the church (625 College Avenue).

Recommendation: Receive and file.

Fiscal Note: N/A

Dave Beach appeared before the Commission and noted that wheel chairs must use the roadways to travel down to the nearest corner to use a handicap ramp, and asked that a handicap ramp be installed mid-block on Seventh Street, between Wisconsin Avenue and College Avenue.

Rick Jones and John Rooney both noted this may be difficult with regards to the reconstruction of Seventh Street by WISDOT in 2011. They noted the loss of parking and the creation of, possibly, mid-block crosswalks which are not endorsed by WISDOT.

A suggestion was made to bag the closest meter to the corner for handicap persons using the church for mass.

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

Recommended to be Received and Filed

9. [09-3544](#)

Subject: Communication from the Director of Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services requesting a No Parking sign on Lockwood Avenue across from the Park Service Center at 1420 - 13th Street.

Recommendation: The request to install No Parking at Any Time on Lockwood Avenue across from the Park Service Center at 1420 - 13th Street, be granted.

Fiscal Note: The estimated cost of this signage will result in an installation cost of \$100 and an annual maintenance cost of \$40.

Jack Schumann appeared before the Commission and asked that a No Parking sign on Lockwood Avenue, across from the Parks Service Center, be installed between the driveways. He noted this area is opposite the two bays into the facility and often times vehicles or deliveries coming in and out of the Service Center have difficulty with cars parked on that side of the street.

Motion made by Holding, seconded by Jones to approve the No Parking request. Passed unanimously.

Recommended For Approval

10. [09-3656](#)

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. Lockwood Avenue, west side, from 40 feet north of 13th Street north 40 feet.

B. Recommends that Section 94-141 (2) of Schedule F of the Municipal Code of the General Ordinances of the City of Racine relative to "No Parking in Alleys" be amended:

By Including:

1. East-west alley south of Washington Avenue, east of Grove Avenue, both sides.

Recommended For Approval

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting will be June 15, 2009 at 5:15 P.M. in Room 301 at City Hall.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:11 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.