



# City of Racine

## Meeting Minutes - Draft

### Traffic Commission

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

*Chairman Martin DeFatte*  
*Commissioner Richard Jones*  
*Alderman Ronald D. Hart*  
*Asst. Chief Steven Hurley*  
*Atty. Nicole Loop*  
*Charles French*

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Thursday, November 29, 2007

5:15 PM

Room 301, City Hall

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#### Call To Order

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

**PRESENT:** 5 - Ronald D. Hart, Steven Hurley, Martin DeFatte, Charles French and Richard Jones

**EXCUSED:** 1 - Nicole Loop

Also Present: John Rooney, Secretary; Lt. Dobbs attended on behalf of Asst. Chief Hurley; Chuck Boles (SCJ), Chris Devery (HNTB), Andy Kowske (HNTB), Ruben Guardiola (SCJ), Tom Anger, Nancy and William Scharding, Devin Sutherland (DRC), Tom Karkow (WRJN)

#### Approval of Minutes for the October 15, 2007 Meeting

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

#### New Business

1. [07-0708](#) **Subject:** Communication from John Rooney, Assistant Commissioner of Public Works/Engineering submitting the recommendations from HNTB Corporation for the traffic control on the Sixth Street renovation. **Chris Devery (HNTB) invited to the meeting.**

**Recommendation of the Traffic Commission (6-18-07):** Defer

**Recommendation of the Traffic Commission (10-15-07):** Defer

**Recommendation of the Traffic Commission (11-29-07):** Accept  
Option 4

**Fiscal Note:** The initial cost of the traffic signal installation will be paid for by WISDOT. The annual utility and maintenance costs are in the budget.

*John Rooney recapped the study that was presented by HNTB at the October meeting. He noted at that time WISDOT had not made their formal review of the traffic study. He indicated Chris Devery and Andy Kowske from HNTB were here to address the traffic*

*study and WISDOT recommendations.*

*John Anger submitted written comments from Mercedes Dzindzeleta and John Rooney noted the comments would be filed with the Sixth Street Report.*

*Chris Devery noted WISDOT asked them to consider a fourth option that would be to replace the traffic signals at College and Park Avenue. Devery described all the options and put a matrix together of all four options which included all-way stops at College and Park; a combination of all-way and two-way stops at College and Park; two-way stops at both College and Park; and the replacement of traffic signals at College and Park. He noted the matrix looked at safety, level of service or delay, network, travel speeds, pedestrian safety, public involvement, and cost and maintenance. Devery noted that HNTB used the matrix to rate all of the different categories for the four options. He indicated the fourth option, that was now supported by WISDOT to reinstall traffic signals, was the recommendation submitted by HNTB. He noted that perpetuating the same conditions makes the intersection very safe, particularly for the pedestrians. He also noted that WISDOT will fund the fourth option to replace the traffic signals at this location.*

*Nancy Scharding commented nothing is still being done about the intersection of Villa Street. She noted her property has been damaged by accidents in the past and feels this is being ignored. She believes the Police Department does not give this area enough attention for enforcement.*

*Lt. Jim Dobbs, of the Racine Police Department didn't believe there was an issue with speeding on Sixth Street based on the information he has seen. He noted speeding occurs on every street across the country at some time or another and didn't feel there was a particular problem with Sixth Street.*

*Rick Jones commented that some of the streetscape enhancements and design was going to slow traffic down, particularly at the west end of the project. He noted narrower lanes and bump-outs would help calm traffic and also mentioned the intersection of Sixth, Seventh, and Grand Avenue would be modified in a future project and that modification of the intersection will definitely slow the traffic exiting off of Sixth Street. He mentioned that the fourth option of the signals being replaced at these two intersections, has the fewest negatives in the matrix submitted by HNTB. He noted the only negative in the matrix was the cost to install, which the State will pay for anyway.*

*Therefore, a motion was made by Jones, seconded by French to approve option number 4 for the replacement of traffic signals at College and Park Avenue. Passed unanimously.*

#### **Recommended For Acceptance**

2. [07-1368](#) **Subject:** Communication from Bill Rodenberg, Supervisor of Maintenance, RUSD, requesting a change in parking regulations on behalf of the Racine Early Education Center located at 2015 Franklin Street.

**Recommendation:** Receive and file

**Fiscal Note:** N/A

*John Rooney noted that he had spoken to Bill Rodenberg of RUSD earlier in the day and indicated Mr. Rodenberg was looking for the "No Stopping, Standing, or Parking on*

*School Days - 7:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M., Except for School Buses at this location". He noted this was formerly the MAC Achievement Center for teens and is now used for early childhood studies for 4 and 5 year olds, and busing is required. Rooney commented that the traffic code in the Municipal Ordinances still have this restriction on the books even though the signs, for some reason, are not posted at this location. Therefore, he indicated the item could be received and filed and he would put a work order in to get these signs re-established.*

*A motion was made by Hart, seconded by French to receive and file. Passed unanimously.*

**Recommended to be Received and Filed**

3. [07-1397](#) **Subject:** Communication from Chuck Boles, Director Corporate Facilities for SC Johnson, requesting temporary "No Parking" to be put into effect on the north side of 16th Street between Grand Avenue and Franklin Street.

**Recommendation:** Temporary "No Parking" to be installed on the north side of 16th Street between Grand Avenue and Franklin Street.

**Fiscal Note:** N/A

*Chuck Boles appeared before the Traffic Commission. He asked for temporary "No Parking" to be put into effect on the north side of 16th Street between Grand Avenue and Franklin Street. He noted it would be the entrance for the construction work being done on their campus.*

*Rick Jones agreed to the temporary "No Parking" on the north side of 16th Street between Grand Avenue and Franklin Street through June 2009.*

*A motion was made by Jones , seconded by Hart to approve. Passed unanimously*

**Recommended For Acceptance**

4. [07-0451](#) **Subject:** Communication from the Alderman of the 5th District requesting the City of Racine work with both DRC and HSSA to install Pedestrian Right of Way signs at crosswalks throughout the Downtown area.

**Recommendation of the Traffic Commission (6-19-07):** Defer

**Recommendation of the Traffic Commission (9-17-07):** Defer

**Recommendation of the Traffic Commission (10-15-07):** Defer

**Recommendation of the Traffic Commission (11-29-07):** Receive and File

**Fiscal Note:** N/A

*Devin Sutherland commented at this time the DRC was not ready to fund these pedestrian right-of-way signs, particularly with some of the construction coming up in the Downtown area.*

*Rick Jones asked if Frank Smith was contacted regarding the meeting.*

*John Rooney noted that Frank Smith came to the last meeting but did not attend this meeting and would not comment for West Racine.*

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

*John Rooney noted he believed the Traffic Commission would support such signs, and the Department of Public Works would be more than willing to install the signs in the spring and take them out before winter sets, and the funding would have to come from both the DRC and Historic Sixth Street Association, and West Racine Business District for this type of work.*

**Recommended to be Received and Filed**

5. [07-0515](#)

**Subject:** Communication from the Aldermen of the 9th and 12th District requesting the City paint bright white crosswalk stripes on each of the crosswalks at the intersections of Washington Ave. and Arthur/Blaine/Hayes/Grove. **Aldermen Wisneski and Karas invited to the meeting.**

**Recommendation of the Traffic Commission (5-21-07):** Defer

**Recommendation of the Traffic Commission (6-18-07):** Defer

**Recommendation of the Traffic Commission (9-17-07):** Defer

**Recommendation of the Traffic Commission (10-15-07):** Defer

**Recommendation of the Traffic Commission (11-29-07):** Receive and file

**Fiscal Note:** N/A

*Chairman DeFatte indicated he had spoken with Alderman Wisneski and Alderman Karas. He noted additional funding was not put in the budget for 2008 for enhanced crosswalk marking and asked that the item be received and filed.*

*A motion was made by Hart, seconded by Jones to receive and file. Passed unanimously.*

**Recommended to be Received and Filed**

6. [07-0516](#)

**Subject:** Communication from the Aldermen of the 9th and 12th District

requesting that some kind of "Pedestrians have Right of Way" or "Caution: Pedestrians" signage be installed on Washington Ave. on the westbound approach to the intersection of Washington and Grove.

**Recommendation of the Traffic Commission (5-21-07):** Defer

**Recommendation of the Traffic Commission (6-18-07):** Defer

**Recommendation of the Traffic Commission (9-17-07):** Defer

**Recommendation of the Traffic Commission (10-15-07):** Defer

**Recommendation of the Traffic Commission (11-29-07):** Defer

**Fiscal Note:** N/A

*Chairman DeFatte indicated he had spoken with Alderman Wisneski and Alderman Karas. He noted additional funding was not put in the budget for 2008 for enhanced crosswalk marking and asked that the item be received and filed.*

*A motion was made by Hart, seconded by Jones to receive and file. Passed unanimously.*

**Recommended to be Received and Filed**

7. [07-1066](#) **Subject:** Communication from Mercedes Dzindzeleta requesting the City of Racine post all of its speed limit signs at 25 mph. **Alderman Coe and Mercedes Dzindzeleta invited to the meeting.**

**Recommendation of the Traffic Commission (09-17-07):** Defer

**Recommendation of the Traffic Commission (10-15-07):** Defer

**Recommendation of the Traffic Commission (11-29-07):** Defer

*John Rooney indicated that Mercedes Dzindzeleta could not attend the meeting and she asked that the item be deferred until the December meeting.*

*A motion made by Hart, seconded by French to defer.*

*On roll call vote members voting aye: Hart, French, Dobbs  
Members voting naye: Jones*

*Motion passed 3/1*

**Deferred**

**Next Meeting Date**

**Adjournment**

**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.**