



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, April 26, 2010

5:15 PM City Hall, Room 304 (Engineering Conference Room)

Call To Order

PRESENT: 4 - Gregory Holding, James Dobbs, Charles French and Richard Jones

EXCUSED: 2 - Nicole Loop and Martin DeFatte

Also Present: John Rooney, Staff; Katie Steiner; Tim Boudreux; Pete Karas;
Linda Possing; Deborah Coca; Alderman Kaplan

Approval of Minutes for the March 15, 2010 Meeting

*The minutes of the March 15, 2010 meeting were approved as printed. Passed
unanimously.*

New Business

1. [10-4713](#) **Subject:** Communication from the Alderman of the 4th District
requesting a 4-Way or All-Way stop at the intersection of N. Wisconsin
Street and Barker Street.

Recommendation of the Traffic Commission on 02-15-10: Defer

Recommendation of the Traffic Commission on 04-26-10: Receive
and file.

Fiscal Note: N/A

*John Rooney summarized the study performed at the intersection of Barker Street
and N. Wisconsin Street. He noted the study was done to check for warrants for
all-way stop. He noted the intersection had no crash or accident history over the last
five years. He noted the traffic counts did not meet the warrants for an all-way stop.
He noted the number of pedestrians using the intersection at school start and
dismissal times. He noted most of those children pedestrians were accompanied by
adults. He noted the traffic technician didn't observe any particular problems at the
intersection at this time and the study was done on a day that was conducive to
walking.*

*Principal Coca from Janes School indicated she has heard about too many close
calls. She also noted there was some dismissal of students around 5:00 P.M. later in
the afternoon.*

Alderman Kaplan felt there was some disregard for the signs around the school because of the year-round nature of the school. He felt some motorists were not aware this was a year-round school with children present at most times of the year.

John Rooney noted that the traffic around the school, from the counts, was definitely representative of traffic for arrival and dismissal of school times. He noted the normal traffic volumes on the street are probably quite low outside these hours and that most of the traffic on Barker and N. Wisconsin Street is local.

Lt. Dobbs noted the Racine Police Department has patrolled the areas and motorists have probably improved their habits around the school area during that time.

Charlie French inquired about parking on the north side of Barker Street, between Wisconsin and Main. He inquired if that signage could be changed to allow for parent drop-off and pick-up.

John Rooney indicated he would check the signage to see if it complied. The signage on the north side does allow for parent drop-off and pick-up, but no standing or stopping is allowed, so it is an option to use. He noted that message needed to be conveyed by the Principal to the parents.

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

Recommended to be Received and Filed

2. [10-4742](#)

Subject: Communication from Pete Karas, Jim Spodick, Thomas Holmes and Keith Fair, requesting the removal of parking restrictions on Water Street in Downtown Racine.

Recommendation of the Traffic Commission on 03-15-10: Defer

Recommendation of the Traffic Commission on 04-26-10: The request to change "No parking at any time" restrictions on Water Street, north side, from Villa Street to Park Avenue, to "No parking from 6:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M., except on Sundays and Holidays" be approved.

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.

John Rooney noted the parking restrictions on Water Street, west of Park Avenue, have been in place since approximately 1983. He found no real information in the Traffic Commission meeting minutes why they were put in. He noted he would have no objections to removing the parking restrictions; however, he did note if the parking restrictions were removed during the daytime hours it may have an adverse affect on parking revenue for meters for the parking system. He suggested changing the no parking signs on the north side of Water Street from No Parking Any Time to No Parking 6:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M., except Sundays and Holidays, to better coincide with parking meters that are in effect. He noted then parking would be available in the evening for Mr. Karas's business.

Pete Karas asked that the City Engineer add a few additional signs in that block to help convey the message.

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

Recommended For Approval

3. [10-4816](#)

Subject: Communication from Amanda Lawrence, Chairperson for the Starving Artists Outdoor Fair, requesting the use of "Temporary No Parking" signs and "No Parking at Any Time" restrictions on Sunday, August 1, 2010.

Recommendation of the Traffic Commission on 04-26-10: The request to use Temporary No Parking signs on the east side of S. Main Street between 10th and 11th Streets on August 1, 2010 between 9:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M. be granted.

Further recommends that the request to waive the "No Parking Any Time" restriction on 10th and 11th Streets before 9:00 A.M. and from 4:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M. on August 1, 2010, in connection with the Starving Artists Outdoor Art Fair, be granted.

Fiscal Note: N/A

John Rooney noted this was an annual request for the Starving Artist Outdoor Fair that is held in August of each year. He had no objections to the request.

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

Recommended For Approval

4. [10-4859](#)

Subject: Communication from the Assistant Commissioner of Public Works/Engineering submitting a list of approaches of signalized intersections for prohibitive U-turns.

Recommendation of the Traffic Commission on 04-26-10: Recommends that Section 94-96, U-turns prohibited, be amended to include:

South approach of N. Memorial Drive at State Street
Northeast approach of Washington Avenue at Racine Street
East approach of 16th Street at Taylor Avenue
West approach of 21st Street at Taylor Avenue
West approach of Durand Avenue at Taylor Avenue
Southeast approach of Northwestern Avenue at High Street
Southwest approach of Washington Avenue at 12th Street
West approach of 12th Street at Washington Avenue

Fiscal Note: The estimated cost of this signage will result in an

installation cost of \$800.00 and an annual maintenance cost of \$320.00.

John Rooney explained the 2009 Wisconsin Act 97, which allowed for U-turns at all signalized intersections in the State of Wisconsin. He noted that when the Wisconsin State Legislature passed this, it did not take into account intersections with overlapping right and left turn phases, and also those signalized intersections that have preemption for emergency vehicles entering and preemption for railroad crossings. He noted a list of approaches at intersections that should be posted for no U-turns by the City of Racine, and that the Ordinance should be changed to reflect that.

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

Recommended For Approval

5. [10-4875](#)

Subject: Communication from the Evangelical United Methodist Church (212 11th Street) requesting temporary "No Parking" signs be installed on the north side of the first block west of South Main Street on Sunday, August 1, 2010 from 8:00 A.M. to 12:30 P.M.

Recommendation of the Traffic Commission on 04-26-10: The request to use Temporary No Parking signs on the north side of 11th Street between S. Main Street and Wisconsin Avenue on August 1, 2010 between 8:00 A.M. and 12:30 P.M. be granted.

Fiscal Note: N/A

Katie Steiner appeared on behalf of Rod Parsons and asked that temporary No Parking signs be installed on the north side of Eleventh Street, between S. Main Street and S. Wisconsin Avenue. She noted these signs would be used the same day as the Starving Artist Outdoor Fair. She noted with the restrictions that are approved for that event, it migrates vehicles in front of the church and they cannot transport parish members to mass on Sunday mornings.

John Rooney indicated he had no objection to the request.

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

Recommended For Approval

6. [10-4882](#)

Subject: Communication from the East Park Towers Association (111 - 11th Street) requesting parking restrictions at S. Main Street and 11th Street.

Recommendation of the Traffic Commission on 04-26-10: Receive and file.

Fiscal Note: N/A

Tim Boudreaux appeared before the Traffic Commission and explained some of the problems with delay, particularly on the east approach of Eleventh Street and S. Main Street. He indicated there were poor site lines and noted the heavy traffic volumes, particularly during hours of operation of Gateway Technical College.

John Rooney distributed a study from June of 2004 which essentially addressed some of the same issues brought up by the alderman of the district at that time. He noted there was some delay during peak hours at that intersection, but they found no information from the traffic study, at that time, that would require any changes to traffic control. He questioned whether any major changes in traffic patterns have taken place over the last six years, and questioned whether another study needed to be performed again.

Charlie French noted that delay is obvious on that approach. He noted no major problems except for some site issues looking north for southbound traffic, when vehicles get parked too close to the intersection.

Alderman Holding suggested possibly reversing the one-way on Lake Avenue, between Eleventh Street and Twelfth Street.

It was noted that narrow one-way street would probably not be a good choice to reverse traffic as a lot of vehicles leaving the Gateway Technical College campus area would just create another bottleneck at Twelfth Street and S. Main Street.

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

Recommended to be Received and Filed

7. [10-5068](#)

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. Water Street, north side, from Villa Street to 160 feet northeast of Park Avenue.

By Including:

1. Water Street, north side, from Park Avenue northeast 160 feet.

B. Recommends that Section 94-141 (25) 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 6:00 P.M., except on Sundays and holidays" be amended:

By Including:

1. Water Street, north side, from Villa Street to Park Avenue.

Recommended For Approval

Next Meeting Date

The next Traffic Commission meeting will be May 17, 2010 at 5:15 P.M. in Room 301 at City Hall.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:03 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.