



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, John Heckenlively*

Monday, November 15, 2010

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 John Heckenlively

Also Present: John Rooney, Tom Eeg on behalf of Rick Jones, Terry McCarthy, Monte Osterman, Peter Torres, Phil Saxon, Ron Peterson, Robert Jorgensen, Kristine Jorgensen, John Van Thiel, Kathe Russell, Tony Veranth

Approval of Minutes for the October 18, 2010 Meeting

The minutes were approved as printed. Passed unanimously.

New Business

1. [10-5659](#) **Subject:** Communication from the Assistant Commissioner of Public Works/Engineering requesting parking restrictions on the Blaine Avenue median from December 1 to April 1.

Recommendation of the Traffic Commission on 10-18-10: Defer

Recommendation of the Traffic Commission on 11-15-10: Receive and file.

Fiscal Note: N/A

John Rooney explained the request for parking restrictions along the median from December 1st to April 1st. He noted that after discussion with the Superintendent of Public Works, the Superintendent felt the best way to provide snow and ice operations is to make sure the median has no parking during the winter months. He noted the approval for the parking restriction will allow parking per alternate street side ordinance from April 1st to December 1st. He felt this was a compromise to allow additional parking in the neighborhood, yet not impeding the Department of Public Works' ability to do a satisfactory job with snow and ice removal.

Alderman McCarthy noted the signs that have been erected are problematic for most of the neighborhood. He noted the neighbors who signed the petition in favor of allowing parking on the median believe the signs detract from the look of the

boulevard.

John Rooney noted it is in State Statute that if parking is allowed along a median, it must be signed by the local municipality. In absence of such signs, parking is prohibited at all times along a median.

Robert Jorgensen appeared before the Commission and explained his original request. He feels the Department of Public Works can handle plowing with cars along the median, and he also believes parking should be allowed throughout the entire year. He distributed his list of signatures supporting his request.

Tony Veranth appeared before the Commission and commented about the sign issues. He felt the signs detracted from the look of the boulevard and was unhappy with the placement.

Ron Peterson appeared before the Commission and spoke in opposition to any parking on the median. He noted he likes the look of the boulevard and he believes it would be confusing, at best, for parking.

Phil Saxon appeared before the Commission and commented the signs take away from the aesthetics of the neighborhood as well as parking if it were allowed.

Kristine Jorgensen appeared before the Commission and commented that if perhaps the signs looked different, or more appealing, maybe it would change people's opinion.

Nicole Loop added the signs have to be consistent with what's in the MUTCD, and a different sign cannot be created for that neighborhood.

Charlie French commented the appropriate action might be to go back to the old way and look at this in the future if the need arises again.

Kathe Russell appeared before the Commission and noted she likes the boulevard and preferred not to have parking along it.

John Van Thiel appeared before the Commission and also spoke in opposition to median parking. He spoke of the historic nature of the boulevard along Blaine Avenue and didn't think parking would be appropriate in that setting.

Alderman McCarthy asked that if the item was received and filed and it was being returned to the old way, that letters be sent informing the residents of that change.

After further discussion, a motion was made by Holding, seconded by French to receive and file the communication and return the street to its original parking situation. Passed unanimously.

Recommended to be Received and Filed

2. [10-5705](#)

Subject: Communication from Racine County Supervisor, 3rd District, Monte Osterman, requesting the placement of Children Playing signs on Melvin Avenue and William Street between Ruby Avenue and Erie Street.

Recommendation of the Traffic Commission on 11-15-10: Receive and file.

Fiscal Note: N/A

John Rooney read an e-mail sent to the Traffic Commission and Common Council a little over a year ago. In the e-mail he cited the reasons for the City not placing Children Playing signs in the public right-of-way, noting that warning motorists of a condition that is against City Ordinance is not proper. He also noted that in his ten years as Secretary of the Traffic Commission he has not seen a request for such signs approved. He also noted some neighborhoods put up their own Children Playing or Slow Down signs on private property. He noted those signs are similar to election-style lawn signs that can be placed and moved around throughout the neighborhood.

Monte Osterman appeared before the Commission notifying the members approximately 24 children live in the area, and unfortunately, do play in the street. He noted additional traffic on William and Melvin Avenue during the Main Street resurfacing project. He noted, however, since the construction is coming to a close that additional traffic has subsided.

Alderman Holding suggested that private signs be used on private property for this situation. He also noted those signs can't be placed in the public right-of-way, that being the grass area between the sidewalk and the curb and gutter.

Lt. Dobbs noted if there is an issue of speeding in the neighborhood that Mr. Osterman could certainly contact him for the deployment of the speed trailer or targeted enforcement in the area.

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

Recommended to be Received and Filed

Next Meeting Date

The next Traffic Commission meeting will be December 20, 2010 at 5:15 P.M. in Room 301 at City Hall.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:15 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.