



City of Racine

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

Meeting Minutes - Final

Traffic Commission

Dave Wohlgemuth
Robert Mozol
John Heckenlively
Mark Yehlen
Nhu Arn
Charles French
Alderman Mollie Jones

Monday, April 16, 2018

4:00 PM

City Hall, Room 303

Call To Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 P.M.

PRESENT: 7 - Dave Wohlgemuth, Robert Mozol, John Heckenlively, Mark Yehlen, Nhu Arn, Charles French and Mollie Jones

Also Present: John Rooney, Jim Palenick, D/C Macemon, Officer Cisler, Melissa Kaprelian-Becker, Colin McKenna, Tom Karkow

Approval of Minutes for the March 19, 2018 Meeting

The minutes of the March 19, 2018 meeting were approved as printed. Passed unanimously.

New Business

[1193-17](#)

Subject: (Direct Referral) Communication from the Alderman of the 12th District requesting a traffic study/traffic lessening tools on Kinzie Avenue from Hwy 31 east to Ohio Street.

Recommendation of the Traffic Commission on 12-18-17: Defer

Recommendation of the Traffic Commission on 01-15-18: Defer

Recommendation of the Traffic Commission on 04-16-18: Receive and file.

Fiscal Note: N/A

Secretary Rooney read the results of the speed study done by pneumatic tube counters on Kinzie Avenue between Lilac and Ostergaard. He noted the average speed limit and 50% speeds were both 31 mph on this 30 mph posted roadway. He noted 85% speeds were 36 mph westbound, 37 mph eastbound and overall average was 36 mph. He said by speed study standards the speed did not seem problematic

insofar as average or 50% speeds. The 85% speeds, however, did seem to indicate this roadway is traveling more as a 35 mph zone. He did note that by enforcement standards the eastbound and overall bi-directional traffic volume has greater than 3% of the volume traveling at 11 mph over the speed limit or greater. He noted this usually indicates a need for targeted enforcement. He deferred to Lt. Wohlgemuth to see if they had done a speed trailer study.

Lt. Wohlgemuth noted that has not been performed, but with this data he noted he would put a request in to patrol for targeted speed enforcement.

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

Recommended to be Received and Filed

[1256-17](#)

Subject: Communication from the Alderwoman of the 6th District, on behalf of Laura Sumner Coon, requesting traffic control along Yout Street near Wadewitz Elementary School (2700 Yout St.).

Recommendation of the Traffic Commission on 01-15-18: Defer

Recommendation of the Traffic Commission on 04-16-18:

Recommends that no stopping, standing or parking from 7:30 A.M. to 5:30 P.M. on any school day excepting mass transit vehicles owned and operated by the City of Racine or its contractor and excepting school buses; be approved on Yout Street, north side, from Wustum Avenue, east 650 feet.

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.

Secretary Rooney went over a study of the existing conditions near Wadewitz School. He noted that the roadway itself had many parking restrictions on it relating to Wadewitz School. He noted the ones that were in place seem to work well and there seems to be compliance with the parking regulations for the various school issues as it relates to no parking or for parent loading zones. He did note, however, many of the parking restrictions that are posted are not codified in Municipal Code and that needs to be updated. He did note there was one ambiguity in the parking restrictions and that occurred on the north side of Yout Street from the west side of the school where the driveway is to the corner of Wustum Avenue. He noted one sign existed that said 'No Parking' with no indication of time of day or the limits of the no parking zone. Staff recommended that the area be posted 'No Parking Standing or Stopping During School Hours' all the way to the corner, to be consistent with some of the other restrictions in the area. He also noted this would help free up some sight lines at the intersection of Wustum and Yout Street, however, he noted there was no accident history there that suggested that was a problem.

After further discussion, a motion was made by Heckenlively, seconded by Mozol to approve the request. Passed unanimously.

Recommended For Approval

[0261-18](#)

Subject: Communication from the Alderman of the 9th District, on behalf of Elizabeth Navarro, requesting a study of the intersection of Wright Avenue and West Boulevard and possible remediation.

Recommendation of the Traffic Commission on 04-16-18: Defer

Secretary Rooney read a communication from Elizabeth Navarro, requesting a study of the intersection of Wright Avenue and West Boulevard. The communication noted some accidents in the area or close calls. There was a request to install flashing stop signs at the approach. He noted that the intersection is currently posted as all-way stop control and he is not aware of any sight line conditions that create any types of problems. He noted the appropriate action would be to defer the item and to look at the history of accidents at this intersection and see what is the cause of those and if any improvements could be made to the existing traffic control that is already in place.

A motion was made by Mozol, seconded by Jones to defer. Passed unanimously.

Deferred

[0296-18](#)

Subject: Communication from Melissa Kaprelian-Becker requesting the removal of the 4-way stop at the intersection of Goold Street and Carlisle Avenue.

Recommendation of the Traffic Commission on 04-16-18:

Recommend that four-way stop control at Goold Street and Carlisle Avenue be removed. Further recommends that two-way stop control be re-installed at the intersection of Goold Street and Carlisle Avenue, stop signs facing Carlisle Avenue.

Fiscal Note: There will be a nominal cost to removing these signs.

Melissa Kaprelian-Becker appeared before the Traffic Commission and noted that in canvassing the neighborhood, her constituents, (her position is Racine County Supervisor), complained about the unnecessary all-way stop sign at the intersection of Goold Street and Carlisle Avenue that was placed late last fall. She also noted there were complaints by the two gas stations to the east of this intersection located at Goold and Douglas Avenue. She also noted that the decision by the Common Council to approve this, that she understood, was done without many knowing what they were actually voting for.

Secretary Rooney went over the results of the study that indicated there was no need for the change from 2-way stop control facing Carlisle to all-way stop control that was approved by the Common Council.

After further discussion, a motion was made by Heckenlively, seconded by Mozol to recommend removal of the all-way stop conditions at Goold and Carlisle and reinstall the 2-way stop condition facing Carlisle on the north and south approaches. Passed unanimously.

Recommended For Approval

[0066-18](#)

Subject: (Direct Referral) Communication from RPD requesting to

review past practices and protocols for traffic issues and signage around RUSD campuses, and to communicate any questions or concerns to the Traffic Commission.

Recommendation of the Traffic Commission on 04-16-18: Receive and file.

Fiscal Note: N/A

Deputy Chief Macemon appeared before the Traffic Commission and indicated he would be working with the RUSD Transportation Specialist regarding concerns of traffic and signage around RUSD campuses. He noted this is a new division of RPD to essentially do community policing within schools. He noted that he would be working to create more of a relationship where the school has a liaison with RPD to take issues to the Traffic Commission.

Secretary Rooney noted that schools are traffic generators for both pedestrians and motor vehicles and he noted they need to be a little more pro-active rather than being reactive when it comes to issues. He cited work that has been ongoing with RUSD for issues surrounding Horlick High School. He noted things that would be of valuable discussion between D/C Macemon and the RUSD Transportation Specialist would also be to consider the use of in place crosswalk stop or yield signs at intersections near schools that could be easily placed and removed around arrival and dismissal without creating unnecessary stop conditions. He noted that these conditions only occur for a brief period at arrival and dismissal 180 days of the calendar year. He also noted that the School Traffic Safety Committee, that was eliminated about 12 years ago, which discussed issues surrounding school traffic and safety, as well as crossing guards, may need to be resurrected in some form or fashion. He suggested possibly an Ad Hoc Commission could be resurrected whereby the RPD and RUSD and the City's Engineer's Office could get together a few times a year to discuss issues and have joint recommendations that could go to the Traffic Commission.

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

Recommended to be Received and Filed

[0067-18](#)

Subject: (Direct Referral) Communication from RPD requesting to discuss traffic issues around Jefferson Lighthouse School (1722 W. 6th Street) on Cliff Avenue.

Recommendation of the Traffic Commission on 04-16-18: Defer

Officer Tim Cisler appeared before the Traffic Commission to discuss issues around Jefferson Lighthouse School. He noted some of the major issues with the narrowness of Cliff Avenue opposed to some of the other surrounding streets. He noted Cliff Avenue has parking prohibited on the east side during school hours. He noted that if the parking was allowed for pick-up on the east side and parking removed during school hours on the west side, traffic could flow in a bi-directional manner much more efficiently. Currently, vehicles can park on the west side and parents still park on the east side, thereby creating an impossible situation for vehicles to move in a bi-directional fashion on Cliff Avenue. He also noted that some of the buses that stage on Jones and eventually line up on W. 6th Street, park too close to the

intersection at Cliff creating a difficult situation for vehicles exiting on W. 6th Street to see westbound traffic.

Secretary Rooney noted that no one should be parking, even temporarily, within 15 feet of a crosswalk as that helps with site distance and is required by State Statute. He recommended that Officer Cisler meet with his staff to finalize some recommendations that can help traffic flow a little bit better throughout the area and to get recommendations in place that can be in effect for the school year coming up in the fall of 2018.

A motion was made by Mozol, seconded by Heckenlively to defer. Passed unanimously.

Deferred

[0425-18](#)

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 94-66 (1) of Schedule C of the Municipal Code of the General Ordinances of the City of Racine relative to "Through streets" be amended:

By Deleting:

1. Goold Street, from east line of Michigan Boulevard to east line of Mount Pleasant Street, except at Carlisle Avenue.

By Including:

1. Goold Street, from east line of Michigan Boulevard to east line of Mount Pleasant Street.

B. Recommends that Section 94-66 (3) of Schedule C of the Municipal Code of the General Ordinances of the City of Racine relative to "All-way stop intersections" be amended:

By Deleting:

1. Goold Street and Carlisle Avenue.

C. Recommends that Section 94-141 (9) of Schedule F relating 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. Yout Street, north side, from 70 feet west of Neptune Avenue east 120 feet.

D. Recommends that Section 94-141 (36) of Schedule F relating to "No stopping, standing or parking from 7:30 A.M. to 5:30 P.M. on any school day excepting mass transit vehicles owned and operated by the City of Racine or its contractor and excepting school buses be amended:

By Including:

1. Yout Street, north side, from Wustum Avenue, east 650 feet.

Recommended For Approval

Next Meeting Date - May 21, 2018 at 4:00 P.M. in Room 303 at City Hall

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:16 P.M.

If you are disabled and have accessibility needs or need information interpreted for you, please contact the Department of Public Works, (262) 636-9122, at least 48 hours prior to this meeting.