



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, August 17, 2009

5:15 PM

City Hall, Room 301

Call To Order

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

PRESENT: 5 - Gregory Holding, James Dobbs, Martin DeFatte, Charles French and Richard Jones

EXCUSED: 1 - Nicole Loop

Also Present: John Rooney (Staff), Sgt. Kupper attended on behalf of Lt. Dobbs, Lisa Baker, Patrick Starken (RUSD), Alderman McCarthy, Eugene Modesti, Bennett Olson

Approval of Minutes for the July 20, 2009 Meeting

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

New Business

1. [09-3628](#) **Subject:** Communication from Lisa Baker, 1301 Romaine Ave, requesting a school crossing guard at the corner of Goold and Geneva for the 2009-2010 school year.

Recommendation (6-15-09): Defer

Recommendation (7-20-09): Defer

Recommendation (8-17-09): A crossing guard be implemented at the intersection of Geneva Street and Goold Street for the 2009 - 2010 school year.

Fiscal Note: Estimated additional salary cost is \$4,000.00 with funding needed to be appropriated in Account 101.310.5020, Police - Other Salaries.

Lisa Baker appeared before the Commission and requested that a crossing guard be provided at Goold and Geneva to cross her son to school.

John Rooney read Dan DeMatthew's response noting the additional cost to provide a guard at this location would be an additional \$4,000. DeMatthew noted in his e-mail that a guard would not be approved without funding.

Sgt. Kupper inquired about the need for a guard at this location.

John Rooney noted no gap studies for this location have been performed. He noted

that the ITE method and Madison method can be used. He noted that a study could not be performed until school was in session where the Engineering Department could actually measure the number of students using the location and measuring gaps in traffic. He noted using the Madison method, which is commonly used for study, probably wouldn't warrant a guard at this location because of two safer crossings one block away, with the existing crossing guard at Goid and La Salle and the traffic signals at Goid and Douglas Avenue.

Motion made by Jones, seconded by French to approve the crossing guard location for the 2009 - 2010 school year.

On a roll call vote, members voting aye: Jones, French, Holding
Members voting naye: Kupper

Motion passed: 3:1

Recommended For Approval

2. [09-3953](#)

Subject: Communication from Patrick Starken, Racine Unified Transportation Supervisor, requesting additional crossing guards at South Memorial and DeKoven Avenue (Bull Fine Arts & Mitchell Elementary Schools) and State Street (Julian Thomas Elementary).

Recommendation (08-17-09): Defer

Patrick Starken appeared before the Commission and explained his request for additional crossing guards at S. Memorial Drive and De Koven Avenue, and on State Street.

John Rooney noted these crossing guard requests were in the location of existing traffic signals. He noted that gap studies could not be performed at signalized intersections, as they create artificial gaps in traffic.

Patrick Starken requested that the Police Department move crossing guards from existing locations to cover the gap at these two locations and made suggestions to the Traffic Commission for consideration.

After further discussion, a motion was made by Jones, seconded by French to defer the item so the Racine Police Department could evaluate Mr. Starken's request. Passed unanimously.

Deferred

3. [09-3691](#)

Subject: Communication from the Alderman of the 9th District requesting traffic control in the areas around Harvey and Maple Grove Parks.

Recommendation (6-15-09): Defer

Recommendation (7-20-09): Defer

Recommendation (8-17-09): Targeted enforcement be provided in the area and the item be received and filed.

Fiscal Note: N/A

Alderman McCarthy appeared before the Commission and noted there was some speeding by a select group of young drivers on the curves in the Harvey and Maple Grove Park area streets. He noted these young drivers test their skills on these streets.

John Rooney noted the volume of traffic on these streets is rather low and with the amount of T-intersections, warrants would probably not be met for additional control. He noted stop signs are not meant to control speed but to assign right-of-way.

In response to a question by Charlie French, Alderman McCarthy noted the worst times were when Park High School was being dismissed.

Sgt. Kupper suggested some laser enforcement in the area when school starts.

A motion was made by French, seconded by Holding to receive and file the request and have the Racine Police Department provide targeted enforcement. Passed unanimously.

Recommended to be Received and Filed4. [09-3696](#)

Subject: Communication from Eugene Modesti, Modesti Realty (1309 - 1311 High Street), requesting the removal of "One Hour" parking signs on High Street.

Recommendation (7-20-09): Defer

Recommendation (8-17-09): All parking restrictions be removed on High Street, both sides, from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive to Charles Street.

Fiscal Note: There is a nominal cost to remove these signs.

John Rooney noted he had sent letters to all property owners on High Street, between Charles Street and Martin Luther King Jr. Drive requesting they submit any objections, by August 10, 2009, on removing all parking restrictions on the street. He noted he had received no objections, therefore his assumption was the parking restrictions could be removed at this location.

Eugene Modesti thanked the Traffic Commission for their consideration.

Motion made by Jones, seconded by Holding to approve the removal of all parking restrictions on High Street, between Charles Street and Martin Luther King Jr. Drive. Passed unanimously.

Recommended For Approval5. [09-3789](#)

Subject: Communication from Bennett Olson, 4401 Lindermann Ave, requesting the placement of a stop sign on Lindermann Avenue between Ohio and Indiana Streets.

Recommendation (7-20-09): Defer

Recommendation (8-17-09): Targeted enforcement be provided in the area and the item be received and filed.

Fiscal Note: N/A

John Rooney read the study from the Engineering Department. He noted that speeds in this area are not problematic. He noted the average speeds on Lindermann Avenue in this area were just over 25 mph and the 85% speed was 30 mph. He also noted traffic volumes did not warrant any additional traffic control and that a crash analysis over the last 5 years indicated only 3 crashes occurred at this location. He noted all the crashes were not correctable by additional traffic control. He noted the crashes were either vehicles disregarding the existing stop sign or weather-related accidents due to snow and ice in the winter that were not correctable by traffic control.

Rick Jones asked what time of day the speeds were the highest. John Rooney responded that the late afternoon seemed to have the highest speeds, yet they were still not problematic.

Sgt. Kupper suggested some targeted enforcement in the area for speeding.

Motion made by French, seconded by Holding to receive and file the request and that the Racine Police Department perform targeted enforcement in the area. Passed unanimously.

Recommended to be Received and Filed

6. [09-3825](#)

Subject: Communication from the Executive Director of PTMR requesting permission to relocate the bus stop at Douglas north of Hamilton to the south.

Recommendation of Transit and Parking (7-29-09): To approve the relocation of the bus stop at Douglas north of Hamilton to the south.

Fiscal Note: N/A

Recommendation of the Traffic Commission (8-17-09): Receive and file.

Fiscal Note: N/A

John Rooney noted this was inadvertently referred to the Traffic Commission and the item could be received and filed.

Motion made by French, seconded by Holding to receive and file. Passed unanimously.

Recommended to be Received and Filed

7. [09-4039](#)

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. High Street, south side, from 150 feet east of Charles Street east 60 feet.
2. High Street, north side, from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive to Charles Street.

B. Recommends that Section 94-143 (8) of Schedule G of the Municipal Code of the General Ordinances of the City of Racine relative to "One-hour parking from 9:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M., except Sundays and holidays" be amended:

By Deleting:

1. High Street, south side, from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive to Charles Street.

Recommended For Approval

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting date will be September 22, 2009 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.