



# City of Racine

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

## Meeting Minutes - Final Traffic Commission

*Chairman Jim Kaplan  
Nicole Larsen  
Charles French  
John Heckenlively  
Mark Yehlen  
Dave Wohlgemuth  
Robert Mozol*

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Monday, October 20, 2014

4:00 PM

City Hall, Room 303

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### REVISED

#### Call To Order

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

**PRESENT:** 6 - Nicole Larsen, Charles French, John Heckenlively , Mark Yehlen, Robert Mozol and Jim Kaplan

**EXCUSED:** 1 - Dave Wohlgemuth

Also Present: John Rooney, Alderman Perez, Alderman Kaprelian-Becker, Alderman Sarrazin, Jason & Erin Krencisz, Mick Burke, Tom Karkow, Mary Hoptensmith, Cindy Schultz

#### Approval of Minutes for the September 15, 2014 Meeting

*The minutes of the September 15, 2014 meeting were approved as printed. Passed unanimously.*

#### New Business

1. [14-10638](#) **Subject:** Communication from the Alderman of the 5th District, on behalf of Jason and Erin Krencisz, for the placement of Autistic Child sign on the 2200 block of La Salle Street.

**Recommendation of the Traffic Commission on October 20, 2014:**  
Recommends that a policy and application for Autistic Child Area sign be approved and the City Engineer have authority to grant application requests administratively.

**Fiscal Note:** N/A

*Jason and Erin Krencisz and Alderman Kaprelian-Becker appeared before the Commission requesting an Autistic Child sign be posted in the 2200 block of La Salle Street. They stated reasons why they are looking for the request for the safety of their*

child.

Secretary Rooney explained no such application exists. He noted we have similar applications for deaf and blind child signs. He indicated an application can be modeled after the other two.

There was a discussion on the maximum age of the child.

Secretary Rooney stated 17 would appear to be the maximum age for any child that he would recommend. He noted these applications are handled administratively; however, one does not exist, so the Traffic Commission would have to approve the creation of a policy and application for this type of warning sign.

After further discussion, a motion was made by Larsen, seconded by Kaplan to approve. Passed unanimously.

**Recommended For Approval**

2. [14-10387](#)

**Subject:** (Direct Referral) Communication from the Alderman of the 12th District requesting a traffic study be conducted on Ohio Street by Lockwood Park.

**Recommendation of the Traffic Commission on July 21, 2014:**

Deferred

**Recommendation of the Traffic Commission on October 20, 2014:**

Recommends that the communication be received and filed.

**Fiscal Note:** N/A

Alderman Perez appeared before the Commission and noted he was concerned with the speeding on Ohio Street and had some speed trailer reports and studies done by RPD this summer.

Secretary Rooney noted after receipt of the RPD speed trailer report, he had the City Engineer's Office do a speed study with pneumatic tubes to verify what RPD had reported. He noted from the speed report done by the Engineering Department, the speeds are actually much higher on Ohio Street than shown on the RPD report. He noted the pneumatic tube counters are usually more inconspicuous and can generally measure actual truer speeds. He was concerned with an 85th percentile speed of just over 40 mph, the corridor is probably artificially posted too low for a speed limit of 30 mph. He also described to the Commission that the tenth percentile speed from over 100,000 vehicles measured during a 9-day period was just over 30 mph. He indicated that means 9 out of every 10 drivers, along Ohio Street in this area, travels at least 30 mph or greater. Typically, the 85th percentile speed is what is used to determine speed limits, as that is the speed that motorists feel they can safely drive the roadway.

Alderman Perez was disappointed with the study and didn't want consideration for the speed limit to be raised. He wanted something done to have the speed limit lowered.

Secretary Rooney said he could not endorse lowering the speed limit or putting in traffic control, such as stop signs, yield signs or traffic signals to reduce speeds on Ohio Street. He noted those measures are meant to assign right-of-way not to control speed. He recommended that the Traffic Commission defer the item so he

could study other areas along Ohio Street to see if the speed limits are artificially posted too low from Durand Avenue all the way to the north City limits south of Spring Street.

Motion made by French, seconded by Heckenlively to defer for that study. Alderman Perez objected to the motion.

Mark Yehlen noted the study may result in a recommendation to increase the speed limit on the corridor and he asked Alderman Perez if that is not what he is desirous of maybe the item should be received and filed. He noted that Alderman Perez certainly could have the RPD conduct targeted speed enforcement in the area because motorists are traveling above the speed limit.

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

**Recommended to be Received and Filed**

3. [14-10389](#)

**Subject:** (Direct Referral) Communication from the Alderman of the 12th District recommending that signs for the Downtown tourist locations be larger and more numerous.

**Recommendation of the Traffic Commission on July 21, 2014:**

Deferred

**Recommendation of the Traffic Commission on October 20, 2014:**

Recommends that the item be referred to the Public Works and Services Committee.

**Fiscal Note:** N/A

Alderman Perez appeared before the Traffic Commission and reiterated his concern that there were not enough way-finding signs or they were too small to guide motorists into the City, particularly the Downtown area. He also mentioned a lack of signage to find parking, as well.

Secretary Rooney displayed on the overhead a map of the City showing all the way-finding signs the DPW Sign Shop has installed over the years. He noted just under 40 signs have been placed along the major corridors into the City along STH 32, STH 20, STH 38 showing motorists what areas are ahead, such as the Uptown area or West Racine or Downtown, Harbor, etc. He also noted many way-finding signs were put up as part of the Main Street reconstruction back in 2003 to guide motorists to certain areas such as the Lakefront or the museum or Festival Hall. He also displayed another map showing all the City-owned parking on and off-street facilities and noted consistent parking signs have been installed at every location guiding motorists to these Municipal parking facilities. He believes the amount of way-finding signage and the size of it, as well as parking signs, are adequate. He noted if the alderman is desirous of more or better way-finding signs, more unique branding, that this item should be referred to the Public Works and Services Committee where that Committee can decide whether they want to spend money on a project such as this to hire a consultant to come up with new way-finding signs, a branding logo and also providing the capital dollars to pay a consultant and pay for and install such signage. Motion and second to defer withdrawn.

After further discussion, a motion was made by French, seconded by Yehlen to refer

*it to the Public Works and Services Committee. Passed unanimously.*

**Recommended For Further Consideration**

4. [14-10625](#)

**Subject:** Communication from the Alderman of the 2nd District requesting referral to the Traffic Commission a request to remove the east/west stop signs on De Koven Avenue at Mead Street.

**Recommendation of the Traffic Commission on October 20, 2014:**  
Defer

*Alderman Sarrazin appeared before the Traffic Commission and requested the stop signs facing east west at DeKoven and Mead Street be removed.*

*Secretary Rooney noted this would have to be deferred for study. He noted those signs were put in some time ago and the appropriate action would be to defer.*

*Motion made by French, seconded by Heckenlively to defer. Passed unanimously.*

**Deferred**

5. [14-10626](#)

**Subject:** Communication from the Alderman of the 2nd District requesting referral to the Traffic Commission a request to add stop signs on De Koven Avenue at Franklin Street, making it a four-way stop.

**Recommendation of the Traffic Commission on October 20, 2014:**  
Defer

*Alderman Sarrazin appeared before the Traffic Commission and requested to add stop signs on the east west approach at DeKoven and Franklin, making it a 4-way stop.*

*Secretary Rooney noted this item should be deferred for study as well. He noted if stop signs are recommended for removal at Mead, it doesn't mean they should just be moved further down the block to Franklin Street. He noted the studies should be independent of each other and be done and the recommendations made based on the studies of each individual intersection.*

*Motion made by French, seconded by Heckenlively to defer. Passed unanimously.*

**Deferred**

6. [14-10648](#)

**Subject:** (Direct Referral) Communication from the Assistant Commissioner of Public Works/City Engineer requesting parking restriction changes on 17th Street near Ventura Carpentry, Inc.

**Recommendation of the Traffic Commission on October 20, 2014:**  
Recommends that "No parking at any time" be approved on 17th Street, south side, from Phillips Avenue to Austin Avenue.

Further recommends "Two-hour parking" be approved on 17th Street, north side, from 70 feet west of Phillips Avenue west 27 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 noted that the owner of Ventura Carpentry, at the corner of 17th and Phillips is requesting some parking changes. He distributed a package showing some of the problems with congestion with vehicles parking along 17th Street and the amount of trucks trying to move in and out of that area. He noted staff met with Ventura Carpentry and Shurpac Industries to discuss the problem. Shurpac has off-street parking, yet many employees elect to park on-street making it difficult for vehicles and trucks to get up and down the corridor. He recommended that no parking any time be placed on the south side of 17th Street between Phillips and Austin and a 2-hour parking space be located near Ventura Carpentry.*

*After further discussion, a motion was made by Yehlen, seconded by French to approve. Passed unanimously.*

**Recommended For Approval**

7. [14-10707](#)

**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 Including**

1. 17th Street, south side, from Phillips Avenue to Austin Avenue.

**B. Recommends that Section 94-143 (13) of Schedule G relating to "Two-hour parking from 6:00 A.M. to 9:00 P.M.," be amended:**

**By Including**

1. 17th Street, north side, from 70 feet west of Phillips Avenue west 27 feet.

**Recommended For Approval**

**Next Meeting Date - November 17, 2013 at 4:00 PM in Room 303 at City Hall**

**Adjournment**

*The meeting adjourned at 5:35 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.**