

CITY OF WAUWATOSA
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**TRAFFIC AND SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
Tuesday, February 25, 2003**

PRESENT: Aids. Becker, Herzog, Krol, Matthews, McCarthy -5

ALSO

PRESENT: W. Kappel, Dir. of Public Works

Ald. Krol in the Chair called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

Removal of Loading Zone at 8316 W. Blue Mound Road

The Director of Public Works reported that he has received a request from neighborhood residents to remove the loading zone at 8316 W. Blue Mound Road, the former site of Willmering Hardware. The building is currently unoccupied and the loading zone fee unpaid since January. If removed, the loading zone area would revert to one-hour parking between 9 a.m. and 7 p.m. except on Sundays and legal holidays, conforming to the rest of the block. Mr. Kappel recommended a 90-day trial of one-hour parking restrictions.

Moved by Ald. McCarthy, seconded by Ald. Becker to approve a 90-day trial of replacing the loading zone with one-hour parking restrictions –

Ald. Herzog noted that the building has been vacant for some time and the loading zone may help make it attractive to a new tenant. Mr. Kappel said that he ordinarily would have left the loading zone in place for awhile but felt he needed to take action when the neighbors requested its removal. A new tenant could get a loading zone by simply applying and paying the fee. It would not cost any more or less than if it had been kept in place. Ald. McCarthy added that there is adequate space for loading and unloading at the rear of the building.

Vote on the motion, Ayes: 5

Request for 15-Minute Parking Adjacent to Wilson Elementary School

Mr. Kappel reported that Gerald Mullins, principal of Wilson Elementary School, 1060 N. Glenview Avenue, has requested a 15-minute parking zone from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on school days on the north side of Portland Avenue. Mr. Mullins is aware that the police department is unable to enforce 15-minute zones. The area would primarily be for the convenience of afternoon kindergarten parents.

Ald. Matthews noted that Madison School requested a 15-minute zone but later wanted it removed. She was concerned about the city expending time and money for something that may not work out. She suggested requesting that the schools bear the cost of removal if they want to get rid of signage after a short period of time.

Mr. Kappel responded that the 15-minute parking area at Longfellow is working well, and the 15-minute zone at McKinley is still in place but was relocated after construction. Mr. Mullins was advised to contact the Madison principal but felt that the situation and intent at Wilson is different than at Madison School. Mr. Kappel said that the cost of these installations is minimal since efforts are made to utilize as much existing hardware as possible. He estimated the cost of this installation at \$110.

Moved by Ald. Herzog, seconded by Ald. McCarthy to approve a 90-day trial of 15-minute parking restrictions on the north side of Portland Avenue.
Ayes: 5

Request for Crosswalk and/or Stop Signs on W. Center Street at N. 117th Street

In response to a directive at the January 28 meeting, the Director of Public Works reported, he has confirmed that the school crossings and school zone are properly marked and signed in the area of Eisenhower Elementary School and Wauwatosa West High School on W. Center Street. The appropriate speed limit signs are in place. Mr. Kappel recommended placing this item on file.

Jane Fischer, 3112 N. Knoll Terrace, read a letter outlining her concerns about children crossing Center Street at 117th Street to reach Eisenhower Elementary School. Her letter included a report of a traffic death in Waukesha at a site for which requests for additional stop signs to slow traffic were turned down. She stated that more children cross at 117th Street than the 12 mentioned by Mr. Kappel at a previous meeting. She also disputed other statements that she said Mr. Kappel has made about the effectiveness of pavement markings and stop signs. She stated that she has been using a hand-held stop sign that has been effective, and she reported that 100% of the cost of stop signs would be covered by parents. Referring to school zone signage, she felt that signs should be installed farther to the west so they are seen prior to reaching 117th Street. Ms. Fischer further stated that she will pursue the issue under state statutes dealing with school finance, involving the county sheriff's department and the state department of public instruction. She said that this is a hazardous situation that must be addressed; the city may be liable should a child get hurt crossing at 117th Street.

Ald. Matthews noted that the city pays for crossing guards on Center Street at 114th, 116th, and 120th Streets where the crossings have stop signs and seem to be heavily utilized. She said that she doesn't understand why people who are concerned about their children's safety at 117th Street don't walk one block to the guard at 116th Street. She felt that adding stop signs at 117th Street would create additional hazards, especially when dealing with youthful drivers. One block of inconvenience doesn't warrant creating a situation that may be more hazardous, she commented. She felt that installing a crosswalk without a stop sign would give an increased false sense of security. If parents are there with their children, as it seems is mostly the case, they would be setting an example by walking another block. If they drive, they should park on the north side where there is a sidewalk. If people want to park on the south side, the inconvenience of walking to 116th Street has to be part of doing that. Ald. Matthews said she believes there are adequate crosswalks, signs, and crossing guards on Center Street for the schools that are there.

Ald. Becker objected to Ms. Fischer's criticism of staff and implications that someone would be killed. He commented that people have been told to use the north side of the street where there are sidewalks, but they apparently are not headed in that direction on their way to work. He added that he hasn't heard anything about approaching the schools to make changes in their start times.

Moved by Ald. Becker, seconded by Ald. Matthews to recommend to Council that the matter be placed on file. Ayes: 4; Present: 1 (Herzog)

The meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

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Carla A. Ledesma, City Clerk
Wauwatosa, Wisconsin