

CITY OF WAUWATOSA
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TRAFFIC AND SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
Tuesday, June 24, 2003

PRESENT: Aids. Becker, Herzog, Matthews (7:45 p.m.); McCarthy -4

EXCUSED: Aid. Krol

ALSO

PRESENT: W. Kappel, Dir. of Public Works; Capt. J. Reit, Police Dept.

Ald. Herzog in the Chair called the meeting to order at 7:17 p.m. -3

Request for Parking Restrictions at Entrance to Wisconsin Avenue Park

Mr. Kappel reported that the Milwaukee County Parks Department has requested a no parking setback zone at the entrance drive to Wisconsin Avenue Park. They have experienced some sight line problems with cars that park too close to the driveway. Some drivers may be construction personnel working at the new heart hospital or people going to the zoo. All the residential streets in this area are signed for no parking. Mr. Kappel recommended a 90-day trial of the requested changes. The estimated cost for the signage is \$150. Capt. Reit saw no problems from a law enforcement standpoint.

Moved by Ald. McCarthy, seconded by Ald. Becker to approve a 90-day trial of the requested no parking. Ayes: 3

Request for Change in Parking Regulations on N. 104th and N. 105th Streets

Mr. Kappel reported that Dick Jungen, owner of the Fairview building at 10425 W. North Avenue, has requested a change in the parking restrictions on N. 104th and N. 105th Streets between W. Garfield and W. North Avenues. Mr. Jungen has made a huge investment in remodeling and feels he is beginning to lose tenants because of a lack of adjacent parking. The streets are currently signed either no parking any time or no parking during certain hours except Saturday, Sunday, and holidays. This would be a major change for the neighborhood, and residents along both streets have been notified of this meeting. Mr. Kappel recommended a 90-day trial of the requested changes.

Capt. Reit foresaw no enforcement issues. He would pledge to have police there more often during the 90-day trial if there are concerns, especially if there are problems with parking too close to driveways, mailboxes, or hydrants. Mr. Kappel noted that there are mailboxes on both sides of 105th Street, which is rather unique. If necessary after the trial, he could contact the post office to see if the mailboxes could be switched to one side.

Clint Peterson, 2239 N. 105th Street, asked what exactly the changes would be. Mr. Kappel said that 105th Street would have two-hour parking on the east side from the end of the Fairview building driveway to the south end of the block, providing four or five parking spaces. He felt that two-hour restrictions would keep traffic flowing but still allow enough time for transacting business at the building. On the east side of 104th Street, Mr. Jungen asked for removal of no parking restrictions to allow for all-day parking. Mr. Kappel noted that 104th Street is 30 feet wide, so there would be no problem with parking on both sides.

Mr. Peterson said that this may create an issue of people walking on lawns since there are no sidewalks on all parts of these streets. There also would be more people circling around to find available parking. While not often home during the day, he did note today at lunchtime that only one car was parked on the north side of North Avenue from the traffic signal to the east beyond the bus stop. Using this seems more logical than neighborhood parking, he said, and the distance to the front door of the building is no greater than it would be from the more southern part of 105th. There are at least five spaces available there, and a sidewalk and traffic signal would make it safer. The side streets without sidewalks are not designed for commercial parking but for more incidental use. There is a lot of parking in the area already, he said, and there are a lot of children in the area.

Brenda Potter, 7240 S. Clement Avenue, Milwaukee, said she is the office manager of the Fairview building and is appearing on behalf of Mr. Jungen, the owner. She presented a letter from Drs. Charles Hajinian and Phyllis Eckhart of the Hajinian Dental Group describing parking problems that have caused some patients, mainly the elderly, to miss their appointments or threaten to leave the practice. She stated that they are seeking the same type of parking that now exists on 103rd Street and 106th Street. There are about 30 tenants in the building who are affected by the parking situation.

Paul Starich, 2244 N. 105th Street, opposed any parking changes. He noted that children play in the back and front yards and some even in the street. He was concerned about visibility and safety issues since it will be harder to see any children when cars are parked there. The neighborhood also experiences a lot of trash from Mayfair, and additional parking would only add to that, he felt.

Addressing the issue of elderly patients, Mr. Peterson noted that anyone going to the professional building at Mayfair will have to walk an equivalent distance, even with handicapped parking. He reiterated the availability of parking on the north side of North Avenue.

Responding to questions, Mr. Kappel said that there is now no parking at any time on the east side of 104th Street. Both sides of 105th Street now are signed for no parking between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. There is three hour parking on Garfield Avenue between 104th and 105th Streets. There is unlimited parking on North Avenue east of 104th Street, with availability varying from day to day and hour to hour. Due to the amount of traffic and possible inattentiveness to pedestrians, Mr. Kappel was uncertain whether parking on the north side of North Avenue would necessarily be safer, especially for the elderly.

Ald. Becker pointed out that restrictions don't apply to drivers with handicapped parking privileges.

Ald. McCarthy asked about the city's parking requirements for the Fairview building. Mr. Kappel responded that the building is likely "grandfathered" from meeting current requirements. Mr. Jungen has indicated he would be willing to construct another level of parking on his lot, but he realizes that the neighbors probably would not be in favor.

Ald. McCarthy noted that parking is a frequent problem in residential areas adjacent to business districts and any solution arrived at usually leaves someone unhappy. He said that he could not see elderly people parking on the north side of North Avenue. He ascertained that the applicant is willing to pay for new signage. Mr. Kappel stated that three residences on 105th Street would be affected by changes.

Moved by Ald. McCarthy to authorize a 90-day trial of two hour parking
on N. 105th Street --

In ensuing discussion, Mr. Kappel said that Mr. Jungen was apparently looking for all-day parking for employees

on 104th Street, which he hesitated to recommend since employees could use North Avenue. Placing the same two-hour restrictions on 104th Street would yield about nine short-term spaces on both sides of the street.

(Ald. Matthews present. -4)

(Ald. Herzog relinquished the Chair to Ald. Becker.)

The motion was seconded by Ald. Herzog

Ald. Herzog stated that Mr. Jungen operates a very good business in the city and is active on several city commissions. He did a wonderful job of fixing up the Fairview building, spending a lot of money in the process. From personal experience, he knows that the title company has a separate address on 105th Street, leading clients to believe they must park on 105th Street or in the parking lot. They don't look to the other side of North Avenue. He favored also establishing two-hour restrictions on 104th Street under a 90-day trial.

(Ald. Herzog reassumed the Chair.)

With consent of the second, Ald. McCarthy amended the motion to include two-hour parking where appropriate on the east side of N. 104th and N. 105th Streets from W. Garfield Avenue to W. North Avenue under a 90-day trial
Vote on the motion, Ayes: 2; Present: 2 (Becker, Matthews) Motion passes.

Mr. Kappel informed those present that they would receive notification when this matter is reconsidered by this committee following completion of the 90-day trial. In response to comments from Mr. Starich about the likelihood of all-day parking despite the two-hour restriction, he indicated that both police captains would be informed of the trial regulations and asked to give attention to enforcement. He also requested information from the residents on any problems with mail delivery. The Chair encouraged residents to keep in touch with the police department, Mr. Jungen, and Ms. Potter and to document any problems during the course of the 90-day trial.

Notification of Temporary No Parking on Harley Davidson Avenue

Complying with the requirements of Section 11.12.020 of the city code, which grants power to enact temporary measures upon proper notification, Mr. Kappel notified the committee that temporary no parking restrictions have been placed on a portion of Harley Davidson Avenue for approximately two weeks during reconstruction work on the Capitol Drive and USH 45 ramps. The police chief and city administrator have also been notified. The restrictions will facilitate turning movements by any trucks that mistakenly enter this area.

Moved by Ald. McCarthy, seconded by Ald. Matthews to place the matter on file. Ayes: 4

The meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

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Carla A. Ledesma, City Clerk
Wauwatosa, Wisconsin