



## CITY OF WAUWATOSA

MEMORIAL CIVIC CENTER  
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### TRAFFIC & SAFETY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, February 22, 2005

Committee Room #1

PRESENT: Alds. Becker, Herzog, Maher, McCarthy -4

ABSENT: Ald. Krol

ALSO PRESENT: A. Kesner, City Attorney; W. Kappel, Dir. of Public Works

Ald. Becker as Chair called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

#### **Request for parking restriction changes on the south side of W. North Avenue in the 6800 block**

Mr. Kappel said Jay Hollis, owner of the Rosebud Cinema Drafthouse is requesting a change in parking regulations in front of the theater from two to three hours. Current parking restrictions on North Avenue from N. 60th Street to Wauwatosa Avenue are one or two hours. The request for three hour parking is not inconsistent with what has been done in other areas of the city and there is no engineering reason to deny the request.

(7:05 Ald. Herzog left the meeting -3)

Peter Mueller, Rosebud Cinema manager, said that with the success of various movies the distributor wants to have more showings with occasional matinees during the week. Movie run times including previews are under three hours. Three hour parking would accommodate patrons to arrive prior to a showing, watch the entire film and leave within the time period.

Moved by Ald. McCarthy, seconded by Ald. Maher to recommend  
a three hour parking restriction on the south side of North Avenue  
in the 6800 block on a 90-day trial -3

#### **Request for temporary on-street overnight parking for tenants of 8404 Watertown Plank Road**

Mr. Kappel stated that Mr. Fitzpatrick, owner of a four family apartment building at 8404 Watertown Plank Road is requesting temporary overnight on-street parking for his tenants. This building does not have on-site parking. Mr. Fitzpatrick primarily rents to medical students. Until the recent construction on the County Grounds, students were allowed to park overnight on a nearby surface lot. Parking was recently moved off this lot and relocated to parking west of 92nd Street. Mr. Kappel said Mr. Fitzpatrick has not exhausted all possibilities to find parking for his tenants in area private parking lots. The only on-street parking currently allowed in the city is temporary parking for visitors and during public construction. His recommendation is to place the request on file and directing Mr. Fitzpatrick to work with neighboring businesses to accommodate his tenants.

(7:08 p.m. Ald. Herzog returned -4)

James Trost, 1261 N. 85th Street, said he was opposed to granting this request as the parking in the area was already a problem.

Ald. Becker indicated he was strongly opposed to permitting on-street overnight parking. Ald. Herzog said because of a business relationship with Mr. Fitzpatrick he would not participate in the discussion or vote.

Moved by Ald. McCarthy, seconded by Ald. Maher to recommend the request be placed on file. Ayes: 3, Present: 1 (Herzog)

### **Requests for parking changes in the 1200 block of N. 85th Street and the 8300 block of Gridley Avenue**

The Chair said the issue involves streets in both the second and third aldermanic districts. Ald. Krol requested that the issues involving the second district be held for two weeks. Mr. Kappel said the matter before the committee is a changeable problem involving parking in the residential areas near the county grounds. Students at the Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW) have been displaced from the surface parking they were using and assigned parking on the west side of the campus near 92nd Street. Because they don't wish to walk that far, the students have started parking on city streets. There is a concern for public safety; i.e., Gridley Avenue is a 24 ft. wide road, and when cars are parked on both sides of the street it is impossible for a fire truck, ambulance or police squad car to get through. There are multiple requests from area residents for various parking restrictions to remedy this. Mr. Kappel said he would like to work with the neighborhood to remedy the situation. This is an area wide problem and placing parking restrictions on one street may cause the problems to move to another street. He recommended the committee authorize him to discuss various options with the district aldermen and residents, post temporary restrictions and report back to the committee on a regular basis. The parking issues will be an ongoing problem for the next year and a half.

Mr. Kappel said that on N. 85th Street (which is 30 ft. wide) there are two requests: 1) no parking along the property northeast of Watertown Plank Road to improve visibility, and 2) no parking on the east side of N. 85th Street. Mr. Kappel said he had some concerns about the latter request because most of the petitioners lived on the west side of N. 85th Street.

Carl Manthey, 1279 N. 85th Street, said he requested the no parking to the corner to improve visibility. Because of the street configuration and topography, it is very difficult to see oncoming traffic.

James Trost, 1261 N. 85th Street, said the petitions were signed by 13 of the 18 property owners on 85th Street. He said it was difficult to find people at home to obtain signatures and questioned how long it would take to get residents to agree on a time to discuss with issues with Mr. Kappel. He would like to see some immediate relief to the parking problems. He pointed out that 86th Street currently prohibits parking on the one side of the street and the other side is 2 hour parking. Elm Lawn also has no parking on the east side of the street during the day. He felt the request to prohibit parking on one side of 85th Street is hardly unique.

Mr. Kappel felt that removing parking on one side of the street would take parking away needlessly. He recommended getting together with the district aldermen and residents to discuss other options and come up with the best solution.

Adam Kiehl, 8351 Gridley Ave., said he didn't see any reason why the city could not act quickly on the parking problems. Mr. Kappel said Ald. Krill would like to move quickly on this, especially with the safety issue of fire and police vehicles having access. Mr. Kiehl said Gridley Avenue has the narrowest street width in the city. He said students shoot up Robertson beginning at 6 a.m. and park all along the street, often overhanging driveways. Elderly

residents often cannot get out of their driveway. He said petitions were submitted and residents were asking for immediate relief.

Mr. Kappel said there were opposing viewpoints among neighbors as to the solution. His recommendation is to meet with residents and aldermen to try to get a consensus. Ald Becker asked if temporary no parking could be posted until a consensus is reached. Mr. Kesner confirmed that the director of public works has the authority to take immediate steps to correct a problem during times of construction.

Mr. Kiehl said the public safety issues should be acted on first. Mr. Trost pointed out the traffic problems are linked and cannot be separated. If parking restrictions are placed on Gridley, then the problems will worsen on surrounding streets.

Mark Dombeck, 8303 Gridley Avenue, said the problems with students at MCW is part of a larger problem with the issue of the County Grounds and needs a long term solution. The entire neighborhood is coming in conflict with MCW and felt they are not concerned about the concerns of the neighborhood. He said the expansion on the County Grounds is being done at the expense of the neighborhood.

Mr. Kesner pointed out the Plan Commission and Community Development Committee are starting to address the long term issues. The Traffic & Safety Committee can only deal with the issues of traffic.

Moved by Ald. McCarthy, seconded by Ald. Maher to refer the matter to Mr. Kappel to address the parking issues in discussions with neighbors and aldermen of the district and to implement whatever temporary measures deemed appropriate for public safety and to report back to the committee -4

**Request by City of Milwaukee for freeway off-ramp turn restrictions at W. Blue Mound Rd. and N. 95th St.**

Mr. Kappel reported this request was received formally from the City of Milwaukee City Engineer. Initially, it was requested informally from Milwaukee Ald. Murphy and denied by staff. Milwaukee proposes to put up a boulevard at the US Hwy 45 northbound Bluemound Road exit forcing vehicles to turn right onto Bluemound Road. Currently vehicles are turning left on Bluemound Road and using N. 94th Street (a Milwaukee Street) to access the County Grounds. If Wauwatosa agreed to this restriction, those cars would turn right and use N. 97th Street (a Wauwatosa street) to access the County Grounds. This would also put a lot more traffic on Wisconsin Avenue, which is not designed to carry that traffic volume. Granting this request would put Wauwatosa residents out for the sake of Milwaukee residents. Mr. Kappel recommended placing the request on file.

Mr. Dombeck said once again the issue of Wisconsin Avenue and traffic volume has come up. He said there was a need for a long term solution to the traffic volume generated by the county grounds. Mr. Kappel pointed out this is a major traffic impact analysis underway agreed on jointly by the City of Milwaukee, Milwaukee County, the WI Dept. of Transportation and Wauwatosa.

Moved by Ald. Maher, seconded by Ald. McCarthy to recommend the request be placed on file -4

The meeting adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

Carla A. Ledesma, City Clerk  
City of Wauwatosa

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