



CITY OF WAUWATOSA
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TRAFFIC & SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
Tuesday, March 29, 2005

PRESENT: Aids. Becker, Herzog, Krol, Maher (7:33 p.m.), Purins -5

ALSO W. Kappel, Dir. of Public Works; Capt. J. Reit, Police Dept.;
PRESENT: T. Wontorek, City Admin.; Ald. Maher, 8th Dist.

Ald. Becker as Chair called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. -4

Request for Two-Hour Parking Restrictions on N. 85th Street

Mr. Kappel reported that, following discussions with the local alderpersons and area residents, he instituted two-hour parking restrictions on both sides of the 1200 block of N. 85th Street. Residents there sought action because of parking by Medical College students not using their assigned lot on the county grounds. A neighborhood representative was informed that stricter measures will be considered if this does not solve the problem. He has agreed to create a no parking to corner zone 15 feet north of the crosswalk on the east side of N. 85th Street north of Watertown Plank Road to increase sight distance for people exiting the street. Mr. Kappel recommended a 90-day trial of the measures beginning with the start date of March 9th.

Ald. Krol said that the two-hour restrictions seem to be addressing the problems that were occurring because of the street's proximity to the Medical College. He thanked Mr. Kappel for working with the residents.

Moved by Ald. Krol, seconded by Ald. Herzog to approve a 90-day trial, with a start date of March 9, 2005, of two-hour parking restrictions on both sides of the 1200 block of N. 85th Street and a no parking to corner zone on the east side of N. 85th Street north 15 feet from the north crosswalk edge at Watertown Plank Road. Ayes: 4

(Ald. Maher present. -5)

Proposed Modifications to the Lunchtime School Crossing Guard Program

Mr. Wontorek reported that there has been ongoing dialog with school district representatives regarding changes to the school crossing guard program that would result in savings to the city without adversely affecting students. School administrators, the district-wide parent advisory council, school principals, and parent groups at individual schools were consulted and have agreed to a pilot program that would eliminate lunchtime guards at three schools beginning within the next week or two, as follows:

Madison Elementary School – Intersection of W. Glendale Avenue and N. 100th Street
Eisenhower Elementary School – Intersection of W. Center and N. 116th Streets
Jefferson Elementary School – Intersection of W. Aetna Court and N. 68th Street and
Intersection of W. Aetna Court and N. 70th Street

Mr. Wontorek explained that the purpose of the lunchtime guards is to allow kindergartners in half-day programs to leave safely. In practice, those kindergartners do not leave the school campus without an escort, so the lunchtime crossing guards tend to escort parents who are crossing with their own children.

The proposed pilot program at the three schools would run through the end of the school year, a period of 7-8 weeks. A report on results of the program and any feedback would be brought back to this committee. If results are favorable, implementation on a broader scale, perhaps citywide, could be considered for as early as September. Under current contract prices, potential savings under this trial would be \$3,000-\$4,000; savings for elimination of lunchtime guards citywide for a full year would be about \$70,000.

In response to questions, Mr. Wontorek reiterated that the schools are quite protective of the kindergartners and don't let them leave school grounds without an escort. Other students might only rarely leave the grounds at lunchtime. Private schools would be contacted if elimination of all 16 lunchtime guards is later contemplated. The pilot intersections do not serve any private schools. The school district would provide feedback on results of the pilot program, and each location would also be randomly monitored during the trial.

Ald. Maher said he has a child in four-year-old kindergarten at Madison School. He has talked to other parents and found that most would not be too upset about this change. They work together to get children to school safely, and the students never walk without supervision.

Ald. Krol felt that the move makes sense and that feedback is unlikely to be negative.

Moved by Ald. Krol, seconded by Ald. Purins to recommend to Council removal of lunchtime crossing guards as soon as possible from the intersections of Glendale Avenue and 100th Street, Center and 116th Streets, Aetna Court and 68th Street, and Aetna Court and 70th Street as a pilot program through the end of the current school semester –

Ald. Maher said that the committee should be kept apprised of the process used to ensure that there is some feedback from parents and the schools.

Vote on the motion, Ayes: 5

The meeting adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

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Carla A. Ledesma, City Clerk
Wauwatosa, Wisconsin