



CITY OF WAUWATOSA
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**TRAFFIC & SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
Tuesday, May 31, 2005**

PRESENT: Alds. Becker, Herzog, Krol, Maher, Purins -5

ALSO

PRESENT: W. Kappel, Dir. of Public Works

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

Completion of 90-Day Trial of Pedestrian Safety Measures at N. 65th and W. Lloyd Streets

Mr. Kappel reported that the use of a portable pedestrian marker at N. 65th and W. Lloyd Streets was approved by this committee in January, but implementation was delayed while weather kept pedestrian traffic to a minimum. The neighborhood representative, Rezonn Dahlin-Klein has reported that one marker has been in use for about seven weeks. Residents are responsible for placing and removing the marker and have been fairly consistent about doing so. Neighbors feel the measure has been effective in slowing vehicles and would like to continue using the marker, which Mr. Kappel supported. He will be contacted by the residents if any changes are needed. He noted that this type of use is now an acceptable practice under the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices and may increase.

Asked about storage boxes for pedestrian signs, Mr. Kappel said he has encouraged residents to make their own or remodel the city's used salt boxes that are being replaced by plastic boxes. He has been working with school parent groups on this issue.

Moved by Ald. Purins, seconded by Ald. Herzog to accept the report and place this matter on file. Ayes: 5

Completion of 90-Day Trial of Three-Hour Parking in 6800 block of W. North Avenue

Mr. Kappel reported that a three-hour parking zone was created on the south side of the 6800 block of W. North Avenue at the request of the owner of the Rosebud Cinema. North Avenue between N. 60th Street and Wauwatosa Avenue is otherwise a mix of one and two-hour restrictions. No complaints were received during the 90-day trial. The Chair, who represents this district, also said he has had no complaints.

Moved by Ald. Krol, seconded by Ald. Purins to recommend introduction of an ordinance to allow three-hour parking on the south side of the 6800 block of W. North Avenue. Ayes: 5

Proposed Ordinance – Right Turns on Red at N. 115th Street and Watertown Plank Road

The proposed ordinance prohibits right turns on red from northbound N. 115th Street to eastbound Watertown Plank Road between 7 a.m. and 9 a.m. Mr. Kappel reported that during the 90-day trial the measure was successful in creating gaps for trucks entering Watertown Plank Road from N. 113th Street.

Moved by Ald. Purins, seconded by Ald. Herzog to recommend adoption. Ayes: 5

No Left Turns on W. Blue Mound Road at N. 107th Street

Mr. Kappel reported that the city has been working with AAA, the state, and the City of Milwaukee on an AAA Road Improvement Demonstration Program for the intersection of STH 100 (Mayfair Road) and W. Blue Mound Road. A very thorough traffic analysis has been completed, and a series of recommended changes will be submitted for state funding.

One remaining problem is the increase in afternoon rush hour crashes at N. 107th Street and W. Blue Mound Road, the majority due to eastbound cars turning left and being struck by westbound vehicles, especially in the far-right lane. A similar problem west of Mayfair Road was addressed by prohibiting left turns during the morning and evening rush hours. At 107th Street, a 180-day trial of left turn prohibitions from 3 to 6 p.m. is suggested, which would require Council approval. The boulevard there is under the jurisdiction of the City of Milwaukee, and they will take similar action.

Ald. Herzog pointed out that an eastbound driver would have to make a U-turn at the next opening to access the businesses at the corner of Mayfair and Blue Mound Roads. Mr. Kappel said that he spoke with the owner of Giuseppe's/JoJo's on that corner, who felt the change would not be a problem since it is confined to only three hours on weekdays.

Moved by Ald. Krol, seconded by Ald. Maher to recommend to Council approval of a 180-day trial of no left turns from 3-6 p.m. for eastbound traffic on W. Blue Mound Road at N. 107th Street. Ayes: 5

Request for Temporary On-Street Overnight Parking

Mr. Kappel reported that a request from the owner of the property at 8404 Watertown Plank Road, Patrick Fitzpatrick, for temporary on-street overnight parking for his tenants was discussed in February in connection with several other parking issues related to Medical College construction. At that time, the committee asked that he try to find other off-street parking, but his search has been unsuccessful and he asked that the matter be brought back for further discussion. His tenants would not regain use of the Medical College parking lot until at least the end of next summer. While sympathetic to the issue, Mr. Kappel said he believes this is not the city's problem and he continues to be in opposition to on-street overnight parking. It is disruptive to service delivery, and residents in this area are already upset about increased student parking. Mr. Kappel suggested seeking relief from the Medical College or perhaps posting an ad in a more proactive attempt to find parking.

Patrick Fitzpatrick, W220 S3734 Hidden Court, Waukesha, said he has owned this four-unit building for almost 20 years and has rented almost exclusively to Medical College students. Since the Medical College closed Lot C, they have been shuttling students from another parking lot between 96th and 100th Streets, but it is not working well due to the odd hours when the students are coming and going. He has two current vacancies in his building, and another tenant is moving out next month. He has never had a problem renting his units, but is now unable to fill the vacancies due to the parking situation. He has spoken to many people from area residents to the president of the Medical College, but there is no solution. Close to 800 parking spaces have been eliminated from Lot C during construction, but he has been told that they will get the parking back when this construction phase has been completed. Mr. Fitzpatrick said that with on-street parking, his tenants would park their cars there overnight but would drive to the shuttle location in the morning. He requested that an exception be made for this temporary situation. He expects to soon have an empty building and wonders if he could even sell it.

Ald. Krol, who represents this area, was concerned about similar requests in the future. He asked how things have changed during Mr. Fitzpatrick's 20 years of ownership, and he suggested that the current vacancies may be due to graduations. He pointed out that the building did not have parking when purchased 20 years ago, which was a risk that was taken then. Mr. Fitzpatrick responded that his units are always the last to be rented because of the lack of parking. They are one bedroom units and are occupied by one person 98% of the time. None of his tenants graduated this year. They have stated in letters to him that they are moving because of the parking situation.

Ald. Krol said he would be glad to work with Mr. Fitzpatrick on this problem. He noted that this is a long-term construction project. Although some on-street parking may be allowed during street construction in the summer, this request would cover both good and bad weather months, and the problem may not go away once the construction ends. The Chair agreed with concerns about responding to similar requests in the future.

If there are no other viable solutions, Mr. Kappel suggested that Mr. Fitzpatrick could petition the Board of Public Works to allow temporary overnight parking in the new parking lot under the Harmonee bridge. Although still a service imposition for the city, it is not as bad as on-street parking. Tenants could reach the lot via Glenview Place, although it would be a slightly longer walk than from Lot C.

Moved by Ald. Krol, seconded by Ald. Maher to recommend denial of the request for temporary on-street overnight parking. Ayes: 4; Present: 1 (Herzog)

Ald. Krol requested that Mr. Fitzpatrick work with the district aldermen and city staff on finding some relief for this dilemma.

The meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

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Carla A. Ledesma, City Clerk
Wauwatosa, Wisconsin