



CITY OF WAUWATOSA
7725 WEST NORTH AVENUE
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TRAFFIC & SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
Tuesday, June 28, 2005

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

ALSO

PRESENT: W. Kappel, Dir. of Public Works; T. Wontorek, City Admin.

Ald. Becker as Chair called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m.

Proposed Ordinance – Bus Loading zone at W. Blue Mound Road and N. Robertson Street

The proposed ordinance amends Section 11.32.320 of the Code creating a school days bus loading zone at the northeast corner of W. Blue Mound Road and N. Robertson Street. Mr. Kappel said that appropriate signage is being designed to designate this area of no parking for school days only from 6 to 8 a.m.

Moved by Ald. Krol, seconded by Ald. Maher to recommend to
Council adoption of the ordinance. Ayes: 5

Proposed Ordinance – Parking Restrictions in 1200 Block of N. 85th Street

The proposed ordinance amends Section 11.32.080 of the Code establishing parking restrictions on a portion of N. 85th Street north of Watertown Plank Road. Mr. Kappel said that residents in this block petitioned for permanent restrictions to address problems in connection with student parking.

Moved by Ald. Krol, seconded by Ald. Maher to recommend to
Council adoption of the ordinance. Ayes: 5

Report on Pilot Program - Removal of Noon-Hour School Crossing Guards

Mr. Wontorek reported on results of the pilot program under which noon-hour crossing guards were removed from four locations serving Madison, Eisenhower, and Jefferson elementary schools. A report dated June 23, 2005, summarizes surveys and staff observations. Parents seem to agree that children in the morning and afternoon kindergarten classes are walked or driven to school by parents. There were a few concerns from Jefferson parents relating to traffic on 68th Street, but even there parents found elimination of the noon-hour guards to be an appropriate and acceptable measure.

Mr. Wontorek said that since no difficulties were observed, it seems feasible to put this into effect citywide in September. Information has been sent to the school superintendent for the elementary principals and to

the nine private schools in the city. Mr. Wontorek suggested holding this matter for two weeks to allow for any concerns or questions that may arise.

Moved by Ald. Maher, seconded by Ald. Krol to hold this matter
for two weeks –

Ald. Purins asked if the sample is thought to be representative enough of the various environments. Mr. Wontorek responded that he believes so since it includes locations with high traffic volumes, specifically Center Street and 68th Street. He noted that there was almost unanimous agreement when the pilot program was initially discussed with the Superintendent's Parent Advisory Council. Queried about the response rate, he responded that the enrollment numbers for each class are not known, but the surveys were sent to all parents and over 40 responded. All were also invited to call or e-mail.

Ald. Maher said that it is his experience that people would respond if they had concerns. He estimated that there are 14-15 children in each class at Madison, so 12 of approximately 30 parents responded. He expressed thanks for the work done and commended the excellent outreach efforts.

Ald. Krol concurred with the previous comments and asked about estimated annual savings. Ald. Herzog asked what might come next after eliminating lunch-time guards. Mr. Wontorek estimated total annual savings of \$70,000 if noon-time guards are eliminated at all 16 locations, which is just under one-third of the cost of the school crossing guard program. Some consolidation of crossings within two blocks of each other was considered in the past, but no action was taken and no other measures are contemplated at this time.

Vote on the motion, Ayes: 5

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Carla A. Ledesma, City Clerk
Wauwatosa, Wisconsin

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