



CITY OF WAUWATOSA

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TRAFFIC & SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING Tuesday, July 31, 2007

PRESENT: Alds. Donegan, Grimm, Herzog, Treis -4

EXCUSED: Ald. Minear

ALSO PRESENT: W. Kappel, Dir. of Public Works

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

Completion of 90-Day Trial of No Parking in Gridley, Portland and Harvey Avenue Cul de Sacs

The committee reviewed a memo from the Director of Public Works regarding completion of a 90-day trial of no parking at any time in the cul de sacs located at Gridley Avenue west of Robertson Avenue, Portland Avenue west of Robertson Avenue, and Harvey Avenue west of N. 69th Street. Mr. Kappel reported that there was only one complaint, which was resolved through an explanation of why signs could not be relocated to create more available parking on Harvey Avenue.

Moved by Ald. Treis, seconded by Ald. Donegan to recommend to Council introduction of an ordinance to implement the changes on a permanent basis. Ayes: 4

No Parking on N. 70th Street North of Blanchard Street

Mr. Kappel reported he and the two alderpersons of the district have been working with residents in the 1400 block of N. 70th Street and representatives of the Old Catholic Church to resolve issues in connection with church gatherings dating back to 2004. At the most recent meeting, a compromise was reached to create a section of no parking at any time on the east side of the southern half of block on a 90-day trial basis. This will help alleviate problems, especially in the winter, for northbound vehicles traveling uphill that often have to stop for southbound vehicles when parked cars impede passage.

The Chair said that because there are fire hydrants on the east side of the street, there already are some areas where cars cannot park. He believes this is a good compromise that will be a big help in the winter.

Moved by Ald. Treis, seconded by Ald. Donegan to approve a 90-day trial of no parking at any time on the east side of N. 70th Street from 1442 N. 70th Street south to Blanchard Street. Ayes: 4

No Parking on Martha Washington Drive North and South of Washington Boulevard Bridge

Mr. Kappel reported that in June there was a serious traffic accident on Martha Washington Drive under the Washington Boulevard bridge when a parked car was struck in the rear by another vehicle. This is also a location this is periodically susceptible to graffiti. To reduce the chances of a similar accident and at the same

time cut back on the potential for graffiti, he recommended a 90-day trial of no parking at any time on both sides of Martha Washington Drive extending 25 feet in either direction from the openings of the bridge underneath Washington Boulevard.

Mr. Kappel noted that there was a request for 75 feet of no parking, but a nearby resident wanted to retain some ability to park on Martha Washington. The compromise reached was for the recommended 25 feet on each side.

Ald. Becker indicated that he supports the proposal.

Moved by Ald. Donegan, seconded by Ald. Treis to approve a 90-day trial of no parking at any time on both sides of Martha Washington Drive from 25 before to 25 after the bridge over Washington Boulevard.
Ayes: 4

Request for Repair of Potter Road Railroad Crossing

Mr. Kappel reported that, at the request of several alderpersons, letters were sent to the Union Pacific Railroad requesting repairs at the W. Potter Road at-grade crossing just west of STH 100/Mayfair Road. There has been no response to a letter sent to the local office in 2006 or a letter sent earlier this year to the regional office in Chicago. Earlier this month, some temporary repairs were made with asphalt and spikes as a result of a request through the police department to a Union Pacific safety person; but additional work, if not total replacement, is warranted.

In researching how to proceed, staff found what appears to be the proper course of action. A resolution requesting the necessary repairs should first be passed by the Common Council and forwarded to the railroad. If there is no response within 30 days, the Common Council can then petition the Railroad Commissioner to intercede.

Ald. Herzog commented on his familiarity with the site. In addition to the actual crossing, he is also concerned about weeds in the railroad right-of-way that impede visibility for eastbound drivers on Potter Road. Mr. Kappel said that this concern would be expedited through a contact a police officer has with the railroad's safety person.

Moved by Ald. Treis, seconded by Ald. Donegan to recommend to Council adoption of a resolution requesting that d Union Pacific Railroad to pave and repair or improve the crossing at Potter Road –

Discussion turned to the possibility of getting railroad bridges painted, particularly at Watertown Plank Road and at State Street adjacent to the Chancery. Mr. Kappel noted that some painting was done on North Avenue and Center Street about four or five years ago after many years of repeated requests. He indicated that a specific written request could be made.

Vote on the motion, Ayes: 4

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Carla A. Ledesma, City Clerk
Wauwatosa, Wisconsin

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