



CITY OF WAUWATOSA
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TRAFFIC & SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
Tuesday, June 13, 2006

PRESENT: Alds. Donegan, Grimm, Herzog, Sullivan, Treis -5

ALSO PRESENT: W. Kappel, Director of Public Works

Ald. Sullivan as Chair called the meeting to order at 7:18 p.m.

Request for One-Way Streets in the Area of Roosevelt School

The request for a trial of one-way streets in the area of Roosevelt School, 2535 N. 73rd Street, was held from the previous meeting to allow for more community input. Mr. Kappel reported that a letter was received from the Director of Environmental Services of the Lutheran Home, 7500 W. North Avenue, who was concerned about the impact of one-way traffic on 74th Street on access to their child care center, adult day care program, and the main visitor parking lot for their skilled care facility and new hospice. Erich Zuern, 2426 N. 73rd Street, also wrote in opposition to the requested change, and Mr. Kappel received an anonymous phone call from another 73rd Street resident opposing the request.

Speaking in favor of a one-way trial were: Michelle Kellom, 2349 N. 66th Street; Cindy Anderson, 6425 W. Clarke Street; Danette Braun, 7727 Livingston Avenue; Joel Mouradian, 7721 Livingston Avenue; Susan Land, 2661 N. 70th Street; and Chris Horejs, 2541 N. 64th Street. Their comments included the following:

- Streets around Roosevelt are narrower than those in the McKinley area. Roosevelt has the largest school population in Wauwatosa and the most Chapter 220 students, accounting for more bus traffic and other vehicles around the school.
- There are one-way streets around Jefferson School, most likely due to safety concerns, and there do not seem to be any complaints or increased problems or accidents.
- Parents perceive there is a problem, whether for 15 minutes or 24 hours each day, and would at least like to see a trial of one-ways to see if that is a solution.
- Eight different buses serve Roosevelt with several at mid-day as well.
- The principal realizes that parking changes might be a solution but also endorses a 90-day trial of one-ways.
- There is no chance to pick up speed on a one-way that is one block long—there are stop signs on every corner.
- Existing parking restrictions are not enforced.
- Parents have tried for years to encourage people to voluntarily travel in one direction around the school, but people will not consistently follow the rules unless there is someone out there every day or there is signage.
- One-ways didn't work at McKinley, and they are back to living with the same situation they had before.
- Parents here would favor enforcement and ticketing.

Speaking in opposition were: Tom Dorn, 2526 N. 73rd Street; Debra Dorn, 2526 N. 73rd Street, and Leslie Giordana, 2520 N. 73rd Street. Their comments are summarized as follows:

- Every expert who spoke at previous meetings on one-ways in this area said that it was a bad idea—it would be less safe and would speed up traffic.
- The gridlock that occurs is highly inconvenient for everyone but it may be the safest situation for the children. More parking enforcement is needed.

- Cars parked on both sides of the street make it difficult to negotiate. Having those vehicles all pointed in the same direction will not address the problem. Parking changes may be needed.
- One-ways would accelerate speeds, which police addressed the last time this issue was raised.
- Expediting drop-offs and pick-ups may not really be safer.
- The problem occurs for 15 or 20 minutes twice a day on school days, but the neighborhood would be impacted by the change 24 hours every day.
- Children could be dropped off a block or so away and escorted as a group to the school.
- Parents who need to drive could work cooperatively to travel in one direction on each street without imposing a year-round restriction on residents. As this becomes part of the school culture, more parents would do it.

Ald. Sullivan commented on significant efforts by the school over a long period of time to resolve this problem. He lives two blocks away, walks his children to school when he can, and has observed the dangerous situations that occur when people double park. The streets are unusually narrow and there is more bus traffic than at other schools such as McKinley. The parent group has found significant community support for one-ways, which could be just one block in length as at Jefferson School. Noting that other city residents live on one-ways, he felt that the benefit would outweigh any hardship.

Ald. Treis reported on his observations when he visited the area for 45-minute periods on two mornings and also on one afternoon. He also spoke with the principal twice. He saw that teachers' cars completely fill the west side of 74th Street for the entire block. The only handicapped access to the school is on the east side of 74th Street where there is a drop-off lane for buses and other vehicles. On the east side of 73rd Street, drivers park for extended periods despite restrictions and sometimes even leave their vehicles in the bus slot. No parking should be allowed on 73rd Street for one hour in the morning and afternoon, and no parking in the bus slot should be enforced. On 74th Street, the drop-off slot should be for handicapped use only. Enforcement is also needed for drivers who pull into driveways for pick-ups and then proceed in the opposite direction. Ald. Treis said that he has reviewed his observations with Mr. Kappel. He believes that traffic has to move; there should be no stopping or parking for extended periods. There should not be parking on both sides of these narrow streets.

Moved by Ald. Treis, seconded by Ald. Donegan to direct the Director of Public works to return in one month with a plan to remove parking from the east side of 73rd Street; to work with the police department to enforce that restriction as well as allowing no cars in the bus slot on 73rd Street, to police no parking on the west side of 73rd Street, and to allow no vehicles to park in the handicapped slot on 74th Street other than those transporting handicapped individuals –

Ald. Sullivan said he is willing to consider restricted parking on 73rd Street, but he felt there is no way to prevent people from parking in the drop-off lane. Ald. Donegan felt that it is preferable to experiment with enforcement than with one-way streets due to the concerns raised and the fact that they might have to be changed again. If enforcement doesn't work, no harm has been done and other measures can be considered.

Police Chief Weber was present at this point and indicated that this area could be given extra attention when school is back in session. He cautioned that this does tend to create issues with parents who are ticketed.

Vote on the motion, Ayes: 5

The meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

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Carla A. Ledesma, City Clerk
Wauwatosa, Wisconsin