



CITY OF WAUWATOSA
TRAFFIC AND SAFETY COMMITTEE
MINUTES • NOVEMBER 26, 2013

Regular Meeting

Committee Room #1

7:00 PM

7725 West North Avenue, Wauwatosa, WI 53213

TRAFFIC AND SAFETY COMMITTEE ITEMS

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
James Moldenhauer	Alderman	Present	
Jeffrey Roznowski	Alderman	Present	
Dennis McBride	Alderman	Present	
Bobby Pantuso	Alderman	Present	
Jason Wilke	Alderman	Present	
William Porter	Public Works Director	Present	

1. Request for a 90-day trial of parking restrictions in the Ravenswood area

The committee reviewed a memo from the Public Works Director regarding a 90-day trial of parking restrictions in the Ravenswood area.

Residents in the Ravenswood neighborhood are requesting that the City post new parking restrictions to address the number of Wisconsin Lutheran College students parking in the neighborhood. Should the City enact additional regulations to address this and other ancillary matters?

Residents in the Ravenswood Neighborhood Association (RNA) have voiced concern with a perceived increase in parking in the neighborhood. The perceived increase in parked cars has occurred since the start of the Zoo Interchange Construction Project and the beginning of the fall semester. This has caused visibility problems for residents entering and exiting their driveways and the neighborhood itself, particularly from 89th Street onto Blue Mound Road.

Early correspondence from the residents in the RNA also expressed concern that emergency response and service vehicles would have trouble navigating with cars parked on both sides of the street. The Fire Department was requested to make a test run and experienced no problems navigating the neighborhood.

Also mentioned in early correspondence was the frequency of cars making u-turns at 89th Street and Blue Mound Road, creating a safety issue for residents leaving the Ravenswood neighborhood. City staff, working in conjunction with the City of Milwaukee, have since placed a temporary "No U-turn" sign in the median at 89th Street and Blue Mound Road. Conversations with Wisconsin Lutheran College and the Milwaukee Regional Medical Complex (MRMC) have indicated that the traffic and parking problems are widespread due to the impact of the Zoo Interchange construction project, in general, and the work on Watertown Plank Road, in particular. Until the Watertown Plank Road work is complete in late 2014, the new "normal" parking and traffic situation may not be clear.

On November 19, 2013, at 9:49 a.m., city staff drove through the neighborhood to survey the area. This visit confirmed the visibility problems when turning from the side streets onto Blue Mound Road, due to cars parking too close to the crosswalks. In addition, staff counted 17 cars parked on 89th Street, five cars parked on Ravenswood Circle, and three cars parked across from the island near Ravenswood Circle and 89th Street. To further complicate the problem, MRMC is requesting that all parking be eliminated on Wisconsin Avenue between 87th and 92nd Streets to ensure that emergency vehicles can get through the traffic. The elimination of this parking will push more parked cars into the neighborhoods.

On August 29 and November 13, 2013, city staff met with officials from Wisconsin Lutheran College and the

Ravenswood Neighborhood Association to discuss the parking concerns and possible resolutions. Area alderpersons attended one or both of the meetings. In a letter sent to the Public Works Director on October 27, 2013 the RNA requested the following:

- A 90-day trial period of two-hour parking restrictions from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., except week-ends and holidays on N. 89th Street to Park Hill Avenue, Ravenswood Circle, to and including Glencoe Place, and Glencoe Circle
- No parking around the island near 89th Street and Ravenswood Circle

The meeting on November 13, 2013 produced further requests including:

- Posted signs 'No Parking from Here to Corner', 15-feet from the crosswalk on the north side corners of Blue Mound Road and Pleasant View Street, Blue Mound Road and Elmspring Avenue, and Blue Mound Road and Robertson Avenue
- Relocate the 'No Parking from Here to Corner' signs on Blue Mound Road and Ravenswood Circle, and Blue Mound Road and Glencoe Circle, further south to allow additional clearance for turning onto Blue Mound Road

Wisconsin Lutheran College is willing to work with the RNA regarding their concerns related to cars parking in their neighborhood. The College believes that parking is a regional issue shared by the Milwaukee Regional Medical College, exacerbated by the construction of the Zoo Interchange. The Lutheran College and Milwaukee County Transit have partnered with Milwaukee Regional Medical Center to provide a shuttle service for students from a remote lot at State Fair Park directly to campus. This shuttle will run every 15 minutes between 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. This service began on November 12, 2013, therefore it is too early to measure its effect on parking. The Lutheran College has also assigned parking spots to all of its faculty members in order to free up space for students. Furthermore, they have incorporated a parking garage into their plans for an additional residence hall which will include 53 parking spots.

The Lutheran College is requesting a minimum of 3-hour parking restrictions in the affected neighborhoods surrounding the campus due to the effect on their student body. There are many occasions that students have labs on Tuesdays and Thursdays that run more than 3 hours. There is not ample time for the students to move their vehicles, resulting in missed instruction time.

Mr. Porter said his preference would be to start with 3-hour parking restrictions and after the 90-day trial see what the results are. His department will take car counts intermittently during the trial period.

The Public Works Director emphasized that the signing will take time to accomplish. It involves placing 50 new signs in the neighborhood, 40 signs on new poles. Mr. Porter said with the frost and snow on the ground the signs will get posted, however, they may be on temporary barricades. He said that this is a large project for this time of the year with leaf removal and snow plowing or salting. He could not promise when it would be completed.

Chief Weber said that whatever parking restrictions are decided on, he'll make sure the parking enforcers are diligent in getting to that neighborhood for enforcement.

Ald. Hanson opined that the neighbors have been dealing with this parking situation for a long time. The preference of the RNA would be parking restrictions from 8:00 - 5:00 with a 2-hour parking limit. Ald. Hanson felt the neighborhood needs to be heard and their concerns addressed. He felt that the MRMC shuttle hours are prohibitive to a lot of the students and the college is going to have to provide additional hours if the shuttle is going to be effective. Ald. Hanson commented that the homeowners on Bel Air Circle are not opposed to extending the parking restrictions to this location as well.

Ald. Walz-Chojnacki agreed with Ald. Hanson. He appreciated that the college is making an attempt to do the right

thing and are making efforts to do so with the shuttle service. He expressed concerns that with the snow and plowing of the roads, these roads are going to get tighter and tighter. He felt the solution is the shuttle with expanded hours. Ald. Walz-Chojnacki was in favor of the 2-hour parking restriction. Because of the problems getting the signs up and the fact that school is almost over for this year, he felt the trial period should start on January 20, 2014, the start of the new semester.

Ravenswood Neighborhood Association members present:

- Diane Morgan, 110 N. 89th Street
- David Paulus, 8733 Glencoe Circle
- Tim Bultman, 115 N. 87th Street
- Judy Randall, 317 N. 89th Street
- John Randall, 317 N. 89th Street
- David Fisher, 8644 Glencoe Circle
- Mary Grisham, 8549 Glencoe Circle
- Mary Paulus, 8733 Glencoe Circle
- Tony Konkol, 8825 Ravenswood Circle
- Dain Maddox, 105 N. 88th Street
- Linda Lavold, 164 N. 89th Street
- Susan Ranft, 8600 Glencoe Circle

Ms. Morgan, spoke on behalf of the RNA, explaining the request of the residents. She said they are requesting two-hour parking from the hours of 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. She said that their neighborhood has been taken over as a parking lot and hoped that the college will have to address the parking problem they have created. The college does not pay taxes to the city and the residents do. The City needs to listen to the residents and restrict parking to two-hours.

Other comments expressed by residents included:

- safety concerns for cars attempting to leave the neighborhood
- property values are declining
- the college should be prohibited from further expansion until the parking situation is satisfactorily addressed
- cars parking on both sides of the street make it difficult to back out of driveways and maneuver through the area
- concern that garbage and recycle pick-up will be hindered due to volume of cars on the streets
- the college shuttle program needs to have expanded hours throughout the day, not just in the morning and afternoon
- concern was raised if emergency vehicles can get through the area in a timely fashion
- concern raised that by signing this area will move the problem elsewhere
- parking only on one side of the street by alternating odd and even days like the City of Milwaukee does
- concerns for pedestrians trying to run across Blue Mound Road, which also causes problems in attempting to leave the neighborhood as there are no marked cross walks in this area
- residents need to be able to park in the street freeing up their driveways for their children to play on
- college has one-hour parking restrictions on a part of Pleasant View where they own most of the homes and the RNA cannot have this same restriction
- college needs to augment the shuttle service shared with the Medical College; in order for the shuttle to be successful it needs to run the hours that school is in session in addition to the hours employees work at the Medical College
- the addition of the new college dormitory does not have enough additional parking for the number of students, additional parking will only hold about 25% of the anticipated growth of 200 students

Jason Van Acker, Wisconsin Lutheran College, clarified a few items of concern from the residents. He said that

growing enrollment is a regional issue shared by the Milwaukee Regional Medical College. The parking issues are also related to the expansion of the Regional Medical Center which has parking problems, pushing parking onto the neighborhood streets as well as the college. This is more evident when school is not in session. The zoo interchange project is also part of the problem north of Blue Mound Road. Contractors have to find parking on the city streets as well.

Mr. Van Acker explained that the college did not take a position on the parking hours, they did not advocate any certain times. He said that the restrictions on Pleasant View were not initiated by the college. These restrictions have been in place many years. He explained that part of the reason is to keep the north-south route clear to the medical center.

Mr. Van Acker addressed a concern expressed that parking on Pleasant View is restricted to one-hour parking and most of these parcels are owned by the college. He appreciated the fact that Bel Air and Pleasant View are going to be addressed as well since they also are areas of concern.

Mr. Van Acker wanted to clarify to the residents that the college did not demand certain parking restrictions. What they did is convey the student and faculty concerns to the city. When the students park in a two-hour spot, instruction time is missed when they have to move their vehicle. The college is encouraging the use of the shuttle to help eliminate this. Mr. Van Acker clarified the operating hours of the shuttle, 7:30 - 8:45 a.m. and 3:00 - 5:30 p.m. which worked for a vast majority of students and faculty. Since the shuttle service is relatively new there is not any data at this time to see how many people are using the shuttle. This information has been requested of the Medical Center.

Mr. Van Acker mentioned that freshmen students are not allowed to have vehicles on campus.

Mr. Van Acker said they would not object to delaying the start of the 90-day trial period until the spring semester starting January 20, 2014. This also gives the college additional time to communicate alternative parking to the students. He was appreciative of the partnership the college has with the MRMC.

Mr. Van Acker replied to a question asked whether the college has any plans to build their own parking lot. He responded that the college is working on a campus master plan process addressing the parking situation. This will include a three prong approach including policy review, new development, and re-examination of green space. Remote parking is being looked at as well as the use of the athletic fields. There will be additional meetings for the public to attend and give their input on the campus master plan. Mr. Van Acker noted that freshmen students are not allowed to have vehicles on campus unless there are extenuating circumstances. The new dormitory for sophomore students will have adequate parking as most sophomore students do not bring vehicles to campus.

Ald. Pantuso opined that the campus grew too quickly without a long term parking solution. He felt there is a need for an expanded shuttle service. He suggested delaying the trial period until spring semester starts on January 20, 2014. Ald. Pantuso recommended that residents communicate with your aldermen during the trial. He also expressed concern that this trial will spread the parking problem out into a new area. He questioned what an additional 50 signs are going to look like in the neighborhood.

The committee discussed at length the parking situation and remedies to be taken. Mass transit is going to be pertinent while the zoo interchange work is being done. The hours of the shuttle service need to be expanded in order to be effective. Morning and evening hours are not sufficient for a college where students go back and forth all day long.

Mr. Porter noted that the department has to get poles and sockets into the ground very soon as the ground is already frozen. He expressed concern that this will move the problem to the other half of Ravenswood area which will not be signed. The committee discussed whether to sign the entire neighborhood but it was decided to wait to see how this trial works since the other half of the neighborhood has not had an opportunity to weigh in on the matter. Mr. Van Acker was asked to look into the possibility of issuing bus passes to students like UW-Milwaukee and MATC do.

The committee asked the college and the residents to please try and work together on this. Information on future meetings discussing the campus master plan needs to be communicated to the neighborhood and the aldermen.

Moved by Ald. Roznowski, seconded by Ald. Pantuso
to approve of a 90-day trial in the Ravenswood Neighborhood Area
with the following stipulations:

- Implement a 2-hour parking restriction between the times of 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., except on week-ends and holidays in accordance with ordinance 11.32.080(m) for 90 days. During the 90-day trial period, staff will take periodic traffic counts in the affected neighborhood to see what changes (if any) have occurred. After the 90-day trial it will be recommended to bring back to the Traffic & Safety Committee for further review. Trial period will begin on January 20, 2014 for 90 days. This includes the newly added area on Bel Air Circle.
- Post signs stating 'No Parking from Here to Corner' 15-feet from the crosswalk in accordance with ordinance 11.32.030(K) on the corners of Blue Mound Road and Please View Street, Blue Mound Road and Elmspring Avenue, and Blue Mound Road and Robertson Avenue.
- Relocate signs stating 'No Parking from Here to Corner' on Blue Mound Road and Ravenswood Circle and Blue Mound Road and Glencoe Circle., approximately 10 - 15 feet further south to allow more clearance for turning onto Blue Mound Road
- Post permanent 'No Parking' signs around the island at N. 89th Street and Ravenswood Circle

Vote on the motion Ayes: 4 Noes: 1 (Wilke)

2. Request for a 90-day trial of an additional No U Turn restriction on Center Street in front of Wauwatosa West and Eisenhower Schools

The committee reviewed a memo from the Public Works Director regarding an additional No U Turn restriction on Center Street in front of Wauwatosa West and Eisenhower Schools.

Mr. Porter advised that in 2012 the City and the School District partnered to retain Ayres and Associates to study school traffic safety in two locations due to concerns expressed by the School District. One of these locations was along Center Street.

The recommendations regarding safety improvements were divided into short and long term improvements. The short term improvements were to install pedestrian islands at key crossing areas, install pedestrian refuge areas at corners that did not have them, and increase signage to be in compliance with the latest Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) standards. This work was done in time for the start of school in September.

One of the tasks performed by the consultant was to review the previous five years of accident data. There was not history of accidents related to abuse of U Turns on Center Street. Some intersections were already posted to prohibit U turns.

Mr. Porter said that two accidents occurred within a month of each other at this location. One of the accidents happened at an intersection already posted No U Turns. The consultant recommended the installation of additional signage here. Mr. Porter said given the concerns expressed by the Police Department and others, it was decided to install the signage immediately. All signs recommended have been put into place.

Moved by Ald. Pantuso, seconded by Ald. Roznowski
to approve of a 90-day trial of No U Turn restrictions
on Center Street in front of Wauwatosa West and
Eisenhower Schools.

The committee hoped that the additional signage would remind parents to follow the rules and be safe while

dropping children off at the schools.

Vote on the motion: Ayes: 5

Carla A. Ledesma, CMC, City Clerk