



CITY OF WAUWATOSA
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TRAFFIC & SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
Tuesday, March 31, 2009

PRESENT: Aids. Jay, McBride, Meaux, Stepaniak - 4

ALSO W. Kappel, Dir. of Public Works; Deputy Chief S. Erke, Fire Dept
PRESENT: J. Archambo, City Admin.

Ald. Meaux in the Chair called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Review of Trial Changes to Parking Restrictions on N. 74th Street North of W. State Street

Mr. Kappel reported on reaction to trial parking changes on the east side of N. 74th Street that were approved at the previous meeting as part of addressing residents' concerns about a planned expansion of Leff's Lucky Town, 7206 W. State. He has received several e-mails regarding the situation as well as a petition requesting removal of no parking restrictions and restoration of former one-hour parking limitations.

William Olmstead, 7423 Wellauer Drive, a member of the Lion's Club at 7336 St. James Street, asked for background on this change and commented on requiring off-street parking when a business expands.

Bernard Grimm, 7325 Blanchard Street, indicated that he gathered 57-58 petition signatures, many from individuals who do not live in the area but use the Lion's Club building or work at area businesses. It has created a hardship for businesses, employees, patrons, and delivery people. Although the committee was told of concerns about emergency vehicle access, he has never observed a problem in over 50 years of residency. There are many similar 26-ft. wide streets that do not have restricted parking, he observed.

Barry Wormington, 8421 Kenyon Avenue, representing the Lion's Club, explained that the club relies on available parking for events and rentals that help support their community fundraising efforts.

Deputy Chief Erke reported that emergency vehicles have no problems negotiating streets in this area except possibly under heavier snow conditions in winter months.

Mr. Kappel explained that the restrictions approved by the committee were put in place on a trial basis with the understanding that neighbors would contact their representatives if issues arose. He has no objection to returning to the previous one-hour restrictions, which would also address another request he received for one-hour restrictions in a small area starting 20 feet north of State Street.

Ald. McBride noted that residents who appeared at several meetings on the Leff's expansion complained of parking problems in this area and were especially concerned about emergency vehicle access. They were promised that this committee would address the issues and would continue to listen. There have been responses both in favor and in opposition to the changes. Repro Tech, 7346 W. State Street, has cited

severe problems with loading and unloading materials, the business at 7350 W. State Street has reported similar problems, and the Lion's Club also has serious concerns. Having heard that the fire department has had no problems on 74th Street, it would seem beneficial to return to the status quo.

Moved by Ald. McBride, seconded by Ald. Stepaniak to amend the existing 90-day trial by restoring the one-hour restrictions formerly in place on the east side of N. 74th Street between W. State Street and Blanchard Street –

Ald. Jay suggested restricting parking during evening hours as another option.

Ald. Stepaniak noted that the committee was trying to be responsive to anticipated issues, and adjustments can still be made once the expansion has actually taken place. As suggested, evening restrictions might be a good compromise.

The Chair reported that Leff's has been actively encouraging patrons to park on the other side of State Street. If behavioral changes continue, further restrictions may not be needed on 74th Street.

Vote on the motion, Ayes: 4

The meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Carla A. Ledesma, City Clerk
Wauwatosa, Wisconsin

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