

CITY OF WAUWATOSA  
7725 WEST NORTH AVENUE  
WAUWATOSA, WI 53213  
Telephone: (414) 479-8917  
Fax: (414) 479-8989

**TRAFFIC AND SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Tuesday, September 10, 2002**

PRESENT: Alds. Becker, Krol, Matthews, McCarthy -4

EXCUSED: Ald. Herzog

ALSO

PRESENT: W. Kappel, Dir. of Public Works

Ald. Krol in the Chair called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

**Completion of 90-Day Trial – Two-Hour Parking on N. 85th Street**

Mr. Kappel, Director of Public Works, reported on the completion of a 90-day trial of no parking on the east side of N. 85th Street from north of 2320 N. 85th Street to W. Meinecke Avenue. The no parking restrictions on the west side of the street were not changed. There is a one-half hour parking restriction on both sides of the street from the alley south to W. North Avenue.

Mr. Kappel reported that many residents of the block have expressed dissatisfaction with the two-hour restriction, and a petition signed by about 70% of the residents of that block has been submitted. Mr. Kappel recommended removing the two-hour parking signs from the east side of the street. He indicated that this is primarily a neighborhood issue; there are no issues of traffic movement or similar concerns. He reported that both district aldermen concur with his recommendation.

Moved by Ald. Matthews, seconded by Ald. McCarthy to remove the two-hour parking signs on the east side of N. 85th Street and place the matter on file. Ayes: 4

**Completion of 90-Day Trial – No Parking Restrictions in 2200 Block of N. 69th Street**

Mr. Kappel, Director of Public Works, reported on the completion of a 90-day trial of new parking regulations in the 2200 block of N. 69th Street. The original trial installation was revised upon feedback from residents. The restrictions now in place prohibit parking from 11:30 p.m. to 2 a.m. on Fridays and Saturdays on the west side of N. 69th Street from 175 feet south of W. North Avenue to the south property line of 2243 N. 69th Street. The southern portion of the west side of the street is available for resident parking. Residents have not complained about the revised restrictions and seem to feel the compromise was a good one., Mr. Kappel said. He recommended making the restrictions permanent.

Sean Milan, 2263 N. 69th Street, said he made the original request and likes the current situation. He indicated, however, that there is a need for enforcement by the police department. The violators seem to be Rosebud Theater patrons, he said.

Capt. Bozicevich was called into the meeting at this point. He said that there is no parking specialist patrolling late in the evening; and if the area squad is busy with other calls or responsibilities, it may be difficult to enforce parking laws. He said that an extra effort would be made to pull a squad from another area if residents called in a complaint.

Moved by Ald. Becker, seconded by Ald. McCarthy to recommend introduction of an ordinance to make the revised restrictions permanent. Ayes: 4

### **Request for No Parking on the North side of Stickney Avenue West of Wauwatosa Avenue**

Mr. Kappel, Director of Public Works, reported on a request by Richard Jacobs, 7700 Stickney Avenue, for a no parking zone on the north side of Stickney Avenue west of Wauwatosa Avenue. The south side of the street is signed for no parking at any time from Wauwatosa to Ludington Avenues. In a letter dated July 17, 2002, Mr. Jacobs requested a no parking zone of four car lengths to address problems with entering and exiting Stickney Avenue from Wauwatosa Avenue.

Mr. Kappel noted that cars are prohibited from parking within 15 feet of a crosswalk, whether marked or unmarked. He reported that he has personally observed vehicles parked across the crosswalk area on the north side of Stickney Avenue, which residents indicate happens quite often. He recommended installing a no parking sign 15 feet from the western edge of the crosswalk to designate the area where parking is prohibited. Doing that would not remove any legal parking.

Mr. Jacobs was present and displayed photos depicting problems such as vehicles parked within the crosswalk area and other vehicles trying to exit or enter Stickney Avenue. He said that he has signatures of about 30 area residents who support his request. He asked that a length equal to at least one more parking space be added to the crosswalk no parking area to provide room to wait for westbound traffic to pass.

Other residents speaking in support of the request were: William Scallon, 7733 Stickney Avenue; Michelle Russ, 7624 Stickney Avenue (who read a letter from Mary Ann Muzi, 2163 Wauwatosa Avenue); Sally Mrkvicka, 8001 Stickney Avenue; Therese Fleissner, 7637 Stickney Avenue; David Lichter, 7627 Stickney Avenue; and Jeff Enders, 7701 Stickney Avenue. Hazardous conditions and concerns about speeding were mentioned. It was noted that the parking situation is particularly bad on Sunday mornings in connection with services at Sts. Constantine & Helen Church on Wauwatosa Avenue.

Dale Schueller, owner of 7606 Stickney Avenue and 2205 Wauwatosa Avenue, spoke of the need for compromise. He opposed any restrictions beyond the required 15 feet. He felt that the problem is one of enforcing existing laws and a sign would not be a sufficient deterrent on Sunday mornings. He said that he depends on being able to park on Stickney Avenue since he has insufficient parking space in his driveway and is not able to park on Wauwatosa Avenue. He noted that there have been no accidents at this location; people have learned to negotiate the area in question by pulling over and waiting for other cars to pass

Ald. Becker said that prohibiting left turns at particular times might be an option, but he felt that signage for the 15 feet west of the crosswalk should first be tried. He suggested calling police about Sunday morning problems or having an announcement made at the church.

Moved by Ald. McCarthy, seconded by Ald. Matthews to request that the Director of Public Works erect a sign designating the crosswalk no parking zone and to hold the matter in file for 60 days to determine the effectiveness of the sign and possible need for additional measures –

Ald. Matthews said that eliminating parking can be an inconvenience. She asked Mr. Kappel to notify the church that the police department will be asked to enforce the parking restriction on Stickney Avenue more aggressively. She noted that speeding is a problem everywhere in the city and suggested contacting the police department for “slow down” yard signs. She requested accident information from the police department for any future discussion.

Vote on the motion, Ayes: 4

### **Request for Stop Signs at W. Argonne Drive and W. Auer Avenue**

Mr. Kappel, Director of Public Works, outlined a request from Ald. Bohl of the City of Milwaukee for consideration of a two-way stop sign for W. Argonne Avenue traffic at W. Auer Avenue. He reported that he investigated the request and found that the intersection does not meet stop sign warrants established by the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices:

- Intersection of a less important road with a main road where the application of the normal right-of-way rule would not be expected to provide reasonably safe operation
- Street entering a through highway or street
- Unsignalized intersection in a signalized area
- High speeds, restricted view, or crash records that indicate a need for control by the stop sign

Mr. Kappel said that he does not recommend stop signs at this intersection, and the traffic engineering department of the City of Milwaukee reached a similar conclusion. Ald. Bohl indicated, however, that Milwaukee has an informal policy of installing stop signs regardless of need if enough residents support their installation. Since the issue in this area seems to be speeding, he felt that other enforcement measures would likely produce better results.

Ray and Barbara Ervin, 3145 N. Argonne Drive, Milwaukee, outlined speeding problems and their concern for the safety of the many children in the area. Mr. Ervin said that everyone except one family that was on vacation signed a petition for the stop sign. He noted the unique situation with three of the four corners controlled by Wauwatosa and said it is not true that there were no accidents at this intersection. He said that a Wauwatosa group home contributes significantly to the speeding problem. He felt that stop signs are mandatory for safety purposes. Mrs. Ervin said she has seen no results from reporting the speeding problems to the Wauwatosa police department.

Ald. Bohl, 2909 N. 79th Street, Milwaukee, cited Milwaukee’s informal policy to provide traffic controls that are requested by area residents and supported by the area alderman. He noted that sometimes there is a discrepancy in accident records. He conceded that traffic controls are not a panacea for speeding issues,

neighbors are often part of the problem, and stop signs may provide a false sense of security and may not be the guiding and saving measure for child safety, but he said that a two-way stop is needed at this intersection.

Ald. Matthews said that she understands the concerns about children but related her experience that the stop sign two houses away from her home does not help with speeding on her street. She was concerned about erecting a stop sign against the recommendation of both Wauwatosa and Milwaukee traffic advisers.

Ald. McCarthy noted that those who are speeding are often the ones who ignore stop signs. He said that it is hard to justify stop signs at this location based on the warrants cited by Mr. Kappel.

Moved by Ald. Becker, seconded by Ald. Matthews to deny the request for stop signs based on failure to meet the warrants.

Ayes: 3; Noes: 1 (McCarthy)

Ald. McCarthy stated that he voted against the motion in the interest intergovernmental cooperation.

The meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

Carla A. Ledesma, City Clerk  
Wauwatosa, Wisconsin

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