

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

TRAFFIC AND SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
Tuesday, April 30, 2002

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

EXCUSED: Ald. McCarthy

ALSO

PRESENT: W. Kappel, Dir. of Public Works; Capt. J. Bozicevich, Police Dept.; Ald. Casey

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

Parking Restrictions in 2200 Block of N. 69th Street

Mr. Kappel, Director of Public Works, reported that Diane L. Milan, 2263 N. 69th Street, has requested that parking be prohibited between 9 p.m. and 2 a.m. on the west side of N. 69th Street from North Avenue south to W. Garfield Avenue. Ms. Milan complained of disruption in connection with Rosebud Cinema's extended hours of operation to 2 a.m. on Friday and Saturday nights. The extended hours were recently approved by the Plan Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals.

Ald. Becker supported a 90-day trial of the requested parking restrictions. He recalled that a change in parking restrictions was one of the first measures taken in a similar situation with a North Avenue business in the past.

Moved by Ald. Becker, seconded by Ald. Herzog to approve a 90-day trial of no parking between 9 p.m. and 2 a.m. on the west side of N. 69th Street from W. North Avenue to W. Garfield Avenue –

Mr. Kappel indicated that parking is allowed on North Avenue after 6 p.m. He felt that the loss of nine spaces on 69th Street would have little impact on businesses.

Vote on the motion, Ayes: 4

School Crossing at N. 90th Street and W. North Avenue

Mr. Kappel reported on a recent accident at the intersection of N. 90th Street and W. North Avenue in which an eastbound motorist struck two children who were crossing with the assistance of a crossing guard, who had stopped traffic at the time. The motorist saw the stopped vehicles in the left lane and had switched to the right lane to go around them when she struck the children. The crossing guard company was contacted and agreed to place a more experienced guard at this intersection, where there had been complaints of multiple guards

being assigned. The new crossing guard was given specialized instruction by the supervisor to help avert further accidents.

Mr. Kappel recommended the purchase of six portable school crossing signs and standards similar to those being used on North Avenue at 73rd Street. They would be placed at the intersection and also at about a half-block before the intersection. Two additional signs would be placed on the corners. The signs would augment the cones that are now being used to identify the school crossing.

Ald. Casey said the issue of school crossing safety is one that the committee has struggled with for many years, and he emphasized the importance of education and enforcement. He noted that the crossing guard at 73rd and North has reported fewer "close calls" with use of the portable signs. The signs would make this intersection more visible and alert motorists to why there is a queue ahead, he said.

Moved by Ald. Matthews, seconded by Ald. Herzog to approve the proprietary purchase and installation of the recommended signs –

In response to questions, Mr. Kappel indicated that current school crossing signage meets standardized traffic manual requirements. There are signs approaching the intersection and at the intersection. He noted that the signs are the new, highly visible chartreuse style. If the portable signs do not fit in the storage box now being used for the traffic cones, additional storage will be added. He estimated that the signs could be in service in 2 ½ to 3 weeks.

Ald. Herzog reported that he has talked with Capt. Sutter about school zone issues and the possibility of setting up an enforcement area with the speed board and police officers with radar.

Capt. Bozicevich indicated support of enforcement measures. He noted that Wauwatosa's pedestrian accident rate remains quite steady at 12-14 accidents per year. A complete report in two weeks will detail pedestrian accidents and provide recent history. He has spoken to the chief and DARE representatives about further traffic safety emphasis in the DARE program.

Asked about the possibility of using taller standards, Mr. Kappel said that option will be kept in mind but there is some concern in connection with handling in high winds. Ald. Herzog noted that a taller sign may not have helped in the case of the recent accident since visibility was blocked by a van.

Vote on the motion, Ayes: 4

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Carla A. Ledesma, City Clerk
Wauwatosa, Wisconsin

es