

CITY OF WAUWATOSA
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**TRAFFIC AND SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
Tuesday, January 14, 2003**

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

EXCUSED: Ald. McCarthy

ALSO

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

Ald. Krol in the Chair called the meeting to order at 7:28 p.m.

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

At the December 3, 2002, meeting, Mr. Kappel was directed to contact parents of children who cross W. North Avenue at 90th Street for feedback regarding potentially moving the 90th Street crossing guard to Swan Boulevard and/or moving the guard from Ludington Avenue to 90th Street as a second guard there. .

Mr. Kappel reported that he sent a survey to McKinley Elementary School families living south of North Avenue from 81st Street to Menomonee River Parkway. A record of the survey responses was provided to the committee. Mr. Kappel noted that those parents who don't use the crossing guards at the locations that would be moved were in favor of moving them. Those that used those crossings were not in favor of moving the guards. A public meeting on the issue on December 16th was attended by eight or nine families. At that time, Mr. Kappel emphasized that a flashing light would not resolve the problem and could add to the confusion due to the proximity of signalized intersections.

A new crossing guard at 90th Street has added some consistency to the corner and seems to have helped the issue along with police efforts to stop speeders. Mr. Kappel noted the need to periodically patrol this intersection to reinforce the school zone, since failure to abide by the school zone signage is what is causing problems. He felt that safer passage could be had at the Swan Boulevard and Ludington Avenue traffic signals. He would not want to take the crossing guard away from those who are using the Ludington Avenue crossing, he said. He reported that the former crossing guard at 90th Street is no longer working in Wauwatosa.

The Chair noted that he advised the City Administrator that the City's crossing guard coordinator would not need to attend tonight's meeting. She could be present at a future meeting, if needed.

John O'Brien, 9028 Stickney Avenue, agreed that the new crossing guard has helped a lot along with the placement of cones to keep cars from passing on the right. He wished it were possible to slow traffic, however.

Patsy Bolte, 8836 Jackson Park Boulevard, said she uses the intersection four times each day and is happy with the crossing guard change. The new guard is friendly and consistent, but speed is still an issue and should be monitored at other times of the day as well. She agreed that the cones are also helpful.

Bob O'Brien Hokanson, 8832 Stickney Avenue, indicated that he is still concerned about potential problems at the intersection. He considers it a relatively less safe place to cross as opposed to crossing at the traffic signal at Ludington Avenue where he has begun crossing with his son. In addition to the issue of speeding, drivers are not recognizing the school zone.

In response to comments by Ald. Herzog, Mr. Kappel indicated that the situation here warrants continued scrutiny. The placement of cones is drawing attention to the area and is slowing traffic, perhaps not to 20 mph but enough to prevent future accidents of the nature of the one last year. He indicated that crosswalk arrow signs would be ordered and installed as soon as possible on both sides of the street.

Moved by Ald. Herzog, seconded by Ald. Becker to direct staff to continue to monitor this intersection and to place the matter on file. Ayes: 4

Mr. Kappel urged those present to call him if they observe any problems or to call the City Administrator's office if there are any crossing guard concerns so that quick action can be taken.

Proposed Ordinance – Removal of Turn Restrictions on W. Burleigh Street at N. 119th Street

The committee reviewed the proposed ordinance amending Sections 11.36.190 and 11.36.210 to remove "No Right Turn" and "No Left Turn" restrictions on W. Burleigh Street at N. 119th Street. Mr. Kappel reported that the signs prohibited turns from 2 to 4 p.m. when a road between J. C. Penney and Briggs & Stratton became a one-way exit. The one-way exiting system is now being eliminated. The signs are tentatively scheduled for removal on January 27.

Moved by Ald. Matthews, seconded by Ald. Becker to recommend adoption. Ayes: 4

The meeting adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

Carla A. Ledesma, City Clerk
Wauwatosa, Wisconsin

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