



Safety Commission MEETING MINUTES

January 8, 2025 - 6:00 PM
Conference Room A/B
3805 S. Casper Drive

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

Caleb Manske called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM

2. ROLL CALL; DECLARATION OF QUORUM; PUBLIC NOTICE

Present: Mary English, Charlotte Kroupa (Alderperson), Caleb Manske (Chair), Matt Newman (SDNB), Lucas Pichler (DPW), Dave Rocklewitz (NBPD), Justin Schulpus (NBFD), Tammy Simonson (Engineering), Anne-Marie St. John

Absent (excused): Charles Garrigues, Mitchell Lataille

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. November 13, 2024 Meeting Minutes

MOTION: Motion to Approve

VOTE: Motion by: Charlotte Kroupa
Second by: Mary English
Motion Passed 9-0

4. OLD BUSINESS

A. None

5. NEW BUSINESS

- A. **25-1** A resident has requested a three-way stop be installed at the intersection of Ranch Road and Gatewood Drive, specifically because of the safety issues created by vehicles using Gatewood Drive as a cut-through between Greenfield Avenue and Sunny Slope Road.

Jake Trucksa (resident) spoke about the concern, noting that the traffic volume on Gatewood Drive was seemingly increasing and that he had concerns about the speeds of the vehicles in the area. Trucksa requested a three-way stop sign be installed at the intersection of Ranch Road and Gatewood Drive to attempt to reduce vehicles' speeds and to make the area safer. Trucksa added that his concerns were also for the children who resided in the area and cited specific safety issues that the speeding vehicles created during the morning hours, during school bus pick up times. Trucksa further added that there were at least two specific vehicles that frequently sped on Gatewood Drive during the morning hours; however, he did not have any descriptions of the vehicles at that time.

Mary English asked what the Safety Commission needed to consider recommending stop signs. Lucas Pichler commented, stating that the requirements to add stop signs were based on crash history and/or traffic volume. Pichler also advised the resident that the addition of stop signs would need to be warranted before the Safety Commission would consider recommending the addition of stop signs. Pichler further added that if stop signs were not warranted, there would be a likelihood of stop sign violations, which could make the intersection more dangerous. Charlotte Kroupa asked if the Engineering Department could conduct a traffic study. Tammy Simonson commented, stating that a traffic study could be conducted; however, it would have to wait until at least the Spring of 2025. Simonson asked if law enforcement could provide a presence in the area to attempt to curtail the speeding concerns. Dave Rocklewitz commented, stating that police officers monitoring the area for speeding violations was an option. Rocklewitz also added that if there were known problem-vehicles, the resident could also contact the Police Department, and an officer could directly follow up with the drivers of the problem-vehicles.

Pichler noted that in the future, most likely around 2029 or 2030, Sunny Slope Road, from Greenfield Avenue to Lincoln Avenue, was scheduled to be reevaluated by the City. Pichler stated at that time, changes to the design of the roadway could be considered, which could include the possibility of adding medians to reduce the traffic volumes on Gatewood Drive.

There was a Motion to have the Engineering Department conduct a traffic study in the Spring, and for the Police Department to provide additional presence and/or enforcement, to possibly include the use of a Speed Sentry sign.

MOTION: Motion to Approve

VOTE: Motion by: Lucas Pichler
Second by: Justin Schulpus
Motion Passed 9-0

Citizens providing comments on this issue: Jake Trucksa, 1612 S. Ranch Road

6. TABLED ITEMS

- A. 24-16** Multiple residents have requested consideration for the installation of stop signs or yield signs at the intersection of Pleasant Hill Drive and Greenhill Road, due to the dangerousness of the intersection. (Tabled for traffic study in Spring 2025)

Not discussed

- B. 24-17** A resident has requested no parking signs be installed on Hillendale Drive (north of College Avenue) and on Racine Place (north of College Avenue), due to parked vehicles blocking other drivers' views and making the intersections unsafe. (Tabled for information gathering)

MOTION: Motion to Take item from table

VOTE: Motion by: Tammy Simonson
Second by: Lucas Pichler
Motion Passed 9-0

Simonson provided an update on Item 24-17, which had been tabled for information gathering. Simonson indicated that she had called The Local; however, she was unable to make contact with anyone and did not receive a return call. Simonson indicated that she contacted the City of Muskego Department of Public Works and received a response. Simonson stated that the response from the City of Muskego indicated that when the owners of The Local took over occupancy, they were not required to expand their parking lot but chose to do so anyway to create additional parking for customers. Simonson also stated that the response from the City of Muskego indicated that the "No Parking" signs on Hillendale Drive and on School Drive were added in 2022. Simonson indicated that she also contacted the Waukesha County Department of Public Works and received a response. Simonson stated that the response from Waukesha County indicated that there were no parking ordinances that would prohibit parking on CTH H/College Avenue. Simonson also stated that Waukesha County indicated that for parking issues to be enforced on CTH H/College Avenue, an ordinance would need to be passed by Waukesha County and "No Parking" signs would need to be added.

Simonson stated that she researched crash data in the area of College Avenue and Hillendale Drive. Simonson advised that she located a total of four reportable crashes at or near the intersection, which occurred in New Berlin, between 2000 – 2024. Of those four crashes, which occurred in 2002, 2011, 2022, 2024, zero were related to parked vehicles. Simonson also stated that from the Wisconsin Department of Transportation Community Maps (which included accidents that occurred in New Berlin and in Muskego), between 2019 – 2024, there were a total of four reportable crashes (two of which were previously noted) at or near the intersection.

Simonson stated that from a safety standpoint, parked vehicles did not appear to be creating a safety hazard, but instead more of a nuisance for residents in the area. Charlotte Kroupa inquired about installing "No Parking" signs on Hillendale Drive and/or Racine Place, which

could restrict when vehicles could and could not be parked at those locations. Kroupa added that by doing this, it could allow those who reside on Hillendale Drive and/or Racine Place the option to still utilize the roadways for parking during some hours of the day. Kroupa further advised that Alderman Harenda was also aware of the concern and wished to for possible consideration of the addition of "No Parking" signs, to assist the New Berlin residents.

Caleb Manske asked if adding "No Parking" signs was for a verifiable safety concern, otherwise, he did not believe the Safety Commission should be making the recommendation for adding signage. Manske further added that if the concern was not directly related to a verifiable safety concern, but instead more of a quality-of-life concern, the Common Council could still independently decide to have "No Parking" signs installed. Kroupa confirmed that even without a recommendation from the Safety Commission for adding signage, Alderman Harenda could bring the concern before the Common Council, and they could make a decision on the matter.

A motion was made to take no action as the Safety Commission, due to lack of data to support the safety concern, but instead refer the concern to Alderman Harenda for additional consideration.

MOTION: Motion to Approve

VOTE: Motion by: Justin Schulpus
Second by: Matt Newman
Motion Passed 9-0

- C. 24-18** A resident has requested consider for the installation of speed humps on Horizon Drive, due to speeding vehicles. (Tabled for traffic study)

Not discussed

7. SET MEETING DATE

- A.** Wednesday, February 12th, 2025

8. ADJOURN

MOTION: Motion to Adjourn at 7:00 PM

VOTE: Motion by: Lucas Pichler
Second by: Tammy Simonson
Motion Passed 9-0

