

**CITY OF NORWALK
BIKE/WALK COMMISSION
DECEMBER 4, 2017**

ATTENDANCE: Nancy Rosett, Chair; Jud Aley; Kevin Kane; Peter Libre;
Peter Franz (6:05 p.m.); Colin Grotheer (6:13 p.m.)

EX OFFICIO MEMBERS: Theresa Argondezzi (Acting director of Health)

STAFF: Kaitlin Latham, Health Education Associate, Health
Department; Paul Sotnik, Senior Civil Engineer, DPW

OTHERS: Brad Craighead; Deborah Lewis

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Rosett called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. A quorum was present.

PUBLIC INPUT

Mr. Craighead spoke about plans for cross walks in the Wall Street area, including East Avenue, near St. Paul's Church and on Park Street near the Congregational Church.

Mr. Franz joined the meeting at 6:05 p.m.

Mr. Craighead explained that there are a number of neighborhood associations in Norwalk and he started one for the area around the Green.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – November 6, 2017

The following correction was made to the minutes: Page 1, last sentence should read – the City received seven responses...

**** MR. FRANZ MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES AS CORRECTED
** DR. LIBRE SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Bike Plan

There was nothing to report this evening.

B. Bike Share

Ms. Rosett reported that they had seven responses to the RFP. The Committee met and narrowed it down to three vendors who will come in for face to face interviews in January.

Mr. Grotheer joined the meeting at 6:13 p.m.

The Commissioners discussed the pros and cons of dockless and docking systems. A requirement of the RFP is that there is no cost to the City. Ms. Rosett noted that the program in New Haven is at no cost to the City.

One of the questions in the RFP is what to do about unbanked people without cell phones. Dr. Libre explained that everyone has a cellphone with the capability of texting.

Mr. Aley talked about proposed docking locations. Ms. Rosett said she would like to invite the public to weigh in on the locations. The idea would be to start in a small area and build momentum. Dr. Libre suggested putting a docking system in the restaurant area/Washington Street.

C. DPW Liaison

Ms. Rosett reported that the dedicated left turn lane out of Mathews Park was created to relieve the stacking problem.

Maple Street shoulders have been striped.

Ms. Rosett, Mr. Aley and Mr. Craighead met with the Redevelopment Agency to discuss plans for cross walks for the Wall Street area. Redevelopment has plans for a crosswalk in the same place. They also support the idea of slowing down the traffic coming down the East Wall Street hill.

Mr. Aley asked about the shoulder width near the hospital. Mr. Sotnik explained that it varies depending upon the location.

This Committee will not meet during the month of December.

D. NCC

Mr. Sotnik explained that the painted parking spaces near NCC are essentially complete. He demonstrated how the site lines for a cross walk are inadequate on Richards Avenue. Ms. Rosett added that the problem is the curve on the road. DPW will look into adding signs north of the campus on Richards Avenue indicating a pedestrian zone.

E. Pedestrian Plan

Ms. Lewis reported they had an organizational meeting this evening. They brainstormed elements of the plan and expect to come up with a plan within the next few months.

F. Safety/Outreach

Mr. Aley reported they had a meeting and everyone agreed they want to start to promote what has been accomplished recently. They want to let the public know they are working with Public Works. Mr. Rosett suggested letting people know about the Public Works Customer Service app.

Mr. Aley said the Committee discussed getting publicity about what the group is doing and to get the message out to the schools.

Ms. Rosett suggested talking to the City about creating a budget and having specific initiatives in mind.

G. Strategic Plan

Ms. Rosett said the Committee will not meet until April when they'll work on the evaluation of the progress on the strategic plan. The evaluation will be input into the annual report we're required to give to the Common Council.

H. Website

Mr. Franz reported that he and Ms. Latham updated the goals. They are working on finding ways to promote achievements and getting the word out that the entity is making the City better. He added that they have not yet had an opportunity to work on the maps. Ms. Latham explained that there are problems updating the website.

WALKING UPDATE

Ms. Latham reported that they are holding a four mile walk in Silvermine once a month on Saturdays at 9:00 a.m. led by Ms. Lewis. She said that she and Ms. Lewis will meet in January regarding walk leaders.

A proposal was submitted for presentation at the NE Bike Walk Summit at the end of April in Boston. Ms. Latham will let the Commission know when she hears back from them.

PLACESFORBIKES CITY SNAPSHOT

Ms. Rosett said that Mayor Rilling received an e-mail from People for Bikes because they are doing an audit of cities across the country. Ms. Rosett asked the Commissioners to review the survey before it is sent back. The Commissioners held a discussion and reviewed the responses.

Mr. Craighead suggested adding Cranbury Park to the docking station plan. Ms. Rosett said she will talk to Mr. Hughes in Recreation and Parks. Dr. Libre asked about the possibility of creating a bike park for kids, similar to the skate park at the beach. Mr. Aley said the Committee is talking about that. Ms. Rosett asked Mr. Aley to talk to Mr. Waldman about participating in the bike share initiative.

INTERSECTION OF WATER STREET AND THE STROFOLINO BRIDGE

Ms. Rosett explained that if you are on Water Street, heading toward The Maritime Aquarium, there is a bike lane that turns right to go over the bridge. She said she has concerns about pedestrians

crossing there. Mr. Sotnik talked about the improvements made by Public Works. He said they put in shark teeth ahead of the cross walk that alerts people that something is coming up.

Ms. Rosett said they talked about putting cat tracks to indicate that bike traffic may be going straight and not turning and putting a bike box across where traffic would stop at the intersection. Ms. Rosett said Mr. Chimento is not in favor of this because of the inadequate lane width. She added that he is not in favor of any of the ideas proposed. She said the choices are to meet with Mr. Chimento and Mayor Rilling or drop it.

Mr. Franz said they proposed more solutions that might better meet the needs of the public. Mr. Sotnik explained that Mr. Chimento said that there is nothing to connect to going north. They need to put something in that makes an argument for connecting. Mr. Aley suggested putting sharrows on North Water Street.

**** DR. LIBRE MOVED TO MEET WITH MAYOR RILLING AND INVITE MR. CHIMENTO**
**** MR. ALEY SECONDED**
**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

A guest asked if North Water Street will be changed to one-way traffic because of all the additional apartments. She said people have been run over. Mr. Sotnik asked if there have been any Police reports of people being run over. She said she did not want to be the first one. Mr. Aley said that one-way streets tend to increase traffic.

Mr. Aley suggested talking about placing sharrows on North Water Street in the spring. Ms. Rosett said that due to the moving of the IMAX theater, the entire street may be a mess and suggested waiting. Mr. Aley said that sharrows are not that expensive.

Dr. Libre spoke about a letter of thanks in *The Hour* by a runner who indicated that roads designated for bikes, also makes it safer for runners.

ADJOURNMENT

**** MR. KANE MOVED TO ADJOURN**
**** MR. ALEY SECONDED**
**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

There was no further business and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemarie Lombardi
Telesco Secretarial Services