

**CITY OF NORWALK  
BIKE/WALK COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
FEBRUARY 5, 2018**

**ATTENDANCE:** Nancy Rosett, Chair; Peter Franz, Colin Grotheer, Kevin Kane, Peter Libre; Judson Aley

**OTHERS:** Paul Sotnik, Civil Engineer Public Works Department; Steve Kleppin, Planning and Zoning Director; Kaitlin Latham, Health Department; Deanna D'Amore, Director of Public Health; Tim Sheehan, Executive Director Redevelopment Agency; Gunner Waldman and Monika Stokes

**CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. Rosett called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m. A quorum was present.

**PUBLIC INPUT**

There was no one from the public present at this time.

**2. APPROVAL OF JANUARY 8TH MINUTES**

Page 1 Change "Kaitlyn" to "Kaitlin"

**\*\* MR. ALEY MOVED TO APPROVE THE JANUARY 8, 2018 MINUTES AS AMENDED. SECONDED BY PETER FRANZ.  
\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**3. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**a. Walking Update**

**\*\* MS. ROSETT MOVED TO TAKE THE WALKING UPDATE NEXT ON THE AGENDA.  
\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Ms. Latham stated that Silvermine had their monthly walk this past weekend. The next walk is scheduled for Saturday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>. They usually walk two or three miles and then meet for breakfast.

Ms. Latham stated that she met with several parties that want to help with the NorWALKer program and expand it.

Ms. Latham stated that we have started a pedestrian plan draft. We are working to refine the plan and identify goals we would like to achieve.

Ms. Latham stated that she was contacted by the Watch for Me CT campaign to participate in a meeting at DOT headquarters. Ways to help provide information for a media campaign will be discussed at the meeting.

Ms. Latham stated that she will be one of the keynote speaker at the Annual Connecticut Bike/Walk Summit. She will be speaking about the NorWALKer program.

Ms. Latham introduced Ms. D'Amore as the new Director of Public Health.

#### **a. Bike Plan**

Mr. Grotheer stated that he met with Mike Heslin and Mike Mushak last week to finalize the priorities for 2017-18 and look at fiscal year 2018-19. Mr. Grotheer will punch in the budget numbers for the next fiscal year. They looked at western and northern directions for starters. Mr. Grotheer will have answers on the next budget allocations the next time the Commission meets.

#### **b. Bike Share**

Ms. Rosett stated that the team interviewed the top three vendors and have narrowed it down to two. They will meet with the Mayor and Laoise King on Thursday. They want to have someone from the City designated to head the program for the City. Most of the vendors have a three month start up so we can get things started by the time most people consider bicycling weather.

#### **c. DPW Liaison**

Ms. Rosett stated that now that we have a Bicycle Plan Subcommittee, we no longer need to meet monthly with DPW as we did when we were a task force. She stated that the Bike Plan subcommittee will continue to meet with DPW as needed and give reports at this meeting. Ms. Rosett stated that if we need to meet with the DPW we can have a Special Meeting and publish an agenda.

Ms. Rosett stated that she would add a recurring DPW update to upcoming agendas.

#### **d. NCC**

Mr. Sotnik stated that the NCC pedestrian signs have been installed. Ms. Rosett stated that parking spaces have been done. Additional crosswalks could not be put in due to inadequate sight lines. So we can disband this committee.

#### **e. Pedestrian Plan**

Mr. Libre stated that we should look at a plan to make MLK Drive two lanes. A pedestrian was killed while crossing MLK Drive within the last six months. Reducing the number of lanes may prevent pedestrian deaths in the future.

Mr. Libre stated that the intersection of East Avenue with Westport Avenue is being made into a wider radius so that cars could travel faster by the State. Faster turns are more likely to kill pedestrians. The project has reduced pedestrian safety. It has not been money well spent.

#### **f. Safety/Outreach**

Mr. Aley stated that we would like to publicize our win on Maple Street project. We got the lanes narrowed on Maple Street, and crosswalks on streets perpendicular to Maple Street. Mr. Kane reviewed information that could be given to reporters in regards to the project.

#### **g. Strategic Plan**

No report was given.

#### **h. Website**

Mr. Franz stated that he did not have a website update. Since he's been working in New York City he has been using the NYC Citi Bike service. It has been a massive success.

### **4. OLD BUSINESS**

#### **b. Washington and Water**

Ms. Rosett stated that the item was inadvertently added to the agenda.

#### **c. Crosswalk on Wall St. at Knight**

Mr. Sotnik stated that the crosswalk will be added to the DPW list items that need to be completed. The item may need to go through the Traffic Authority.

#### **d. Bike Trough Repair**

Mr. Aley stated that the rails are hanging over the trough. People are currently not able to walk their bikes up the stairs. Many people are carrying their bikes up the stairs. The Redevelopment Agency and DPW will work together to implement the solution that has been approved by the original vendor.

### **5. NEW BUSINESS**

#### **a. Bike Walk Commission Review Wall West Redevelopment Plan Restatement**

Mr. Sheehan stated that the vision of the plan is to add to community character, economic development, and connectivity. He stated that there are opportunity sites within the neighborhood that could be used for redevelopment with capital investments. He stated that the public can comment on the plan on the City website.

Mr. Sheehan stated that priorities of the design guidelines include sidewalks, bike lanes, green infrastructure, street furniture, lighting, signage, public space, and gateway treatments.

Mr. Sheehan stated that opportunity sites include the former YMCA site, the library block, the transit hub and the commercial plaza at Hoyt, Cross and Main Street. He stated that anchor institutions within the neighborhood include the Norwalk Hospital, Stepping Stones Museum, and the Library.

#### **b. Pumptrack**

Mr. Gunnar Waldman came forward in support of the item. He stated that the pumptrack is a circuit of off-road terrain consisting of banked turns. He stated that a pumptrack loops back on itself. He stated that they can be relatively simple to construct and cater to a wide variety of ages and skill levels. He stated that they are popular in town-owned parks and schools. He stated that the tracks can be constructed of dirt, asphalt or concrete, or modular. He gave an overview of pricing for each option.

Ms. Monika Stokes came forward in support of the item. She stated that there are several parks in the City that could be considered as good locations for a pumptrack. She stated that the amount of available space in each park needs to be taken into consideration as well as proximity to possible users of the pumptrack.

## **6. ADJOURNMENT**

**\*\* MR. KANE MOVED TO ADJOURN.**  
**\*\* MR. GROTHEER SECONDED THE MOTION.**  
**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Next meeting: March 5, 2018

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p. m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Blaney  
Telesco Secretarial Services