

**CITY OF NORWALK  
BIKE/WALK COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
MAY 7, 2018**

ATTENDANCE: Nancy Rosett, Chair; Colin Grotheer; Mike Heslin; Deborah Lewis; Peter Libre; Gunnar Waldman

OTHERS: Bruce Chimento, DPW Director; Paul Sotnik, Civil Engineer DPW; Kaitlin Latham, Health Dept.; Dorothy Wilson, Senior Planner; Tim Sheehan, Executive Director Redevelopment Agency; Chris Biscvglie; Jim Carter, NRVT

**CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. Rosett called the meeting to order at 6:01PM.

**1. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

**3. CHAIR'S REPORT**

Ms. Rosett reported and said that Kevin Kane has resigned from the commission and he had sent an email stating that it was not as a result of having any issues with anyone on the commission personally or the efforts, he just feels he needs to reduce and narrow his efforts to focus on areas and initiatives that he believes can have the most tangible impact. She said that there is now a vacancy on the commission and that Mayor Rilling would have to appoint a replace for Mr. Kane subject to the Approval of the Common Council. His term ends on June 30, 2019. She asked anyone to contact her if with recommendations for a replacement and suggested if possible to find someone that is more of a walking advocate because the commission is skewed to the biking side.

Ms. Rosett reported and said that there are four topic workshops regarding the POCD and said that it is especially important for the members of the commission attend the workshop on May 31, 2018 which is on Connected & Complete work. Mr. Heslin asked if the meeting is open to the public. Ms. Wilson said "yes" and the purpose of the meeting is to get input from the public. Ms. Rosett said that up to this point there was a citywide meeting in November and then there were neighborhood meetings over the winter in which each neighborhood had input which was

the input for the visioning document. Now the consultant is focusing in on some very specific areas and is very much looking for public input to each of those areas. She said that the POCD will govern what the city does for the next ten years and also affects the capital budget.

Ms. Rosett said that the commission is jointly sponsoring a walk with the Arts Commission. We will be looking at public art in the Merritt 7 office complex and will also be working on a pedestrian checklist so that we can begin to evaluate the conditions for pedestrians. She said that she has been working with Mayor Rilling and his wife and she is hoping that this walk will be one of their Saturday morning walks.

Ms. Rosett said that Mr. Sotnik has been working very hard on the GIS map and asked the commission when they have a chance to go onto our website and look at the map. If they find anything they would like to see changed to either contact her or Mr. Sotnik.

Mr. Libre arrived at 6:05PM

## **2. APPROVAL OF APRIL 2<sup>ND</sup> MINUTES**

**\*\* MR. GROTHEER MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES.**

**\*\* MR. LIBRE SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

## **4. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **a. Bike Plan**

There was no report.

### **b. Bike Share**

Ms. Rosett said at the last Public Works committee meeting Mr. Pujol and Mr. Finelli of P3GM had made a presentation to the committee and a draft contract will be send to the vendor to be sure they are in agreement with the terms of the contract. She said that DPW will be working with the Legal Department on the contract and that it will go for approval to send to the Common Council at the next Public Works Committee on June 5<sup>th</sup>.

### **c. DPW Open House**

Mr. Heslin said that it is in progress and asked if anyone else would like to help him in Mr. Kane's absence. Ms. Rosett suggested reaching out to the Kiwanis Club because they were able to provide bike helmets to give away and she will send them an e-mail

outlining what we will be doing. Ms. Latham said that she will also contact The Connecticut Children's Medical Center and they have a lot of bike safety things for kids. Mr. Heslin said he would like to have a better location at the open house and do safety checks. Ms. Rosett suggested that he work with Mr. Sotnik on the location.

**d. Pedestrian Plan**

Ms. Rosett said that last month Ms. Lewis presented the draft pedestrian plan and that several of the committee members had sent comments into her in which she has incorporated into the plan. Ms. Lewis said that Mr. Libre suggested that a short list of high priorities be added in which she has done and also identified and underscored the top priorities.

**e. Pump Track**

Mr. Waldman said that there is a meeting scheduled for tomorrow at 8:00AM with Mr. Hughes to discuss site selection and he has proposed Andrews Field, they are continuing to work on their presentation that will be going out to corporate sponsors. Mr. Chimento said that there dates that Andrews field is used as a practice area for Norwalk High School band. Mr. Libre suggested Calf Pasture Beach as a location for the pump track as it has activities for other members of the family who might accompany the users of the pump track.

**f. Safety/Outreach**

Ms. Biscuglie said she had a table at the Mt. Zion Health Fair which was co-sponsored by the Norwalk YMCA and she had given out a basic bike checklist in English and Spanish. She said that she had learned a lot from the kids that had attended and their needs. She demonstrated the proper way to wear a helmet.

**g. Strategic Plan**

Ms. Rosett presented the evaluation of the current year's plan and asked if anyone had attended any of the POCD public meetings and if there are any other accomplishments towards the goals for the current fiscal year to send them to her.

Ms. Rosett presented the goals and sub-goals for 2018-19 and said the overall goals come from the ordinance but the particulars that we plan to do will change. It was the recommendation of the committee to add develop and post standardized signage for bicycle parking facilities, and funding requests in accordance with the specified initiatives in the POCD.

**\*\* MR. LIBRE MOVED TO APPROVE THE ADOPTION OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN FOR 2018-2019 WITH THE TWO RECOMMENDED ADDITIONS.**

**\*\* MR. GROTHEER SECONDED THE MOTION**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**h. Website**

There was no report.

**5. OLD BUSINESS**

**a. Walking Update**

Ms. Latham said there was a walk led by Ms. Lewis this past Saturday in Silvermine and that the next walk is scheduled for June 2<sup>nd</sup> at they typically meet at 8:00AM at Silvermine School, but if anything changes she will let the committee know. She said that they had done a lot in the month of April to promote the NorWALKer program. Also, there were three big events and she provided the details of the events. She said over the weekend the Whittingham Cancer Walk was held where the Norwalk Hospital passed out the NorWALKer maps to some of their patients. She is going to see if the Cancer Center would like to become a walk leader. She said that she will also be sending out letters to different organizations throughout Norwalk to see if there is anyone interested in taking ownership of a neighborhood to become a walk leader.

**b. DPW Update**

Mr. Chimento provided an update and said that they have developed a plan this year listing all of the active projects that DPW is working on for this year with assigned engineers and they will be meeting next week to discuss. He said that it does not include any of the state projects or the Walk Bridge.

Mr. Chimento said that the Tree Advisory Committee will be a tree planting at St. Johns Cemetery along Richards Avenue on Tuesday, May 15, 2018 at 10:00AM.

Mr. Chimento said that the Tree Alliance Committee will be holding their annual open house at Fodor Farm on June 28<sup>th</sup> from 6:00PM-7:30PM and there will also be a dedication ceremony held for Hal Alvord at 5:00PM.

Mr. Chimento said that they are working on the bike share program and will be putting the legal documents together. He said that he has met with Mr. Wrinn of Planning & Zoning and he has confirmed that it could also include private property and not be in violation of zoning.

Mr. Chimento said that the sidewalks on Highland Avenue have been completed and that the parking lot at Roton Middle School will be done once school as ended for the year.

**c. Crosswalk on Wall Street @ Knight Street**

Mr. Chimento said that he has requested that the Redevelopment Agency fund half of the project cost to install the crosswalk and that he will have an answer by the end of June related to the funding, and that he will send the design drawings to Ms. Rosett.

**d. Bike Trough Repair**

Mr. Chimento said that Mr. Yeosock is working on the bike trough repair. Ms. Rosett asked if Mr. Yeosock has contacted the vendor. Mr. Chimento said he believes so but that he will confirm with Mr. Yeosock.

**e. Intersection of Water and Washington Streets**

Mr. Grotheer presented the map of the intersection of Water and Washington Streets and discussed the bike lane continue straight in hopes to get a continuation of the lane line across the street. He also recommends a bike box installed in the future. Ms. Rosett said it was the recommendation of Mayor Rilling that Mr. Grotheer come up with a proposal and present it to the Traffic Authority and then submit it to the State for approval. There was further discussion and it was decided that Mr. Grotheer would send the map to Mr. Chimento and Mr. Sotnik for further review.

## **6. NEW BUSINESS**

**a. Norwalk River Valley Trail (NRVT)**

Mr. Carter said that the next section of the Norwalk River Valley Trail has been completed and they are working with the DOT to extend the work beyond Wilton and Redding. The section from Union Park for New Canaan Avenue is moving slowly but should be completed by the fall 2018. He said that there is a need for signage on Pine Island for the east branch of the NRVT, and the Norwalk section of the trail will be off

the road with the exception of the piece from Calf Pasture Beach to the Maritime Aquarium. He said that they are looking to install kiosks at the Maritime Aquarium and Calf Pasture Beach for NRV information. They would also like to install trail guide signs along the streets.

Mr. Grotheer suggested that center lines be installed on the trail in Oyster Shell Park.

**b. Options for Traffic Calming and a Crosswalk for East Ave between Wall and Route 1.**

The item was tabled until next month.

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:55PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd  
Telesco Secretarial Services