

**CITY OF NORWALK
BIKE/WALK COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
JULY 2, 2018**

ATTENDANCE: Nancy Rosett, Chair; Peter Libre; Jud Aley; Colin Grotheer; Vincent Scicchitano

OTHERS: Deanna D'Amore, Director, Health Department; Bruce Chimento, DPW Director; Paul Sotnik, Civil Engineer DPW; Tim Sheehan, Executive Director, Redevelopment Agency; Jackie Lightfield, Norwalk 2.0

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Rosett called the meeting to order at 6:04PM.

Ms. Rosett welcomed Mr. Scicchitano and said that he is newest member to the committee.

1. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Lightfield said that she heads special projects for the City of Stamford and one of the projects is to expand on what is currently being done with bike share, and they have brought in Lime Bike and they are not only looking at dock less bike share but are also looking at scooters. She said they will be doing a pilot program sometime this summer depending on the logistics, and they are looking at the scooters primarily as an opportunity to solve the last mile issue. She suggested coordinating with what the City of Norwalk and the City of Stamford is doing so that there are not multiple vendors competing along the Metro North line, and to also get the consistent experience and if the committee is interested she suggested they invite Lime Bike in to do a presentation on their electric scooters and their dock less bikes which include electric bikes. She said there is no cost to the city for the program and they are not looking for any contractual relationship with any municipalities but are looking to partner with organizations that will help to navigate these types of mobility solutions.

2. APPROVAL OF JUNE 4TH MINUTES

**** MR. ALEY MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES.**

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

3. CHAIR'S REPORT

Ms. Rosett reported and said that the Redevelopment Agency had provided a list of the bike racks in the city, and the next step is to take someone from DPW around to determine where signage should be installed because some of them are not easily found and said if there is anyone on the commission that would like to help to let her know. Mr. Aley said that there is a bike rack in the Maritime Garage and requested it be moved outside so that it will be more likely to be used.

Ms. Rosett said that there was a walk that was jointly sponsored by the Art Commission a few weeks ago in the Merritt 7 area, and more than 50 people had attended and that she had sent them an email thanking everyone that attended the walk, and she has also added them to the commission's mailing list. She said there was an also a brief survey asking how they enjoyed the walk and she included the responses that she had received. She said they are now looking at the pedestrian audit and once Ms. Latham returns it will be posted to the website. She said that the Arts Commission would be interested in sponsoring another walk with the commission if interested. There was discussion ensued and it was decided that Ms. Rosett will contact Ms. Wallerstein and schedule another walk.

Ms. Rosett presented and discussed the operating budget and she and Ms. D'Amore will be meeting her financial person to discuss the procedures for spending the funds, and if there are things that the committees are working on that they need money for to let her know.

Mr. Sotnik presented and discussed the capital budget. Mr. Libre said Richards Avenue is now ready for bike lanes. Mr. Grotheer asked if the capital budget is limited to bike safety improvements. Mr. Chimento said it could also be used for signs. Mr. Grotheer asked if it could be used for flexible bollards or delineators. Mr. Chimento said "yes"

Ms. Rosett presented the letter that the Executive Director of the Norwalk River Valley Trail requested that the committee write a letter in support of the Connecticut Trails and Greenways program in which they would receive money from.

**** MR. GROTHEER MOVED TO AUTHORIZE MS. ROSETT TO SEND THE LETTER ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION.**

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Ms. Rosett said that the commission is mandated by the ordinance to report annually to the Common Council and she has sent the evaluation regarding the strategic plan for the past year to
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them along with strategic plan for the upcoming year. Mr. Chimento suggested that the commission go through a committee such as the Health, Welfare and Public Safety so that there is a recommendation by a committee to the Common Council.

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Bike Plan

Mr. Chimento provided an update on the contract for P3GM and said that he is waiting on the document from the Legal Department saying they will not create a contract until the Common Council approves the concept.

Ms. Rosett said that Lime Bikes was one of the vendors that had responded to the RFP for the bike share program but were not one of the final three that were invited in to make a presentation partly because they have not been in existence long and the committee was firmly against a dockless system because there have been a number of municipalities that have had significance problems with dockless. She also suggested holding off on the scooter until the bike share program is launched.

b. Bike Share

Mr. Sotnik said that they have sent all the information to Safety Markings to begin the pavement markings in the Marvin and Pine Hill areas. He provided an update on East Avenue regarding moving the parking to the opposite side of the street on the lower half from Cottage Street to Seaview Avenue and that there is an issue and will most likely put the bike lane on the south side of the street

c. DPW Open House

There was no discussion.

d. Norwalk River Valley Trail (NRVT)

There was no discussion.

e. Pedestrian Plan

There was no discussion.

f. Pump Track

Ms. Rosett said the committee is working with Parks and Recreation to find a location and they are also working on raising money to create the pump track.

g. Safety/Outreach

Ms. Rosett said that Mr. Scicchitano may be interested in joining the safety and outreach committee. Mr. Aley said that he would welcome the help. Ms. Rosett said that Ms. Biscyglie is an American League of bicyclist trained instructor and she has been helping with a summer program and said if there is anyone that is available during the day and would like to help with the program to let her know. Mr. Scicchitano said he would be interested in joining the committee and that safety and outreach is important because if people don't feel safe they will not use the bike lanes. He also said there are so many areas that they can grow on regarding outreach and suggested partnering with the schools to teach kids to ride bikes.

h. Strategic Plan

Ms. Rosett said that Ms. D'Amore has agreed to take over the committee and they are working on getting it into the Health Departments format so that it has more detail on the steps that will be taken on each of the objectives with timeframes, and she hopes to have it committee at the August meeting for review.

I. Website

There was no discussion.

5. OLD BUSINESS

a. Walking Update

Ms. D'Amore said that the Norwalk Hospital has been using the NorWALKer maps for their employee wellness and have been doing lunch walks and have been very favorable to them and have been promoting them within their staff.

Ms. Rosett said that the NorWALKing program which is the walks before the Wednesday night concerts at the beach started last Wednesday and they are held at 6:15PM and the

walkers receive a raffle ticket for a \$15 gift certificate to Ripkas and that two are raffled off each Wednesday.

b. DPW Update

Ms. Rosett asked what the status is regarding the crosswalk from Park Street to the green. Mr. Chimento said that it was denied by the First Taxing District.

c. Crosswalk on Wall Street @ Knight Street

Mr. Chimento said the crosswalk is in process. Ms. Lightfield asked if there is an estimated time when it will be completed. Mr. Chimento said “no”.

d. Bike Trough Repair

There was no discussion.

e. Bike Lanes on Wall Street

Mr. Libre discussed the plan that he had received for the Redevelopment Agency and said the plan does not have any bike lanes but does have the width sufficient for bike lanes and said to have them there would need to be parallel parking on both sides of the street. Mr. Chimento said at this point there has nothing been presented to him for a design and there is no project or plan that he is aware of. Mr. Sheehan said that the plan has never been approved by anyone at the city level and the developer’s consultants have come up with the concept and there is a host of issues associated with the plan.

6. NEW BUSINESS

a. Appointment of Liaisons

Mr. Rosett said that she had requested appointing liaisons to Planning & Zoning, DPW and Redevelopment so that there is a commissioner who can interface more closely during commission meetings with each of the groups and make suggestions. Mr. Grotheer said that he will work with Redevelopment; Mr. Aley said he would work with Planning and Zoning and Ms. Rosett said that she will work with DPW.

Ms. Rosett said that Mr. Libre's term ended on June 30, 2018 and thanked him for his years of services both to the task force and the commission and hopes that he will continue to be actively involved.

7. ADJOURNMENT

- ** MR. ALEY MOVED TO ADJOURN.**
- ** MR. LIBRE SECONDED THE MOTION.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:25PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd
Telesco Secretarial Services