

**CITY OF NORWALK
BIKE/WALK COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 4, 2019**

ATTENDANCE: Nancy Rosett, Chair, Judson Aley, Colin Grotheer, Vincent Scicchitano, Christine Bisceglie

OTHERS: Bradford Craighead, Mike Yesock, Asst. Director of Transportation & Mobility and Parking ; Paul Sotnik, DPW Senior Engineer, Gary Washinsky, Katheryn Herbert, Director Transportation & Mobility Parking, Mike Mushak, Diane Jellerette.

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Rossett called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

1. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public input at this evening.

2. APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 4, 2019 MINUTES

a. February 4th

- ** MS. BISCEGLIE MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES.**
- ** MR. ALEY SECONDED THE MOTION.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

3. CHAIR'S REPORT

Ms. Rosett said that a new Transportation Planner was hired and will start on April 15, 2019.

Ms. Rosett confirmed that there is, indeed, a bicycle rack at the East Norwalk Railroad Station and that she'll ask DPW to add a bicycle parking sign in this location as well. She also confirmed that there isn't any bicycle rack at Cranbury Park. She mentioned that in the last meeting, it was suggested Mill Pond Park, as another location to add bicycle racks; the Commission agreed that she could pursue with that, getting a permit, if required. She said that, since money is required to buy the racks, she will contact DPW. The other place

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suggested to add bicycle racks was at 50 Water Street, Ms. Rosett that it will happen pretty soon, she said that since that, given the fact that this location is not a big park, the bicycle parking signs won't be required, but if it is, the signs will be placed as well. In regards of looking for places to add bicycle racks in South Norwalk, she asked Mr. Grotheer, if they could meet later in March, in order to discuss which areas in South Norwalk could make sense to install bicycle racks and the what is the process involved; if this is something feasible.

Ms. Rosett said she met again, with Artistic Crosswalk Committee and that they came up with the final draft of the procedure for organizations that would like to install an artistic crosswalk. It was sent to the Traffic Authority. She said that the Traffic Authority considered it and passed it and possibly Ms. Fitzgerald will be the first to test the procedure with a rainbow crosswalk, probably a cross walk across Wall Street at Main Street.

Ms. Rosett provided an update regarding Paul Sedlak's accident. He was hit by a motorist on Fillow Street while riding his bike. She realized that his accident wasn't in the accident database, she then spoke with Deputy Chief Walker, who said they were a couple of months behind uploading the accidents. It has since been added to the state database. Ms. Rosett said that right now she's out of loop, but as soon as she has any update, she'll bring to the Commission.

Ms. Rosett mentioned that the 2017 Connecticut State Legislative section voted to designate three Martin Luther King corridors and Martin Luther King Drive, here in Norwalk is one of them. Their idea was to increase the economic activity to the Community's benefit and make the corridors more representative of Martin Luther King's vision. She said there is a group in Norwalk that feel that the current state of Martin Luther King Drive doesn't quite fit the description and this group is working with Ms. Casey, the Chief of Economic and Community Development, to see what can be done. Ms. Rosett mentioned she said to Ms. Casey that she is very interested in working with this group to make that a complete street. She said she'll bring more updates on the April's meeting.

Ms. Rosett commented on the issue of Westport Avenue, precisely, the traffic light at Stew Leonards and the traffic light at George Street, They're problematic for pedestrians. She reminded what was said in the previous meeting ; the City has applied for a grant to do a more elegant solution, but that requires money. For now, she said, they can ask the State to change the lights, which won't cost any money.

Ms. Rosett said she would like to hear a motion to ask her to write an e-mail to Mr. Yeosock, so that he can request that the State changes the light that, when the walk light comes on, it will be red in all four directions, allowing the pedestrians to cross Westport Avenue at one piece.

**** MS. BISCEGLIE MOVED TO AUTHORIZE MS. ROSETT TO SEND E-MAIL TO MR. YEOSOCK FOR CHANGES ON TRAFFIC LIGHTS AT DRY HILL AVENUE WITH WESTPORT AVENUE.**

**** MR. GROTHEER SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Bike Plan

There was no discussion.

b. Events

There was no discussion

c. Bike Share

Ms. Rosett mentioned that P3GM, the vendor chosen for the bike share program, has signed the contract and the Mayor, whenever he has the chance, will sign the contract as well. She mentioned that P3GM has 20 sites in Norwalk they believe to be good sites for bike stations. She said that, her intention is to have a meeting for the general public to explain what the bike share program is all about, how it works and also, to get their involvement developing the sites for the initial rollout. She will have more updates next month.

d. Norwalk River Valley Trail (NRVT)

Mr. Carter shared that there are many things happening along the way, but he focused on a few points. He mentioned that a development plan has been published for the missing link between Union Park and New Canaan Avenue. According to the development plan schedule, the construction might start in the fall.

Mr. Carter mentioned that he is working with DPW to make the section from Calf Pasture Beach to the Aquarium as safe as possible, with all the proper signages. He just needs to schedule a date to start hanging the signs. He said that by April it should be done.

Mr. Carter asked the Commission to support the creation of a safe trail, separate from traffic, connecting Glover to Broad Street.

e. Outreach

There was no discussion

f. Pedestrian Plan

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There was no discussion

g. Safety and Education

Ms. Bisceglie commented that she's been having meetings , she's been talking to first tax district, she mentioned that, during the POCD meetings, the safety comes up a lot. She said that people want to walk but they are afraid. She said she wants a walking community and that she is working "on the green".

h. Strategic Plan

There was no discussion

i. Website

There was no discussion

j. Planning and Zoning Liaison

There was no discussion

k. Public Works Liaison

There was no discussion

l. Redevelopment Liaison

There was no discussion

m. Walking Update

An update page was handed with the following information:

During the last pedestrian plan meeting, the group discussed evaluating pedestrian safety and infrastructure around schools. They've gotten a great start on mapping and evaluating sidewalks and crosswalks around schools. They are now talking about putting each school into a standardized report format. Theresa Argondezzi offered to connect them to Norwalk ACTS and the NPS Wellness Committee to help coordinate efforts/interest in this area.

In terms of NorWALKer specific stuff, the new Oak Hills map is on hold in the Project Associate's absence.

The Health, Welfare and Public Safety Committee of the Common Council will be discussing sidewalks at their March meeting (3/28 at 7PM room 231 in City Hall).

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n. Website

There was no discussion

o. DPW update

There was no update

p. Transportation, Mobility and Parking Update

There was no update

5. Old Business

There was no discussion

6. New Business**a. East Avenue Crosswalk**

Mr. Craighead commented on how to get from the west side to the east side of East Avenue, he said that the area is really densely populated, and the area has at least one thousand full time residents within five minutes walking distance of the center of the green. He said , he needed the support from this Committee to take to the next level to resolve the pedestrian safety problem.

**** MS. BISCEGLIE MOVED TO SUPPORT MR. CRAIGHEAD WITH THE GREEN AREA AT EAST AVENUE**

**** MR. ALEY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

b. Wall Street Corridor from Main Street to East Avenue

Mr. Sotnik presented the East Wall Street improvement project plan and the East Wall Street Landmark Square improvement project plan.

During the presentation there was a discussion regarding curb ramps, the safety of the crosswalk, what could be the safe speed. Since there were a few points that still needed to be discussed , Ms. Rosette asked Mr. Sotnik, if he could organize a meeting with TRP and invite Mr. Aley, Mr. Mushak.

c. Wall Street Corridor from West Avenue to Main Street

Mr. Yeosock provided a brief information on this item.

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7. ADJOURNMENT

**** MR. GROTHEER MOVED TO ADJOURN.
** MS. SCICCHATANO SECONDED THE MOTION.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Marizete Venancio
Telesco Secretarial Services