

**CITY OF NORWALK  
BIKE/WALK COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 9, 2019**

ATTENDANCE: Nancy Rosett, Chair Colin Grotheer; Barbara McCabe; Jud Aley;  
Christine Bisceglie; Brian Brown

OTHERS: Kathryn Hebert, Director, Transportation, Mobility and Parking; Michael  
Yeosock, Asst. Director, Transportation, Mobility and Parking; Greg Pacelli,  
Transportation Planner; Deanna D'Amore, Director of Health; Gary  
Washinsky; Pat Kerschner; Tanner Thompson ; Jim Carter

**CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. Rosett called the meeting to order at 6:05PM.

**1. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ms. Kerschner stated that she walks and runs on Woodward Avenue and the sidewalks are outrageous and the road is not scheduled to be paved until 2023. She said that there are four schools that have bus stops on Woodward Avenue and the Wheels bus also has two stops on the road and it is a walking neighborhood and does not think from a liability standpoint that the city would want to wait four years to repair the sidewalks.

Mr. Thompson stated that he is new to Norwalk and he works in New York City and he has recently gotten involved in bike, transit and walking advocacy in Manhattan and he would also like to get involved here. He said he would like to help in whatever way he can to get better bike infrastructure built, and that he had biked to the meeting from his house on Hillside Street and on the entire bike ride there was only one stretch of bike lane. Ms. Rosett said that in this year's plan they hope to get bike lanes and or sharrows on route 136.

## **2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

a. August 5<sup>th</sup> minutes

**\*\* MS. MCCABE MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS SUBMITTED.**

**\*\* MS. BISCEGLIE SECONDED THE MOTION.**

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

## **3. CHAIR'S REPORT**

Ms. Rosett formally welcomed Mr. Brown to the Bike Walk Commission and said that he has already come up with a new log for the commission. She presented the new logo and said that she would like to have a tear drop pendant created with the logo so that when they go to events they have something that identifies them.

Ms. Rosett said that National Night Out was held in August which is a national event showcasing what is going on in the city and both Ms. McCabe and Ms. Lewis helped to staff the table and gave out backpacks and they will also be given out at the DPW Open house. She said the open house will be held on October 5, 2019 at the Public Works Center from 10:00AM-1:00PM and asked for volunteers and she will be sending an email.

Mr. Grotheer joined the meeting at 6:15PM.

Ms. Rosett said the Norwalk Land Trust had a meeting and they are spearheading an urban mapping project for the city called Hudson to the Housatonic (H2H) and they are trying to develop a set of criteria for green areas in urban environments that they want to see preserved. She said they will be meeting again in October and she will keep the committee posted if any input from them will be needed.

Ms. Rosett said that she, Mr. Aley, Ms. Bisceglie and Ms. Lewis had met with Mayor Rilling and Ms. Hebert on August 19<sup>th</sup> to give an update on what the commission is doing, and went through the Strategic Plan evaluation for the year that ended on June 30<sup>th</sup>. She said they had discussed the things they are planning for the coming year and he seemed to think the commissions is doing a good job.

Ms. Rosett said that Parking Day is a nationwide event and for one day looks for alternative ways to use parking spaces to make green spaces in cities and last year Stamford had participated. She said they are thinking about doing that in Norwalk in 2020 so she has contacted

the representative in charge of the event in Stamford. She said if they decide to hold the event again this year she will send an email to the commission for whoever want to attend.

#### **4. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

Mr. Grotheer said they have met several times since Ms. Rosett had met with them and have prioritized their notes for short, mid and long term goals and he is working on reorganizing the map to reflect that.

##### **b. Events**

Ms. Rosett said that an Events Chairperson is needed and that if anyone is interested to contact her.

Mr. Grotheer said that the Cycle Cross Race is being held at Oyster Shell Park through the end of the month and is held every Tuesday. Ms. Rosett said that they will send an email to everyone on the commissions email list and post it on their Facebook. She also asked if anyone would like to volunteer to staff a table at the event. Mr. Aley said that he may be able to volunteer next week. Ms. Rosett said to contact her if anyone else is interested in volunteering.

##### **c. Bike Share**

Ms. Rosett said presented the areas of where the bike share stations will be located for the October launch and as part of the contract with P3GM for every docking station they can have an addpanel. Ms. Hebert said the ad panels do not have to be glued to the bike racks and can be elsewhere. Ms. Rosett said some would need to be elsewhere because the Connecticut State Statute states that there is no advertising allowed in parks and a number

of the docking stations will be in parks. Ms. Hebert said there are approximately six ad panel locations that are still need and she had suggested using the pay station shelters in City owned parking lots. Mr. Grotheer asked if the map will be part of the docking station. Ms. Rosett said “yes” and that every station will have a map.

Mr. Washinsky asked when the Bike Share will go into effect. Ms. Rosett said the initial plan was to start with 10 stations and 100 bikes in the middle of October, but are short a few ad panels and a few bikes so they are meeting with the vendor tomorrow to see if October will still be viable or if it will need to wait until April to start the program.

Mr. Brown said this is a helmetless program and the infrastructure the city currently has in his opinion he does not think it’s good to encourage these bikes to go out on the city streets and asked who would be liable if someone has an accident. Ms. Hebert said that she would have to look at the contract but that it has not been an issue in other cities and the contract has been vetted by the City Attorneys. Ms. Bisceglie said that a waiver would most likely to be need to be signed.

Ms. Biscegle suggested an ad for bike safety such as bike helmets and asked who is picking the ads and how often they are they changed. Ms. Rosett said the ad has to be approved by the city. Ms. Biscegle suggested that the Bike Walk Commission purchase an ad for a safety message. Ms. Rosett said that she will look into what the cost would be. Ms. Biscegle asked if the commission will receive reports on how often the bikes are used. Ms. Rosett said “yes” and that they will receive monthly reports. Mr. Pacelli said that the reports are also available on the P3GM website. Ms. Biscegle suggested that the information be added to the Mayor’s Dashboard. Ms. McCabe asked what happens to the bikes over the winter. Ms. Rosett said that it will depend on the usage.

Mr. Washinsky asked how long the bike can be rented for. Ms. Rosett said that there will be monthly and annual memberships available and the bikes can be rented in 30 or 45 minute blocks or they can be rented on an hourly rate but she will verify that in the contract and send it out to the commission.

Ms. Rosett said the locations are:

The South Norwalk Railroad Station (Westbound side) and there will be an ad panel.

The South Norwalk Railroad Station (Eastbound side) and there will be an ad panel.

The Norwalk Police Department but there is not enough space for an ad panel.

Veterans Park and because it is a park there will not be an ad panel.

The Maritime Aquarium which will be located at the Maritime Garage at both entrances but there is not enough space for an ad panel.

The Bow Tie Cinema in South Norwalk and there will be an ad panel.

Mathews Park and because it is a park there will not be an ad panel.

SONO Collection and there will be an ad panel.

The Norwalk Library but there is not enough space for an ad panel.

The Wheels Hub and there will be an ad panel.

The Main Street Lot and there will be an ad panel.  
Oyster Shell Park and because it is a park there will not be an ad panel.

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

Mr. Carter said it is frustrating to have 3 ½ miles of trail fully ready to go and fully funded and not ready to be built. There continues to be an impasse between the towns and the state on the language regarding the lease, but he thinks it is close to be resolved and Norwalk has been less difficult to deal with then some of the other towns and they do appreciate their efforts.

**e. Pedestrian Plan**

Ms. Rosett said that Ms. Lewis will not be continuing as the chairperson. She said the next meeting will be held in two weeks and will provide a report at the October meeting.

**f. Safety and Education**

Ms. Bisceglie reported and said based on the evaluations from the summer camp they were mostly positive.

**g. Strategic Plan**

Ms. D'Amore said that Ms. Rosett will be presenting the Strategic Plan and provide an update to the Health, Welfare and Safety Committee of the Common Council at the end of the month.

**h. Website**

Ms. Rosett said that she plans on meeting with Ms. Argondezzi prior to the October meeting and a representative from the IT department and then Mr. Brown will work on the website. Ms. Hebert suggested there is a link to the TMP website.

**i. Walking Update**

Ms. D' Amore said that the walkability survey that was done last year had gotten 120 responses and they will be relaunching it again this year. She said that Ms. Argondezzi had attended the Back to School Night at the Stepping Stones Museum and distributed over 100 map packets for The NorWALKer program.

Ms. D'Amore said that they will be interviewing for the Health Education Associate position and are hoping to have it filled by November. Ms. Rosett asked how many applications they received. Ms. D'Amore said approximately 90.

**j. Transportation, Mobility and Parking Update**

Mr. Yeosock said the Mr. Pacelli has been working on the sharrow part of Community Connectivity Grant and are hoping to have it to the state within the next month for review. He said the marking for East Wall Street will be done within the next few weeks. Ms. Hebert said the contractor will be doing the entire Wall Street area which includes the reverse angled parking.

Mr. Yeosock said the crosswalk was installed on East Avenue @ Park Hill and are working with the contractor to install the ADA ramps.

Ms. Bisceglie asked for a status update on the intersection of Strawberry Hill Avenue and Fitch Street regarding interviewing the neighbors installing a four way stop. Mr. Yeosock said there is no update at this time.

**5. OLD BUSINESS**

**a. Bike Share Station Locations for October Launch**

This was discussed under item 4c of the agenda.

**6. NEW BUSINESS**

a. Lowering the Speed Limit on Wall Street

Mr. Aley asked Mr. Yeosock his opinion on lowering the speed limit at Wall Street to 20 MPH with the upcoming increase of pedestrian activity. Mr. Yeosock said once the speed limit goes below 25 MPH it is not under the city's control and would need to be authorized by the state and would need a good reason given and he does not think that increased pedestrian activity would justify it.

Ms. Hebert said that TMP is looking to have Norwalk be a Vision Zero city and it has been added to the POCD. She said it is a safety layer on the city's complete streets concept and will be meeting with Mayor Rilling and a task force will be created that will have Bike Walk Commission representation. They are hoping to have the Task Force in place by the end of the year.

Mr. Grotheer said that there are still a lot of properties that there are a lot of obstructed and un-kempt sidewalks which makes it very difficult to walk children to school.

Ms. Hebert said the rainbow crosswalk was approved by the Traffic Authority to be installed on West Avenue at the entrance to Mathews Park and that it is on the Common Council agenda for tomorrow night's meeting and she hopes that someone from the commission will attend the meeting and speak in support of the crosswalk. Ms. Bisceglie said that she will attend the meeting and speak. Mr. Aley asked if there are any other rainbow crosswalks in the state. Ms. Hebert said "no" and that this will be the first one. Ms. Rosett asked the commission if they think they should publicly support the crosswalk. The commission all agreed that they should.

## **7. ADJOURNMENT**

**\*\* MR. GROTHEER MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**\*\* MR. BROWN SECONDED THE MOTION.**

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:10PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd  
Telesco Secretarial Services