

**CITY OF NORWALK
BIKE/WALK COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
April 7, 2025**

ATTENDANCE: Emily Burnaman, Chair; Nicholas Pappas; Manny Salgado; Christine Bisceglie

OTHERS: Greg Pacelli; Transportation Planner; James Travers, Director, TMP; Senator Bob Duff; Jaleah Green, Norwalk Health Department

To allow public access, anyone may access a meeting by telephone, Zoom, and/or the City of Norwalk YouTube channel. Specific instructions and links can be found at <http://www.norwalkct.org/meetings>.

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. ROLL CALL

Ms. Burnaman called the roll, and all those listed in the attendance were present.

III. GUEST SPEAKER: SENATOR BOB DUFF

Ms. Burnaman welcomed the guest speaker, Senator Bob Duff.

Senator Duff provided an update on what is going on at the legislature and said the legislature is halfway through and will finish on June 4, 2025, and the big concern is the state budget. Despite what is currently happening in Washington DC, Connecticut is in a very strong financial position and are making sure that good services are provided to the people in the State of Connecticut, but are currently a little on the defensive side because they are not sure what is happening and provided an example that last November there was a press conference held regarding the raised grant on Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. and currently do not know the status of that, which would be a huge loss to the city if we lost the \$14 Million dollars. He said he is pleased to announce he was able to help get a grant for the Norwalk River Valley Trail for \$1.5 million. It has been put on the Connecticut bond agenda for this Friday and should pass. He said they also received money for the Harbor Loop Trail, which is essential, and he has been a big fan of that for many years. He discussed housing and said he had met with state representatives with a group called Connect to

discuss ways to bring more housing into the communities because we are currently 300,000 units short of where we need to be, so there is a significant need there and try to figure out how to get that done even though we are making historic investments in housing. Last year, there was funding for new sidewalks, thanks to Mr. Travers for giving him the plan, and he is hoping to get additional funding for sidewalks, as there is a demand for them. TMP is doing a great job of installing sidewalks in places and has a strategy for sidewalks. In closing, he said people talk about Norwalk very positively, and that is not exactly how it was when he first started in the legislature. People are very excited about this community and see it as a model in many ways, and need to keep it that way.

Ms. Burnaman said that Senator Duff has done a lot of great work not only with the work that he had discussed, but also with the installations of the roundabouts at CT State, as well as other sidewalk projects that he has been working closely with TMP on and thanked him for all of his hard work, and for attending the meeting this evening.

Senator Duff fielded questions from the commission.

Ms. Burnaman asked if there is an opportunity for this commission and TMP to work with Senator Duff's office to promote and spread the word about the new complete streets in Norwalk. Senator Duff said he would do whatever he could to be supportive and could try to help fund some of the things that make a difference. He thinks people will see a big difference in Norwalk in the next five to 10 years and that it will be transformed positively. He believes the complete streets will naturally blend into it, and thankfully, he has a TMP department where planning is going and where he can help with funding. He can only advocate for things when they are ready to go, so having a plan is helpful to him.

Mr. Travers said only 15 cities in the state have adopted the complete streets legislation. He suggested holding a symposium in Norwalk with the other cities and towns to share ideas and invite elected officials to discuss various points.

IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation this evening.

V. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

A. REGULAR MEETING: DATE

The minutes were tabled due to a lack of a quorum.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

There was old business discussed this evening.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. PROPOSAL FOR KIDS BIKE SWAP

Ms. Burnaman said that Ms. Stoll has submitted a proposal for a kids' bike swap, and Common Council member Neidzielski-Eichner had contacted her and thought it may be a good idea to tie it to an event the commission is hosting this year. She said she would like to include this on next month's agenda when Ms. Stoll is present. She said if any of the commissions are interested in helping with this event, they should contact Ms. Stoll directly.

VIII. DISCUSSION

A. BUDGET SPEND 24-25 ITEMS/QUOTES

The committee discussed the expenditures for the remaining fiscal year 24-25 budget.

Mr. Pacelli reminded the commission that they still have the grant money from the previous application and cannot apply for another grant until it is spent. The items the commission wants to order must be moved forward under the city's procurement guidelines by June 30, 2025.

**** MR. THOMPSON MOVED TO APPROVE ALLOCATING \$2,570 TO PURCHASE AN EQUAL NUMBER OF HEADLIGHTS AND TAILLIGHTS.**

**** MR. PAPPAS SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** MS. BISCEGLIE MOVED TO APPROVE ALLOCATING \$200 FOR FOOD AND DRINK FOR BIKE TO WORK WEEK.**

**** MR. THOMPSON SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** MR. PAPPAS MOVED TO APPROVE ALLOTING \$140 TO MS. BISCEGLIE FOR THE EXTRA TIME SPENT ON THE CERTIFIED INSTRUCTOR TRAINING WITH THE CAVEAT THAT EXTRA WORK BE PRESENTED TO THE COMMISSION IN ADVANCE.**

**** MR. THOMPSON SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Ms. Burnaman noted that Ms. Green attended the LCI training, passed the test, thanked Ms. Bisceglie for her help, and learned a lot. She is hoping to assist Ms. Burnaman with the class at CT State.

Mr. Salgado joined the meeting at 6:40 PM.

B. BIKE SAFETY TRAINING AND EDUCATION UPDATE

Ms. Burnaman said two courses are planned for this month, and she is excited to have Chaz Foster from Sound Cyclist leading the courses. She thanked Ms. Green for also participating in the courses. She said they have been working closely with the CT State of Norwalk on these events. The first course, Intro to Safe/Smart Cycling, is scheduled to start on April 15, 2025, at 6:00 PM. The second one is an Outdoor Skills Workshop, which will be held on April 22, 2025, at 5:30 PM. It is limited to 25 individuals and will be held in the parking lot at CT State. The courses are free to attend. The courses lead to the Earth Day event, where the commission plans a bike ride with Sound Cyclists. She said she would share the event flyers with the commission so they could begin circulating them. She encourages students to attend and hopes to continue doing these events collaboratively with different organizations around Norwalk. She asked if any commissioners are interested in participating; they should contact her directly.

C. NORWALK EARTH DAY EVENT, WALKS, RIDES, AND BIKE VALET

Ms. Burnaman said that the Earth Day Event will take place on April 26, 2025, from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM, offering two walks and bike rides scheduled. One of the walks will be led by Ms. Green collectively with Nancy Rosett from the NRV and Diane Gelerette from the Historical Society. Mr. Travers will lead the second walk and collaborate with Jalin Sead and Mark Allen from the Underground Factory. The Sound Cyclists riders will coordinate efforts for bike rides, including a family-friendly bike ride to the green and then an advanced ride.

Mr. Pappas said he will be running the bike-valet program. He is seeking volunteers and would like the commissioners to commit to helping out at the event. Mr. Salgado volunteered to help at the event. Mr. Pappas said he had sent out a how-to guide for the bike valet program and asked if

any commissioners had questions. Ms. Burnaman thanked Mr. Pappas for putting that together, and she thought it looked great. She saw some responses to the Norwalk Bike Commission email with volunteers willing to help.

Mr. Pappas asked if there is a promotional plan in place so that people know there is a bike valet program at the Earth Day event. Ms. Burnaman said that Mr. Salgado has made a video on how to use it, will start promoting it, and will share it with the other organizations partnering with the Earth Day event.

Ms. Bisceglie suggested having the bike to work week flyer at the Earth Day event.

D. BIKE TO WORK WEEK EVENT UPDATES

Ms. Burnaman said she delegated this to Ms. Stoll, who has taken the lead and made good progress. She has connected with Black by Demand and is looking for an estimated number of participants so she can provide a precise quote. She has also connected with a person from Scoot the Block for an opportunity to collaborate. Mr. Thompson said he thinks that it will be a great partnership. Ms. Burnaman said her only hesitation is liability and insurance. Mr. Pacelli noted that it will be a question for the city's legal team and risk manager.

Ms. Burnaman said that she has been conversing with Sarah Roy from CT Rides about participating in Bike to Work Week and encouraging public transit users, pedestrians, and cyclists on commuting benefits. She said they have been in conversations with Mike Pence from the Norwalk Transit District, and he is also interested in collaborating with the commission. She said anyone interested in working or collaborating on Bike to Work Week efforts should contact Mr. Stoll directly.

E. FILLING IN THE BLANKS

Mr. Salgado provided an update on the next event, which will be held this Saturday at 8:00 AM. He will distribute literature and connect with people who utilize the services. The goal is to make people aware of the Bike Walk Commission and interested in their feedback on biking and walking in their neighborhoods.

F. NORWALK FOR MENTAL HEALTH: WALK AND WELLNESS FAIR

Ms. Green said a representative from the Health Department will attend the event, which is a good opportunity to connect with many community members because many people attend this event. Ms. Burnaman said the event will take place at the beginning of May, so with late notice,

it may be a good opportunity to evaluate for next year, unless a commissioner is willing to take this on at this time. If so, contact her.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

**** MR. THOMPSON MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd