



**PARKING AUTHORITY
SPECIAL MEETING
MAY 16, 2019**

ATTENDANCE: Richard Brescia, Chairman
Jud Aley

STAFF: Jessica Casey, Chief of Community and Economic Development
Kathryn Hebert, Director of Transportation, Mobility and Parking
Vanessa Valadares, DPW Senior Civil Engineer

OTHERS: Rita Azrelyant, Consultant

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Brescia called the meeting to order at 6:08PM.

Mr. Brescia started the meeting by asking if there is anything they had missed on the opportunity list. Ms. Casey suggested adding special events such as a summer concert series in the Wall Street and SONO areas, and to do them on the same day of the week each week. She said the goal is not necessarily to host the concert but to bring people to the area, and there is an opportunity for the Parking Authority to be the branding and face of some of these things that are community engaging.

Mr. Brescia discussed the opportunities that are near term and long term and said the near term opportunities will primarily be centered around the Wall Street area and there is a lot of work and planning to be done. There was a discussion regarding the timing of installing the back in angled parking on Wall Street and Ms. Valadares said it can only be installed after the road is paved but they do not yet know when that will be because the paving schedule has not yet been released. Mr. Aley asked why it can't be done prior to the road being paved. Ms. Valadares said because it would have to be done again after the paving is completed and it is on the paving schedule for this year. She said that they do not yet have the paving schedule but during the pre-

construction meeting with the contractor staff did let them know they would like this area done as soon as possible. Mr. Aley asked if an ADA ramp is included as part of the plan. Ms. Azrelyant said “yes” and that one is included in the plan. Mr. Brescia said once the schedule is determined the information needs to be brought to the business’s in the Wall Street area as soon as possible. Ms. Casey requested that staff work with Mr. Morgan on the press releases and also requested that Ms. Hebert contact Mr. Carr so that he can flag the item. Ms. Hebert said that the purchase of the multi-space meters is on the agenda for approval at the next Parking Authority meeting and once approved the order can be placed. Mr. Aley requested that the Wall Street Association also be made aware.

Ms. Casey said that the opportunity for branding is high so and should be done by the Parking Authority to show the investment that the Parking Authority is making on the community. Mr. Brescia had suggested that the outreach for the SONO and Wall Street areas should include a statement such as the Parking Authority is going to earmark some of its revenue for improvements in the area. Mr. Aley suggested that a survey also be done on what irritates people the most. Ms. Hebert said that she agrees and that having buy in from the community is important and the survey will help us to do that. Ms. Casey said that with some of the Business Development and Tourism funding that was allocated to fiscal year 19/20 she would like to make some improvements to the Wall Street and West Avenue area and suggested that it is done in concert with the Parking Authority so that neighborhoods are not be doubling downed out without realizing it and determine a strategy to do these things. Mr. Brescia said that is also ties into Mr. Rain’s suggestion of public realm as part of the near term objectives. He also suggested that exploring where there are opportunities to have a relationship for parking availability rather than building another garage as a near term opportunity.

Ms. Valadares suggested sending the ambassadors out on specific tasks for public outreach such as the grocery stores.

Mr. Brescia said a wayfinding strategy needs to be developed for both the Wall Street and SONO area so that it is specific. Ms. Hebert said it should also include options for the different types of mobility. Ms. Casey said that wayfinding is important for Norwalk and the city needs to address wayfinding with the help from the Parking Authority, and should work together to be sure it is encompassed into one goal and she has contacted the Redevelopment Agency and has gotten the work that they have done on wayfinding to date. Mr. Brescia suggested that a joint meeting be scheduled with the Redevelopment Agency and Planning & Zoning for coordination regarding wayfinding. Ms. Azrelyant said that wayfinding also includes digital rather than just signage and that in conjunction with the branding is essential.

Mr. Aley suggested access be included as a near term opportunity such as a crosswalk at River and Wall Street, adding a lane on Burnell Blvd. into the Yankee Doodle Garage and adding left turn access into Webster Lot from North Main Street. He said the current configuration is designed to move cars and is not for economic development or pedestrian traffic.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Dilene Byrd