

**CITY OF NORWALK
BIKE/WALK COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 6, 2026**

ATTENDANCE: Emily Burnaman, Chair; Nicholas Pappas; Christina Randall; Brian Clarke

OTHERS: Greg Pacelli, Transportation Planner; Jahliah 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 6:00 PM.

II. ROLL CALL

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

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Dan Durabrandy

Mr. Durabrandy said this is his first time attending a Bike/Walk commission meeting and appreciated letting him join.

Brad Craighead

Mr. Craighead requested that the commission discuss the Norwalk Earth Saturday Festival and the East Norwalk corridor improvement study. He had heard that the commission would be leading a walk from Nathan Hale School to the green for the Earth Saturday Festival, and if that is true, he would like to promote that. Ms. Burnaman said that the Norwalk Earth Day Festival is included on the agenda and will be discussed this evening, and she will add the East Norwalk corridor improvement to next month's agenda.

IV. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

A. Regular Meeting: March 2, 2026

- ** MS. RANDALL MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS SUBMITTED.**
- ** MR. PAPPAS SECONDED THE MOTION.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

V. OLD BUSINESS

C. Speaker Event- Siobhan Ollivierre, the Regional Manager of Girltrek

Ms. Randall presented the 2026 speaker proposal for Girl Trek, founded in California in 2010 by two black women, which now has over a million members and focuses mainly on African American women nationwide. Their tagline is “We walk to heal our bodies, inspire our daughters, and reclaim the streets of our neighborhood”. She shared data collected from a 2019 survey. She said when she reached out to them, she discussed the need for the Norwalk River Valley Trail and our trying to familiarize our local population with that beautiful treasure. She had proposed her ideal: having a Girl Trek member or representative come to host a panel and lead a walk along the Norwalk River Valley Trail. She presented the breakdown and said it would begin at the Norwalk Art Space because of its proximity to the Norwalk River Valley Trail and go through Mathew’s Park down to Oyster Shell Park and return to the art space for refreshments before opening the panel for speaking, which would consist of Girl Trek members in and around the area and some local members of the community. She shared a map of the walk and said the potential dates are either Saturday, June 6th, or Saturday, June 13th between 9:00 AM and 10:00 AM. She said the speaker's fee is undetermined, but it would not be a barrier, as they believe in spreading the work of walking. She shared a testimonial video.

Ms. Burnaman said this is an amazing opportunity, thanked Ms. Randall for finding this group, noted that the route she has chosen is family-friendly, and asked whether the event will be family-friendly and whether kids can participate. Ms. Randall said, “Yes, absolutely. Ms. Burnaman said that the Steppingstones Museum would also be a great location and suggested reaching out to the NRVT to hopefully get them involved, as it is along their trail and has additional parking.

Ms. Green said this event sounds amazing and that last year the Health Department partnered with the NRVT and did walks throughout the summer on different parts of the NRVT. She suggested reaching out to Nancy Rosett, who is the chair of the NRVT, as she has extensive knowledge of it. She also said the Health Department would love to participate and suggested reaching out to her to coordinate, so she can connect her with Ms. Rosett directly.

Mr. Clarke and Mr. Pappas thanked Ms. Randall for her work on this great initiative. Mr. Pappas pointed out that Pride in the Park is scheduled for June 13th, so he suggested June 6th as a better date.

Ms. Burnaman said to move this forward, the commission will just need an estimate and requested that it be prepared to present at next month's meeting so that it can be voted on.

Ms. Randall noted that she does not want to seem closed off to inviting other panelists, but rather to stay within the theme of GirlTrek, which is not just black women-centric but also black mothers-centric. A big part of their identity is setting an example for the next generation. She asked that the commissioners keep that in mind when they come forth with potential panelists. Ms. Burnaman said she has been admiring the work of Romany McDonald and is a great advocate and supporter of the mission, suggesting that we reach out to her to see if she is interested in being involved. She also suggested inviting the Health Department.

A. 2026- EVENT UPDATES

NHD/ CT State Community College Norwalk-WALK (April 23, 2026)

Ms. Burnaman said the Health Department is partnering with CT State for a scheduled walk around their new ADA-updated accessible path on April 23rd. Ms. Green said CT State Norwalk is hosting walks twice a week, but the walk that she will be running is on April 23rd, so there are plenty of walks that people can attend. The Health Department is also planning to begin hosting walks later in the spring and into the summer, and asked if the commission would like to partner with them. There are also planned walks with city employees that the commission could also participate in.

Norwalk Earth Day on the Green (Saturday, April 26, 2026):

- **Sound Cyclists Ride**
- **Bike Valet**
- **Nathan Hale Walking Parade**

Ms. Burnaman said that Ms. Randall has been working with the steering committee to organize a walk for Earth on Saturday and with the Sound Cyclist group to organize a ride to the event. In addition, we will be offering a bike valet and sending a volunteer form to their subscribers to fill out. She suggested that the commission start sharing and promoting the Nathan Hale walking parade. Ms. Randall said she has been working on a flyer for that. The Norwalk Public Schools have also offered to cross-promote it.

Norwalk for Mental Health Event (Saturday, May 2, 2026):

Ms. Burnaman said the NorWalk for mental health will be held on Saturday, May 2nd, as a table event, and asked the commissioners to reach out to her if they are interested in attending.

- **Tabling- Bike & Roll to School Day (Wednesday, May 6th, 2026):**

Ms. Burnaman said the Bike and Roll to School Day will be held on Wednesday, May 6th. Applications to register for the bike-and-roll-to-school day are now open, and she hopes to see more registrations from Norwalk schools. She said more updates will be provided following the next educational subcommittee meeting. Ms. Randall suggested reaching out to the local bike shop and asking if they would help to promote the event by offering free safety checks.

- **Tabling -Norwalk Pride in the Park (Saturday, June 13th, 2026):**

Ms. Burnaman said the Pride in the Park event will be held on Saturday, June 13th, and Ms. Stoll has connected with the team there. The commission is scheduled to provide bike valet and tabling at the event, similar to Earth Saturday. There will be shifts, and we will need to find commissioners who are available to participate.

B. Bike League Certification:

-Brian Clarke Training Updates

Mr. Clarke provided an update on the bike league certification, saying he has completed the online classes and that the hotel has been reserved. He said he now just needs to take the in-person portion of the bike training. Ms. Burnaman said that Ms. Green and Ms. Bisceglie are certified, so they could assist with the in-person training before the event, but there may be a cost for her time. Ms. Green said that Ms. Bisceglie will do the training for the same cost as last year. Ms. Burnaman asked Mr. Clarke to follow up with Ms. Bisceglie on obtaining a new quote.

**** MR. PAPPAS MOVED TO APPROVE \$280.00 FOR THE IN-PERSON LCI TRAINING FOR MR. CLARKE AS PART OF HIS CERTIFICATION PROCESS.**

**** MS. RANDALL SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Complete Streets Design Guide Update- 30 Day Public Comment Period

-Highlight Key Updates

-Discuss Next Steps

Mr. Pacelli apologized and said he was not prepared to speak on the Complete Streets guide this evening, as he didn't realize it was on the agenda, but he is happy to follow up with the commission on it at a later date. The revised version was just released for the roadway standards section, but again, it was not prepared to address the specifics, as

multiple staff members were working on different parts of it. He said he would be happy to speak on it at the next meeting. Ms. Randall said that by the time the next meeting happens, the public comment period will have ended. Mr. Pacelli noted that most of the design guide has not changed, and that only roadway standards have been added at the end. He reminded the commission that they could still examine it and submit comments within the 30-day public comment period.

Ms. Burnaman said she reviewed it and had difficulty understanding the difference between the two versions. In this version, it is not clear, comment-wise, what the additions are or what can be reviewed, so if she were a member of the public looking at this, how would she know the difference between what existed and what was added and asked if that is something there is a record of is something the commission could assist with by highlighting or providing an overview for people who would like to provide comments. Mr. Pacelli said the biggest change is in section six, which covers construction standards and details, and TMP is working closely with DPW to revise these. Ms. Burnaman asked how the ordinance committee is kept updated on this, or whether they are involved in any way. Mr. Pacelli said the committee only meets if there is a discrepancy regarding an individual project and whether it's supposed to go through the complete streets process.

Ms. Randall said many people in her general network are surprised by this and find it sneaky, and asked whether there is anything we should know about in this document. Mr. Pacelli said he is happy to hold a special meeting to explain it in more depth, but pointed out that 95% of the document has not changed and that it has gone through a two-year public-comment process, making it what the public wanted.

The commission decided to hold a special meeting tentatively on Tuesday, April 21, 2026, at 6:00 PM.

B. May is Bike Month (May 1st 31st, 2026):

- **Plan for Activities Events * Collaboration with Transit District /MTA/Local Businesses**
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- **Confirm Dates/Locations/Budget Spend**

Ms. Burnaman said in past years the commission has planned activities and events to help promote biking around Norwalk and has expanded it to active transportation and public transportation, and suggested doing something with the Transit District this year and finding a business to collaborate with, and as Ms. Randall had suggested, work with local bike shops to offer bike tune-up discounts. She said she will also reach out to Sarah Roy of CT Rides to see if she is interested in partnering again. The dates of the official bike-to-work week are May 11th through May 17th, and she hopes Ms. Stoll will take the lead and ask the commission members to choose a business they would like the commissioner to sponsor at the next meeting.

C. Norwalk Bike/Walk Communications

-Website, email management, Social Media

Ms. Burnaman said that a website email management system is being developed, and now that they have surpassed Google's free subscriber limit, she and Ms. Sile have proposed using \$200 of this year's budget to formalize a one-page webpage and marketing system.

**** MR. PAPPAS MOVED TO APPROVE ALLOCATING UP TO \$500 TO UPDATE THE WEBSITE AND CREATE AN EMAIL MARKETING SYSTEM FOR THE BIKE/WALK WEBSITE.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

VII. DISCUSSION

A. Norwalk Bike/Walk Award: Community Recognition

Ms. Burnaman said she had sent out an outline of this award, but because not all of the commissioners are present at this event, and she hasn't gone through all of the feedback, she is not comfortable calling for nominations at this point. She asked if any of the commissioners had any thoughts or feedback on the document she sent over regarding the award process. Ms. Randall said the only issue she had with it was the symbolism itself; the golden spoke, as it applies, it will only be given to someone with bicycle involvement. Ms. Burnaman agreed and suggested it be something for safe streets, and she is open to ideas. She said that once a working name is confirmed, the goal will be to open it to the public, accept nominations from the commission and the public, and award it to an individual who best represents those criteria. The commission hopes to have it awarded in June and then work with the city to arrange a formal presentation of the award, and she would like to involve the mayor.

B. BFC App: Educational Partnerships and Program Coordination

Ms. Burnaman said she is hoping for additional help with the application and will email Mr. Pacelli to schedule a time to work with the TMP team once specific tasks are assigned. The deadline to submit the application is June 17, 2026. Ms. Stoll has been working with Ms. Trendler to formalize the next steps and the process.

C. Quarterly Review of Strategic Plan 2026-Updates

The commission reviewed the 2026 Strategic Plan updates, which will be linked on the commission's website.

VII. STAFF UPDATES

A. Transportation, Health, Complete Streets, and Other Project Updates

Mr. Pacelli said there are many projects starting now that the weather is warmer, and construction season officially begins on April 1, 2026. Construction is underway on the sidewalks on West Rocks Road. The SONO sidewalk project on Austin Place and Laura Street is continuing this year, and both projects should be completed this year, as well as the East Wall Street project between Main Street and Brook Street. There will also be some newer projects going under construction this year, as well as the Hamilton Avenue staircase and phase one of the berm removal adjacent to the SONO School for the roundabout.

Mr. Pacelli said the mayor's night out will be held on April 30, 2026, from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM. The Marvin and TMP will have a table and discuss the roundabout on Gregory Blvd, and would love it if a few commissioners could attend.

Ms. Randall said she attended the public meeting that was held for the raised crosswalk at Kendall School, and it was very positive.

IX. COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There was no discussion.

X. ADJOURNMENT

**** MS. RANDALL MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** MR. CLARKE SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd