

**CITY OF NORWALK
BIKE/WALK COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING
JULY 14, 2025
BY ZOOM VIRTUAL MEETING**

To allow public access, anyone may access a meeting by telephone and/or Zoom, or a recording in the City of Norwalk YouTube channel. Specific instructions and links can be found at norwalkct.gov/meetings.

Members of the public may call in to participate. Callers will not be able to see the meeting participants. All participants will be muted upon entering the meeting. To speak, dial *9 on the phone and you will be called on by the host of the meeting during the public comment section. All speakers must state their name and address. Comments must be on a topic on the agenda, and are limited to three minutes. Anyone disrupting the orderly conduct of the meeting, including by using threatening, hateful, or sexually-explicit language, will be removed. Please find the information using the link above.

Members of the public who wish to provide "live comments" may also use the Zoom meeting platform. All participants will be muted upon entering the meeting. To speak, click the "raise your hand indicator" and you will be called by the host of the meeting during the public comment section. All speakers must state their name and address. Comments must be on a topic on the agenda, and are limited to three minutes. Anyone disrupting the orderly conduct of the meeting, including by using threatening, hateful, or sexually-explicit language, will be removed. Please find the information using the link above.

Members of the public who wish to provide public comment are encouraged to submit those via email in advance of the meeting. For these comments to be included into the record, they must be submitted by 12:00 p.m. the day of the meeting. Please email Greg Pacelli at gpacelli@norwalkct.gov with the subject line "Public Comment" to provide written public comment prior to the meeting.

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 attendance were present.

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

OTHERS: Greg Pacelli, Transportation Planner, TMP Jaleah Green,
Norwalk Health Department

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr. Chiaia said that in the next few months, he will be launching an initiative called Ride the Tide, a first-of-its-kind event featuring a hydro-bike crossing from Norwalk to Long Island, and felt that it closely aligns with this commission's transportation advocacy work. He said he is looking for support from community leaders to promote the event, possibly, and will be linking the event to a charity called The Great Cycle Challenge, which he has been raising money for in his sixth year, supporting kids with cancer through a 300-mile bike ride in September. He said he felt that this initiative aligned with the commission's goals in terms of public access to waterfronts, as well as improving biking and pedestrian access to marinas, beaches, and shorelines. And the services that go along with that, as well as community inspiration. He said the event will take place sometime in September, and he is hoping to have the date and a website set up by the next meeting.

Ms. Burnaman said the commission will do everything it can to support Mr. Chiaia and suggested he also contact the Norwalk River Watershed Association.

IV. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

A. REGULAR MEETING: JUNE 2, 2025 MEETING

**** MR. SALGADO MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS SUBMITTED.**

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. BIKE VALET EVENTS - RECAP (5 MINUTES) **- PRIDE IN THE PARK SATURDAY, JUNE 14TH** **- SONO MARKET SATURDAY, JUNE 28TH**

Ms. Burnaman said that two bike valet events were held in June. The first one was Pride in the Park, and the second was the SONO Marketplace Saturday. She asked Mr. Salgado and Mr. Pappas if there was anything in the process that could improve efficiency within the team. Mr. Salgado said that better advertising of the events and showing them more often, along with the event details, would be a happy task to take on. He also suggested sheltering for the bike valet location that includes the Bike Walk Commission branding, so that the volunteers are protected from the elements. Ms. Burnaman agreed and said she believes a tent has been ordered, which they should have soon, that will include the Bike Norwalk branding on it.

Mr. Pappas asked if there is a way for the commissioners to have access to the closet at the Yankee Doodle Garage where the tabling items are stored without having to coordinate with TMP. He said he would like to streamline the process of obtaining the necessary supplies, as this will enable them to provide the service at more events with greater efficiency. Mr. Pacelli asked if there was an issue picking up the supplies. Ms. Burnaman said the coordinating and drop-off of supplies is only available Monday through Friday, which makes it difficult for the commissioners to pick them up. The events are usually held on weekends, when we are unable to access the garage. Mr. Pacelli said that they are trying to be as accommodating as possible, and the LAZ staff have been helpful. Still, he understands the issue and suggested coordinating the pickup in advance of the event. Mr. Pappas asked if there was someone who could be brought into this conversation who might be able to provide some creative solutions that the commission may not be able to come up with on its own. Mr. Salgado suggested a space at the library as it is open on the weekends, which would provide more flexibility. Mr. Pacelli said that it may be an option, but he would need to coordinate those conversations. Ms. Burnaman said that if there is an opportunity for other people who have access to the Yankee Doodle Garage and are willing to meet with the commissioners, it would be an advantage for them, especially with all the upcoming events. Mr. Pacelli, there will need to be a conversation with Mr. Lutz, who is the parking director. Mr. Pappas asked who the appropriate people would be to speak to regarding the possibility of using space at the library. Mr. Pacelli said he would be happy to initiate the conversation and provide the contact information at the library, requesting that he be copied on the communications.

B. BIKE REPAIR CLINIC (5 MINUTES)
- BECCA / INTERESTED VOLUNTEER TO ATTEND

Ms. Burnaman said that Ms. Stoll has been coordinating an effort to certify interested volunteers and commissioners for a bike repair clinic, which REI will host. She believes it was scheduled for next Wednesday, July 23rd, at REI in Milford. But, upon further discussion, she is unable to attend and has not been able to find another commission to attend, so that opportunity has been canceled for now. However, we are still exploring the possibility of offering bike pop-up repairs at events with either an interested volunteer or a commissioner.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. ROUTE 7/15 PROJECT (10 MINUTES)
- COMMUNITY EVENT RECAP & NEXT STEPS
- SUBMIT FEEDBACK BY JULY 9TH

Ms. Burnaman stated that a community event was held on July 1st, and the commission coordinated offline to submit feedback. They submitted a letter to the project team regarding the walkability and bikeability of the City of Norwalk, aiming to continue making these factors a driving force and priority for the project. The deadline for feedback was July 9th.

Mr. Salgado thanked Ms. Burnaman for assembling the letter, and he was in complete agreement with its contents.

Mr. Pappas said he attended the community event, which was well-organized and informative. He learned about some of the challenges that come into play when undertaking a project of this scale.

B.

WALL STREET COORDINATOR IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (10 MINUTES)
- SAFE PEDESTRIAN ACCESS AROUND CONSTRUCTION SITE

Ms. Burnaman said there has been a lot of construction going on with the sidewalks around Phase I of the corridor. She wanted to ensure that pedestrians are accommodated safely on walkways, especially while crossing Wall Street, as only half of the walking signal is currently working. Still, she did not see an opportunity for a safe crossing in the other direction and asked how pedestrians navigate that area safely if they are unable to cross. Mr. Pacelli said that for each phase of construction, there is a maintenance and protection traffic plan that is reviewed and submitted to ensure that all modes of transportation go through safely until tonight, he has not heard of any issues, and there may just have been an issue that day, because there is always safe pedestrian access on all the projects.

C. DIALOGUE WITH THE ORDINANCE COMMITTEE AND TMP (10 MINUTES)
- TO CLARIFY OUR RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER THE ORDINANCE

Ms. Burnaman mentioned in the last meeting that Mr. Thompson recommended revisiting the ordinance and mission for the commission, which is a conversation to have with TMP to spend some time on, and updating as needed. She mentioned at the last meeting that Ms. Stoll would take the opportunity to work with Mr. Thompson on clarifying the following steps and potentially moving forward with them. She asked if anyone had any recommendations or would be interested in taking on this task or making it a priority for the next meeting. Mr. Pacelli suggested that the commission discuss this as a whole, so they are all aligned. Mr. Burnaman said she would include it on the next agenda for discussion.

D. UPCOMING EVENTS IN JULY (15 MINUTES)
- FILLING IN THE BLANKS SATURDAY, JULY 12TH
- SONO MARKET SATURDAY, JULY 27TH
- NORWALK NIGHT OUT THURSDAY, JULY 31ST

Filling in the Blanks- Saturday, July 12th

Mr. Salgado said the event was a success, and Ms. Greene and Nuvance Health were also in attendance. He handed out bike locks and literature. One of the objectives was also to discuss educational programming for the children who may be attending.

Ms. Green agreed that the event was good and an excellent opportunity to reach a lot of people. She suggested bringing more materials because over 300 people had attended. Ms. Burnaman said that some of the marketing materials are outdated, so this may be a good opportunity to update them.

Mr. Salgado noted that the next Filling in the Blanks event will be held on August 9th.

SONO Market -Saturday, July 26th

Ms. Burnaman said the commission attended the June event and offered valet service, with approximately 11-12 bikes coming through and using the service. They also handed out T-shirts to the cyclists who arrived on their bikes. She said the next event would be held on July 26th and asked if there was any commissioner who could attend. Mr. Pappas said he is willing to participate if someone can transport the racks.

Norwalk Night Out- Thursday, July 31st

Ms. Burnaman said National Night Out will be held on July 31st. Mr. Pappas provided an overview of the event and stated that the commission will be distributing helmets, locks, and other items, making it a great event for all.

VII. DISCUSSION

A. MARKETING MATERIALS FOR PRINT (10 MINUTES) **- UPDATED SAFETY HANDOUTS/MATERIALS**

Ms. Burnaman said she would follow up with Ms. Green regarding the materials that the bike league has for the commission, and she will also reach out to Ms. Watkins from Watch for Me Connecticut to see if she has any material she can share. She also suggested purchasing updated business cards and a new map of all the biking paths in Norwalk. Mr. Pacelli stated that the mayor's dashboard should include an updated bike infrastructure map, including the locations of bike racks. Ms. Burnaman suggested a poster size for the map to share at the events. Ms. Green also suggested adding it to the Nor-Walker page on the Health Department's website.

Mr. Salgado acknowledged the pedestrian fatality over the weekend that happened on Connecticut Avenue. He asked if the commission could do anything to recognize or support, and connect the community on safe walking. Mr. Pacelli said that every instance is different and is currently conducting the Route One corridor study. He suggested common discussion ways to connect with the community offline and continue pushing educational materials. The commission held a moment of silence.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

**** MR. SALGADO MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd