

**CITY OF NORWALK
BIKE/WALK COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 6, 2023**

ATTENDANCE: Tanner Thompson, Chair; Colin Grotheer; Emily Burnaman; Christine Bisceglie

OTHERS: Greg Pacelli; Transportation Planner; Jahliah Green, Health Department; Ben Hanpeter; Brian Boland; Phil Chiaia; Paul Chenard; Jeremy Leung; Carly Kramer; Redevelopment Agency; Rebecca Klein; Peter Franz; Nicholas Pappas; Sheri Brennan

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>.

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Thompson called the meeting to order at 6:00PM.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Chia said the bicycle co-op popup for 2023 will be held on March 18, 2023, but the location will still need to be determined but they are thinking Ryan Park. Mr. Thompson said this is an event where people can bring their bikes for help with repairing/servicing them.

Mr. Thompson said that Mr. Ebert will be relocating to Germany to take on a new role in the mobility division so he will be sending in his resignation letter soon.

PRESENTATION OF DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN

- Goal: approve vision, mission, and goals

Mr. Thompson presented the 2023 draft Strategic Plan and said that it consists of three categories which are the vision statement, the mission statement, and a set of goals. Ms. Bisceglie and Ms. Burnaman said they both choose Norwalk is safe and assessable entirely by biking, walking and public transit as the vision statement. There was further discussion and it was decided that the vision statement that will be voted on would be Norwalk is safe and is conveniently assessable entirely by biking, walking and public transit.

Mr. Thomson discussed the mission statement and suggested that it include providing advise to the city, increase awareness of walking and biking infrastructure, activities and issues through events digital media and other channels, provide resources to Norwalk residents that able and encourage them to walk and bike, fielding Norwalk residents concerns about existing walking and biking infrastructure and forwarding the issues to the appropriate city agency and bring together existing community organizations and foster collaboration between them.

Ms. Bisceglie said she likes the mission statement that the commission currently has but the word “advocacy” is missing. Mr. Thompson said the thing he thinks is missing in the current mission statement is that it doesn’t talk about much that the commission does. Ms. Burnaman agreed with Ms. Bisceglie and said she also likes the current mission statement, and the proposed mission statement gets into the specifics and is parallel to the goals.

Mr. Thompson discussed the goals and suggested the goals include to promote complete streets, support the city’s Transportation Master Plan, support the State Transportation Plan, promote public awareness campaigns, and appoint new commissioners. He suggested that they include completing the bicycle friendly community application, hold events that engage the community, have new people attend the commission meeting including from unrepresented communities, grown the digital media following and evaluate all website contents to reflect the current status. He also said he thinks the goals should set a milestone for the commission to work towards. Ms. Burnaman suggested that one of the goals should be to have the Statagic Plan updated and posted to the website.

Mr. Thompson suggested that the working group for the Strategic Plan meet again and present it again at the next commission meeting.

UPDATE ON THE BIKE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITY APPLICATION

Mr. Thompson reported and said that twice a year there is a deadline to submit the application and the next deadline is approaching and is nine days from now and have made some progress but not enough to be able to send it to TMP to do their part, so has decided to shoot for the September deadline and suggested doing a high quality application and use it as a blueprint for what a bike friendly community should look like.

UPCOMING BIKE EVENTS 2023 DISCUSSION

- **May Bike Month**

Ms. Bisceglie said she is happy to help but she can’t do bike month alone and bike to work week which is on May 15 through May 21st and National ride a bike day in May. She said there is also a calendar that has a town planner and incudes all of the events that are being held around the city and suggested that the events in May be included next year. Mr. Thompson said there is also an events calendar on the city website.

Mr. Thompson said the NRVt grand opening that will also be held on either Saturday, May 6th or Saturday, May 13th and will have the exact date choses by the end of this month and various community organizations will be contacted to participate. He said that part of the vision is to

develop a scavenger hunt and the goal is to get people up and down the trail and to connect the trail with their destination and see the trail as a way to get to places.

Mr. Thompson said there are other opportunities for Bike Month such as bike to work week. Ms. Bisceglie said that the Connecticut Bike-Walk is doing a ride which should also be promoted at some level. Mr. Hanpeter volunteered to help with the planning of the events for bike month. Mr. Thompson suggested that Ms. Bisceglie lead a Bike Month working group meeting where all of the initiatives get coordinated.

- Open Streets

Mr. Thompson said he met with Mr. Stowers regarding open street event on Calf Pasture Beach Road but will still need to be approved by the Traffic Authority and he would like to have TMP involved. Ms. Bicycle volunteered to attend the Traffic Authority meeting to speak in support of the events and she hopes it will lead to car free Sunday.

Mr. Grotheer joined the meeting at 6:55PM.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- Washington Street

Mr. Grotheer presented a map of Washington Street and suggested edge line striping under the bridge as it is a key intersection in the city. Mr. Pacelli said the radius that is currently there is due to the truck turning and is a challenge because of the bridge but will need to look at the turning templates to see if the radius can handle a larger vehicle.

- West Avenue

Mr. Grotheer suggested there be a discussion regarding on street bike facilities on West Avenue with the new development that will be coming. Mr. Pacelli said last year an application was sent in for a FHWA grant for the area of MLK to West Avenue to Wall Street to bring together the two downtown areas and are hoping to hear back soon on the status of the grant application. Mr. Grotheer requested that the island be put back in in front of the Reed Street to offer a buffer for bicyclists and pedestrians for some protection when crossing.

- Tracey School TMP project budget progress and Camp Street

Mr. Grotheer said the sidewalk on Adams Avenue needs to be addressed for the deficiencies in the curbing and restore the sidewalk to make it safer for those walking to school and to install delineators at the intersections to prohibit people from parking so close to the sidewalks. Mr. Thompson said the sidewalks fall under the purview of DPW and suggested he contact customer service to enter a service request. Mr. Grotheer said that TMP will still need to address the no parking zones and a plan to help the buses circulate more safely.

Mr. Pacelli said that TMP has put in a budget request for the area around Tracey School and have been coordinating with DPW to complete street practices into their design so when they do pave the area TMP will then coordinate with them on a design that fits that area, but he does not know when Adams Avenue will be paved. He also said that TMP has a lot of ongoing projects and are short staffed since Mr. Yeosock has retired so are not taking on any new projects at this time, but does understand the area needs to be upgraded but TMP does not see it in their prevue to do anything temporary such as the delineators but they did include the loop behind the school into the capital budget request which should alleviate the traffic behind the school.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- SONO Station Bike Rack press conference- February 9th

Mr. Thompson said this Thursday at 2:00PM there will be a press conference held for the new bike racks in the garage at the South Norwalk Railroad Station and encouraged the commission members to attend.

- Bike ride event with Norwalk Tree Alliance- March 11th

Mr. Thompson said on March 11th the Norwalk Tree Alliance will be doing a bike ride which will start and end at Fodor Farm.

- Bike- Co-op pop-up- March 18th

Mr. Thompson said on March 18th the first pop-up bike coop for the season will be held and the location is still to be de determined.

- NRVt Grand Opening Party- date TBD (May)

Mr. Thompson said the NRVt ribbon cutting event is still to be determined but the grand opening will be in May.

BUDGET EXPENDITURES DISCUSSION

- Discussion for commissions remaining budget for this fiscal year
- Screening of The Street Project documentary

Mr. Thompson said there is a soft commitment from Cannondale to sponsor the venue for the Screening of the Street Project documentary and requested the commission pay for the cost of licensing the film itself and funds to provide food and beverages.

**** MR. GROTHEER MOVED TO APPROVE \$250.00 TO PAY FOR THE LICENSING OF THE FILM AND \$300.00 TO PROVIDE FOOD AND BEVERAGE FOR THE EVENT.**

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

- Update on swag order (Jud/Emily)

Ms. Burnaman provided an update on the swag order and said that she spoke with Mr. Aley, and he placed the order for the books and should receive them by next week and remaining swag that was on order will be shipped next week and arrive by Friday. Mr. Thompson requested the next swag order by the next commission meeting.

**** MR. GROTHEER MOVED TO APPROVE UP TO \$4,000 TO ACQUIRE SWAG AT A LATER DATE.**

**** MS. BURNAMAN SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Ms. Bisceglie said that The League of American Bicyclists National Summit will be held March 26-March 29th and is begin held virtual or hybrid and is \$100.00 and she will send the information to the commissioners.

Ms. Bisceglie said the commission was not included in the event with the national speaker that is being held at the Library next week that she had send out. She said it will be held next Sunday from 2:00PM-3:30PM. Mr. Thompson encouraged the members of the commission to attend the event.

APPROVE MINUTES FROM JANUARY 9, 2022, MEETING

**** MR. GROTHEER MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES**

**** MS. BURNAMAN THE MOTION.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ADJOURNMENT

**** MS. BISCEGLIE MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** MR. GROTHEER SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:45PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd