

**CITY OF NORWALK
BIKE/WALK COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING
JANUARY 3, 2024**

ATTENDANCE: Tanner Thompson, Chair; Nicholas Pappas; Christine Bisceglie; Manuel Salgado; Emily Burnaman; Jud Aley

STAFF: Greg Pacelli, Transportation Planner; Jahlih Green, 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>.

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Thompson called the meeting to order at 6:30PM.

STRATEGIC PLAN

Mr. Thompson presented the notes from the last commission special meeting regarding the discussion of the strategic plan that included the accomplishments from 2023, as well as the strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities and how to prioritize things. He said that Mr. Pacelli also provided an overview of TMP's idea for a bike/ped plan in the future and began brainstorming potential goals and left off at the last meeting to finish the goals.

Mr. Salgado said at the last meeting one of Mr. Thompson's ideas was to create a "brain dump" and he reviewed the potential goals that were discussed at the last meeting. Ms. Bisceglie asked if here is something included that acknowledges the goals that have been met or celebrating the milestones. She said in the past there would be a meeting with the mayor and present the goals that were accomplished and include a write up in the newspaper celebrating the accomplishments. Mr. Salgado said that can be included as part of the outreach. Ms. Burnaman suggested including the newsletter under education and outreach.

Mr. Thompson presented some of the highlights from the Bike Friendly Communities application that included complete streets and there are specific guidelines such as anti-idling that would be good to include in the strategic plan. There was a discussion on which of the goals the commission would like to work on in 2024 and Ms. Burnaman suggested more viability of the NRVT including more signage and

clarity on where the trail is located as well as raised crosswalks. Mr. Salgado said what sticks out to him is the safe routes to school map and helping people realize that there are alternatives to driving to school. Ms. Bisceglie said she likes the bike friendly business because they were told by the League of American Bicyclists that it is an easy application and could bring national recognition and a lot of the work has already been done. Ms. Bisceglie said that public education on e-bikes should also be a priority.

Mr. Aley joined the meeting at 7:10PM.

Mr. Salgado asked if there is anything listed on the potential goals list that does not feel like it fits the commission's vision/mission. Mr. Aley said he thinks a lot of the complete streets things are good and should keep an eye on it but there is no manpower to monitor it all and TMP is doing a great job in general and it should be left to them. He said he thinks the most important thing the commission can do is education because the more people are educated on biking and walking the more likely they are to get out there. He also said that the list of potential goals is tremendous and if it is going to be realistic it needs to be paired down. Mr. Thompson said in his opinion the commission would do better work with policy-oriented items rather than education. Mr. Aley said the education component does not have to be complicated and that the commission already has a lot of materials and handouts, and it is important to keep track and participate in all of the events. Ms. Bisceglie said that even though the potential goals list is extensive and should be paired down it is important to have all of the things the commission because it represents the work the commission has done and suggested the commission have a marketable logo, and to also have subcommittees.

Mr. Salgado said the goal of this meeting should be to begin to prioritize and create smart goals. The committee discussed and created the following list of smart goals.

- Education, Outreach and Awareness
 - Safe Routes to School
 - Become acquainted with the Safe Routes to School Program
 - Get a Safe Routes to School Speaker to a meeting
- Social Media
 - Post Educational Material at a certain frequency.
 - Post one video every quarter
- Bike Valet
 - Provide Bike Valet service at 3 events in 2024
- Diversity/Representation
 - Publish everything in Spanish (Creole)
 - Cohost one event in 2024 with a group that represents an underrepresented group
- Stay Aligned on Strategic Plan process.
 - Check in once/quarter during Bike/Walk Committee meetings.
 - Check in once year with the mayor

Mr. Thompson said a big part of the planning process is aligning on what is important and what is not. Mr. Pappas suggested that from the four priorities for the year are safe routes to school, more social media

presence, establish a bike valet service, and better connection with diversity in the city and out of those priorities four smart goals were created.

Mr. Salgado asked the commission if there are any other smart goals that are not on the list. Mr. Thompson said that he disagrees with Mr. Aley regarding disengaging with the complete streets process and should be as engaged as possible in it, and that bike share should also be a priority as he just he has been working on it and it is something that the mayor has specially requested be done and he would like to continue to work on it ideally with some help. Ms. Biscegie said that events should definitely be made as a smart goal.

The commission decided to schedule a follow-up meeting for the strategic plan on January 29, 2024 at 6:30PM.

ADJOURNMENT

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

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:05PM

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd