

**CITY OF NORWALK
MAYOR'S NEIGHBORHOOD PRESERVATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 10, 2008**

ATTENDANCE: Mayor Richard A. Moccia; Maribeth Becker, ENNA, Lee Bernardino, Lowe Street; Helen Bryan, West Main Street N.A.; Katherine Griffing, Golden Hill Association; Glenn Iannaccone, Fire Department; Tony Capuano, Health Department; Don Nelson, Tree Alliance; Mark Pierce, Wilton Avenue N.A.; Nancy Whitmore, West Main Street N.A.; Michael Green, Planning and Zoning Director; Louis Schulman, Norwalk Transit District Administrator

STAFF: Connie Blair, Customer Service

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Shockley called the meeting to order at 10:09 p.m. He then introduced Mr. Louis Schulman of the Norwalk Transit District.

APPROVAL OF JULY 2, 2008 MEETING MINUTES

- ** MR. PIERCE MOVED THE MINUTES OF JULY 2, 2008.**
- ** MS. GRIFFING SECONDED.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Customer Service center

Ms. Blair explained that the phones for Customer Service Department were down and said that she would be leaving to assist with the situation. Ms. Blair gave a brief overview of upcoming events, including the 9/11 Remembrance Service to be held in the auditorium at City Hall and an upcoming hearing on the tree removal at Calf Pasture. There will be a presentation regarding the replacement of those trees.

Ms. Blair left the meeting at 10:14 p.m.

Mr. Shockley said that last month there had been a informal meeting at Waypointe headquarters and that there were concerns about intramodial transportation. He then explained that the Committee thought it would be good to have Mr. Schulman come in and talk about transportation in Norwalk.

Mr. Schulman then said that in the next few weeks, the Transit District would be starting a shuttle vehicle from the Maritime Garage to the South Norwalk Railroad Station to relieve some of the overcrowding at the SoNo Railroad Station Garage. The shuttle will

run about every 10 minutes. Last year, the District carried about a quarter million passengers.

The current plan is for the office structures at 95/7 to have a shuttle that will operate on about a 15 minute cycle. It is important to have the services in place as the structure is constructed. There will also be a shuttle between the Pulse Point at Bunnell Blvd. and the Railroad Station. The only funding available currently is for the service between the Maritime Garage to the Railroad Station.

Mr. Schulman said that he believed that this plan would do a good job in integrating the services and additional services will be ancillary to this plan.

Mr. Pierce asked whether the District would be hiring more staff. Mr. Schulman said that in order to keep costs down, they would be hiring part time drivers to fill in when there is sickness, vacation or other situations. During the last few years, it has been difficult to keep the buses on time due to the increased congestion and that the District hasn't been able to adhere to the frequency schedule.

On Monday, there will be public hearing on District service changes. This will mean that the change will be from 30 minutes service to 40 minutes service cycles. This change will allow the District to service areas like Rowayton and STAR. On the more heavily traveled routes, there will be a twenty minute cycle with two buses running the routes. For some passengers, it will be perceived as a reduction of services, but this will allow the buses to arrive on time at scheduled destinations. This is particularly important where the Pulse Point is concerned because of passengers making transfers from one line to another.

There will be a reconstruction of the Pulse Point on Burnnell Pulse Point, including a canopy, security cameras connected to the Police Department and a shelter for bad weather. There will also be a study of the SoNo railroad Station in light of having it as an intramodal transportation point. Mr. Schulman then listed a number of different ways people arrive and depart from the station and the various service providers are uncoordinated.

Mayor Moccia left the meeting at 10:32 a.m.

The Norwalk Transit District is an autonomous municipal agency established by the City, but operates independently.

Ms. Becker joined the meeting at 10:33 a.m.

The District also operates the Coastal Link between Norwalk and Milford along with a service that travels to Greenwich from Norwalk. There is also a link to Route 7. The District works with CT Transit, but is not part of the CT Transit. Complimentary door to door service is offered for those with disabilities from Westport to Greenwich, as required by State Law. There are two videos on CT Public TV and one of the videos is

completely in Spanish instructing residents on how to use the system. Regular service is \$1.25 and door to door service costs \$2.50 per trip.

Mr. Pierce asked about the fuel used by the buses. Mr. Schulman said that the buses use ultra low sulfur fuel and basically operates as well as a natural gas vehicle.

Ms. Bernardino said that the buses that pass her area are often empty. Mr. Schulman said that there are times when there are no passengers on the bus but pointed out that there are other portions of the route where there are a number of passengers on the vehicles. Ms. Bernardino said that there was a lot of congestion on her street and that the buses that were adding to the congestion.

Mayor Moccia returned to the meeting at 10:40 a.m.

Mr. Nelson asked if there would be a different fare for the shuttles. Mr. Schulman said that if someone parks at the Maritime Garage, all they would have to do is show their ticket and they would ride for free. Other passengers will pay the same rate of \$1.25 for the trip.

When asked about the hybrid and electric vehicles, Mr. Schulman explained that the gas tanks are on the roof and the electrical batteries are on the roof. These vehicles are not able to fit under the Washington Street Bridge in Norwalk and other bridges. Electric vehicles can only run for a few hours at a time before needing recharging.

Ms. Bernardino asked about the previous project regarding the East side of the Railroad Station. Mr. Schulman said that the previous project had not done any soil boring.

Mr. Schulman said that the public hearing would be hearing at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. at the Transit District offices.

Mr. Shockley announced that there would be a free concert on the 20th at the end of Washington Street.

Ms. Griffing said that there would be a Neighborhood Family Picnic for the Golden Hill Association on September 21st.

She went on to explain that last night at Golden Hill meeting there were numerous complaints about the taxis stopping in the middle of the street and honking their horns late at night. The Mayor said that he has spoken to the companies several time. When Ms. Griffing asked if there was anything that could be done about this, the Mayor suggested that people could write letters to the cab companies and to the DOT about this problem.

Mr. Pierce said that Wilton Avenue is paved. He said that there were problems with dust and that Deering had used the water truck only three times. He then asked about having a

power wash for the fronts of the houses and the cars. The Mayor said that he could not authorize this and that they should file a claim with the City.

Mr. Pierce then asked about the number of phone books being delivered. The Mayor said that the City may be able to do something about the phone books dumped at bus stations, but there was nothing that the City could do about private property.

Mayor Moccia said that there was working being done on the fast food litter around the areas where fast food restaurants are. He then said that he would like the group to work on a good slogan. The Mayor will buy whoever comes up with the best slogan a pizza.

Ms. Griffing said that she has tried for several years to have a trash container in front of Franklin School. The discussion then centered around theft and vandalism.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Shockley adjourned the meeting at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services