

**STREETS AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
CITY OF REHOBOTH BEACH**

March 24, 2014

The Streets and Transportation Committee Meeting of the City of Rehoboth Beach was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chair Bill Sargent on Monday, March 24, 2014 in the Commissioners Room in City Hall, 229 Rehoboth Avenue, Rehoboth Beach, DE.

ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Bill Sargent, Kathy Osterholm, Cindy Lovett, John Gauger, Dennis Diehl (left the meeting at 11:05 a.m.), Jim Ellison, Toni Sharp

Absent: Lorraine Zellers

Also Present: City Manager Sharon Lynn, City Solicitor Glenn Mandalas (left the meeting at 10:13 a.m.), June Embert, Peggy Smith

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Jim Ellison made a motion, seconded by Cindy Lovett, to approve the Agenda with the deletion of the February 24, 2014 minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the February 24, 2014 Streets and Transportation Committee Meetings were not available for approval.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was none.

OLD BUSINESS

Consider revised "Possible Agenda Items" document.

The document had been distributed to the Committee prior to the meeting which lists prioritized items for possible consideration.

Discuss status of markings for Surf Avenue.

Police Chief Keith Banks, Mike Peterman of Parking Department and Bill had gone to Surf Avenue to discuss where the white lines would be located on Surf Avenue. Mayor Cooper had suggested that they make sure there is 11 feet from the center of the road for vehicular traffic. There was space for bicycles along the side of the roadway. Bob Palmer, City engineer, will be working with the City to provide drawings and to determine if there is a symbol to be placed in the bicycle lane. He will determine if there is enough room for bicycle traffic in the bicycle lane from Lake to Henlopen Avenues on Surf Avenue. Bob will engineer exactly what can be done. Eliminating all parking on the east side of Surf Avenue from Lake Avenue to Henlopen Avenue will require an amendment to the Code. Five to six parking spaces will be lost between Park and Oak Avenues on Surf Avenue. Bill will prepare the documents for the Commissioners to possibly approve in April 2014.

Walter Brittingham, 123 Henlopen Avenue, noted that parking has always been provided on the east side of Surf Avenue. A loading/unloading for cars should be provided on the east side. The bicycle land adjacent to the roadway should be a minimum of three feet. He asked if there would be a counter proposal for the west side of Surf Avenue.

The general consensus of the Committee has been that it would be safer to not have parking on the east side of Surf Avenue because parking would be on sloped sand. There is not enough room to put a two bicycle lanes on the east side of Surf Avenue.

Discuss final language on parking map relating to bicycles.

Jim Ellison noted that the previous language on the walking guide has not changed. With regard to the flyer for bicycles, this is a handout. He revised the language under the law that although it is not the law, for greater safety riders are urged to install on their bicycles a flashing red lamp visible on both side and to the rear from 500 feet. Jim will contact the State for a cleaner map for the reverse side of the flyer.

This flyer would be available at the Chamber of Commerce, the City, all bike rental shops and realty offices to be handed out.

Discuss problems related to snow removal from downtown sidewalks.

Bill noted that this issue was raised at the Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting on March 21, 2014. What became clear was that there are four alternatives: 1. Do nothing. 2. Put teeth in the Code. Currently, the code does not directly address snow removal. The problem would be of who would enforce it because ownership spreads through hundreds of people, and many of them do not live here. 3. Outside contractor. 4. Responsibility for the City and provide additional resources. Mayor Cooper had said at the meeting that the biggest problems are liability issues and significant snowfalls and enforcement. People solve the problem by walking in the street after the snowplows have come through.

Suggestions made by the Committee were:

1. The City has access to a snow blower, and available seasonal summer employees could clear a path on the sidewalks after a significant snowfall.
2. Snow on the crosswalks needs to be cleared.
3. Cindy Lovett will find out from other cities what they are doing with regard to clearing snow from sidewalks, codes, enforcement, liability, etc. She will then report back to the Committee about her findings.
4. The City Solicitor should provide input and clarification as to liability.
5. Input should be provided from the Chamber of Commerce and Main Street.
6. Send out a letter as a reminder to business owners and managers.

Walter Brittingham, 123 Henlopen Avenue, suggested that there should be input from the Building & Licensing Department.

The consensus of the Committee was for City to contact other municipalities to provide input and provide feedback to the Committee at the next meeting.

Discuss adding appropriate bike racks at entrances to shopping lanes.

Cindy distributed additional locations for consideration for bike racks. Locations for single bike racks would be: 1. On Baltimore Avenue near Arenas. Two single bike racks could be placed along the wall, but not in front of the windows of the shop. 2. Behind benches at Sea Shell Shop. Locations for larger bike racks would be: 1. Two single racks or one larger rack behind the bench at Village by the Sea. 2. Second rack at Josephine's shop. 3. Second rack at Endeavor. Locations for multiple bike racks would be: 1. First Street & Rehoboth Avenue by White House/Black Market. 2. Baltimore Avenue near Camp Rehoboth. 3. Baltimore Avenue near Coffee Mill. The only solution for Wilmington Avenue is to add another bike corral.

Toni Sharp noted that at Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting on March 21, 2014, everyone agreed that the Committee should work with the City Manager to put out as many bike racks as possible, keeping in mind that they are not on private property, not obstructing fire hydrants, not obstructing fire lanes and cannot extend into pedestrian ways.

A suggestion was to add more bikes in the corral at Longo's Market and expand that area.

Cindy will meet with City Manager Sharon Lynn and Mel Craig of Public Works on March 26, 2014 to locate additional racks. Bill will take pictures of more areas this summer.

Discuss possible changes to scooter permit program.

Kathy Osterholm noted that she and Cindy met several weeks ago to discuss the wording for the scooter program. Scooter parking needs to be in-line with vehicle parking in all aspects. If a person has a registered scooter in the City, they should be able to get a free permit for that registered scooter. Scooters should be able to park a scooter in a non-metered space from 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 a.m. the next morning. Scooters parking in a non-metered space must have a permit on the scooter between 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Parking meters are paid if a scooter parks in a metered space. If a scooter is parked in a metered space from 12:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m., a permit is not needed. Scooters should be treated exactly as vehicles in regard to permits, their costs and their parking.

Cindy noted that currently there are two sets of rules for meters and two sets of rules for permits. She proposed that there should be one set of rules for meters and one set for permits so the rules apply to everybody. Signage would need to be changed. Having rules that apply to scooters which do not apply to vehicles is an equity issue. The proposed change would become effective for next year.

Bill suggested that Cindy and Kathy put this into language for the Committee to review and then it will decide to send it forward to Commissioners.

Toni Sharp noted that last year she had asked on several occasions if the objective of the scooter initiative was to encourage the use of scooters. Not only did she ask multiple times, but was given the same consistent answer of no. The rationale for last year's changes was to get the scooters off of the sidewalks and get them off of the bike racks. This has been accomplished. If there is consensus that the Committee is embarking on encouraging scooter use, that is a completely different initiative. She did not think there is consensus from the Committee that the City will become a highly encouraged scooter friendly town. Toni suggested that the Committee should have a discussion on agreeing whether or not it will embark on a different initiative.

Cindy said that she did not remember the Committee ever discussing that a scooter needs to have a parking pass 24/7 to park in permitted areas and when someone who lives in the City and it is registered here should have to pay for a permit when someone who owns a vehicle does not have to pay for it. She would have never voted for that.

Dennis Diehl said that the Committee had discussed giving people who live here and have a scooter a free space in the corrals and beach parking. It is worth paying \$40.00 particularly if there is discussion about taking away parking spaces. He agreed with Cindy about free parking 24/7 in the residential areas.

Toni said that the Committee needs to decide if there are modifications to the program that make sense vs. if a goal is going to be adopted of becoming more scooter friendly.

Kathy and Cindy were to work on scooter permits things that would come as a consensus from this Committee in regard to scooter parking for this year. Kathy did not remember the Committee coming to a consensus of what to take to the Commissioners from the Committee. The Commissioners have decided what will happen with scooter this year without the unified input from the Committee on the scooter issue.

Larry Myslewski, Dover Street, noted that he has an active lawsuit against the City regarding scooters, and it is currently under mediation. The essence of the suit has to do with property owners who own scooters and the fact that they are being treated differently via permits. He provided an explanation of his rationale. Mr. Myslewski suggested that the scooter ordinance in Section 92-275 of the Code should be amended so that property owners are provided without charge seasonal non-transferrable permits for the parking on an unmetered street, exclusive of those designated areas for scooters. Section 92-263 addresses the issue of offering two transferrable vehicle permits for each property owner for parking on an unmetered street, and they apply for and receive without charge seasonal non-transferrable permits for the parking on any unmetered street for each motor vehicle registered. When the scooter ordinance was enacted last year, there was no regard to that particular part of the Code. Every property owner is given two free seasonal transferrable permits and an unlimited number for the number of vehicles they have registered in their name. He was not objecting to the \$40.00 scooter permit fee for non-residents. He was objecting to it as a resident who owns property.

City Solicitor Glenn Mandalas said that the City in general can pursue discussing the scooter program in general.

Bill noted that today's discussion is oriented toward the scooter program in 2015. Discussion ensued.

Toni thought that what sounds like an unintended consequence to a property owner there may be an administrative fix which may already have some of its framework in place. She wondered that if the Committee would have a discussion that eliminated how smallness of the subset, the attitude would be a sooner rather than later way to enable a change.

City Solicitor Mandalas said that the Code would have to be amended so it would require a meeting of the Commissioners. This summer season is set in place so this could be considered for 2015.

City Manager Lynn suggested that this be brought up at the next Commissioners' Workshop Meeting. A quick fix would be to change the signage. She will speak with Mayor Cooper about this matter before the agenda is prepared. She will also work with Cindy and Kathy on this matter of using an open-air permit for residents who own scooters and changing the signage.

Discuss policies regarding skateboards.

Kathy had distributed documents regarding skateboarding to the Committee prior to the meeting. Most skateboard regulations are either pro or anti-skateboarders. The changes to the current are to treat skateboards as much as possible like bicycles. Skateboard users must also have reflective vests and/or a light if the skateboards are being used at night. Her proposal is that skateboards are used as a means of transportation. This would be for May 15th through September 15th. They should not be allowed on Rehoboth Avenue at any time. Currently, no

skateboards are allowed on sidewalks. People at the skateboard parks are willing to educate skateboarders on appropriate behavior and respecting property. Kathy would like to have this as a pilot program for a year.

Members found no compelling reasons to support this objective and did not see how the police could enforce longboards vs. skateboards. The objective is to allow workers to get to work on skateboards. Police Chief Banks commented that in changing the Code, it would be hard to enforce.

Kathy will take the results of this discussion back to the skateboard community. She would like input from the police officers of who is attempting to use boards and who is not, etc. Kathy will also ask the skateboard community to characterize the problem from the standpoint of how people many there are who use longboards and characterize the challenges which force them to prefer their longboards to a six block walk.

Discuss proposal to require flashing lights on bicycles.

The general consensus of the Committee was to follow the State Code. The Committee strongly recommends using flashing lights on bicycles.

Discuss proposal to discourage bike riders from using Columbia Avenue.

Bill noted that the Committee's language has suggested that bike riders should stay off of busy streets which includes Columbia Avenue. He did not think that anything else should be done differently.

Discuss proposed Breakwater Trail head on Rehoboth Avenue.

Mayor Cooper will be write a letter to the State with regard to preparing for the Breakwater Trail and Gordon's Pond Trail. He wants to be part of the dialog with the State as far as passing through the City. Bill had suggested to Mayor Cooper that there should be no maps showing a direct route through the City. Discuss ensued.

City Manager Lynn noted that DelDOT is not a part of the discussion at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

Consider possible proposed additions to "Possible Agenda Items" document.

Bill suggested that for the next meeting, the Committee will review this document and suggest agenda items to be discussed.

Discuss items to be included on agenda for next meeting.

Items to be included on the agenda for the next meeting: 1. Proposed Breakwater Trail head on Rehoboth Avenue. 2. Review Bike Map. 3. Streetscape for Columbia Avenue.

Set next meeting date.

The next schedule meeting will be held on April 21, 2014 at 9:00 a.m.

Citizen Comment

There was none.

There being no further business, Chair Sargent adjourned the meeting at 12:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

(Ann M. Womack, City Secretary)

**MINUTES APPROVED ON
DECEMBER 29, 2014**

(Bill Sargent, Chair)