

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

**July 28, 2014**

The Streets and Transportation Committee Meeting of the City of Rehoboth Beach was called to order at 9:03 a.m. by Chair Bill Sargent on Monday, July 28, 2014 in the Commissioners Room in City Hall, 229 Rehoboth Avenue, Rehoboth Beach, DE.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Chair Bill Sargent, Cindy Lovett, John Gauger, Dennis Diehl, Toni Sharp, Lorraine Zellers

Absent: Jim Ellison, Kathy Osterholm

Also Present: Sharon Lynn (City Manager), Mike Peterman (arrived at 9:22 a.m.), Police Chief Keith Banks

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Lorraine Zellers made a motion, seconded by Cindy Lovett, to approve the Agenda with the deletion of the March 24, 2014 and April 28, 2014 Streets and Transportation Committee Meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes of the January 27, 2014, February 24, 2014, May 19, 2014 and June 16, 2014 Streets and Transportation Committee Meetings were distributed prior to the meeting.

Lorraine Zellers made a motion, seconded by Cindy Lovett, to approve the January 27, 2014 Streets and Transportation Committee Meeting minutes as written. Motion carried unanimously.

Lorraine Zellers made a motion, seconded by Cindy Lovett, to approve the February 24, 2014 Streets and Transportation Committee Meeting minutes as written. Motion carried unanimously.

Lorraine Zellers made a motion, seconded by Cindy Lovett, to approve the May 19, 2014 Streets and Transportation Committee Meeting minutes as written. (Sharp – aye, Lovett – aye, Zellers – aye, Sargent – aye, Gauger – aye, Diehl – abstained.) Motion carried.

Lorraine Zellers made a motion, seconded by Cindy Lovett, to approve the June 16, 2014 Streets and Transportation Committee Meeting minutes as written. (Sharp – aye, Lovett – aye, Zellers – aye, Sargent – aye, Gauger – aye, Diehl – abstained.) Motion carried.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

There was none.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Consider status of space for bicycle racks on Surf Avenue at Oak Avenue.**

City Manager Sharon Lynn provided an update for the Committee. The racks in place and being used as well as the fencing. The area has been cleared at Surf and Oak Avenues and placed two racks there. The area at Surf and Park Avenues has been cleaned up. No comments have been received from neighbors.

**Consider status of speed control device(s) on Hickman Street.**

The City Manager and Police Chief Banks attended the Board of Directors meeting of the Country Club Estates Homeowners Association and heard the issues pertaining to speed. The City Manager and Police Chief Banks sat on Hickman Street to witness the issues themselves. She has written a letter to Senator Lopez with the information they have, and he has committed to funding for the speed control devices. Currently the City Manager is waiting for the funding to order the devices for both sides of the street.

**Consider status of request that City work with State on City gateway issues.**

Bill noted that Mayor Sam Cooper had been contacted by a representative from the State to make a presentation about some of its plans. Mayor Cooper is waiting to get dates for the meeting.

**Consider possible locations for additional crosswalks and silent policemen.**

Bill requested that the Committee members send him the specifics of any locations for additional crosswalks and silent policemen. This item will be deferred to the August meeting.

Dennis Diehl had cited Hickman Street and State Road has a location for a crosswalk at the last meeting.

Police Chief Banks noted that he had placed strips on the street to gather information about traffic flows in different areas. The Committee will need to work with the fire company to make sure the trucks can make the turns. Signage should be the same to be consistent within the City.

Bill noted that Hickman and Munson Streets at State Road will be two of the locations for crosswalks. He will photograph the different areas and have a presentation at the next meeting. He will also provide the list with the Committee's comments to Police Chief Banks and the fire company. An additional location for a crosswalk and silent policeman was noted.

Lynn Bowen, 13345 Jefferson Road, Milton, said that the crosswalk on Rehoboth Avenue at First Street is close enough to the intersection that the one car which wants to make a turn cannot get out of the traffic's way, and it causes traffic to back up.

Walter Brittingham, 123 Henlopen Avenue, noted that the bumpouts at First and Second Streets are intended to calm traffic. Traffic was a secondary consideration, and pedestrians were considered first. It is intended that in the future the primary right-of-way will be given to pedestrians to cross the street.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Consider possible problems related to removing snow from Rehoboth Avenue.**

Cindy Lovett called approximately 10 local cities similar to Rehoboth and found that the majority of the cities do nothing to the sidewalks. Some cities do have a code, but it is not being enforced. Cape May enforces snow removal from sidewalks. It up to the property owner to clear the snow. If sidewalks are not cleared within 12 hours, a ticket is delivered. If it happens again, there is a court hearing. Cape May clears the sidewalks because should there be a slip and fall, the cost of clearing the sidewalks is cheaper than the cost of a lawsuit. It would be the City's liability under any circumstance. This could possibly New Jersey law as opposed to Delaware law.

Krys Johnson of Main Street sent out 170 emails to its members in June. Approximately 38 emails were answered. The question was posed of who should be responsible for downtown sidewalk snow removal which resulted in 57.89% for the property owner and/or the tenant, 36.84% for the City responsible for a fee and 5.26% for a contractor/vendor. Suggestions were to make the City clearing of the sidewalks the case with an opt out for those who want to clear their own sidewalks. A lot of the businesses felt strongly that an ordinance must be in place for the snow, etc. to be removed in a timely fashion.

Bill noted that Mayor Sam Cooper is concerned about the legal liability.

The City Manager said that it is the business owners' responsibility to clear the sidewalks of snow. Property management is what it comes down to. The City has snowblowers, but there is concern with the workload of the employees.

Lorraine noted that a policy would be needed first, then an ordinance and enforcement.

Frank of 18 Wilmington Avenue, said that past winter, the melting of snow would create treacherous conditions. He did not know who to call, and he did not have the tools at his disposal to correct the problem. Even if there is an official policy to let the property owners and tenants take care of the problem, there will still be unforeseen circumstances. It would be in the best interest of the City and the public if someone had come out and prevented a tragedy or injury. Police Chief Banks said that in the future, the police department should be notified.

Walter Brittingham said that First Street becomes a critical issue because there is nowhere to throw the snow. Wilmington and Baltimore Avenues should be included in this issue.

The consensus of the Committee was that Cindy will forward her presentation to the Committee of what she will be presenting at the Workshop Meeting on September 8, 2014. Comments from the Committee will be forwarded back to Cindy individually.

**Consider possible changes to parking issues such as: (1) locations of meters (particularly of 30 minute meters), (2) time limits of meters in various areas and (3) enforcement of time limits.**

Toni, Cindy, Kathy, Police Chief Banks and June Embert of Parking Department held a meeting on June 24, 2014 on parking issues. They wanted to understand what the rules are with 30 minute meters. There is no policy about where the 30 minute meters are placed and why. The differential if someone parks at a 30 minute meter vs. all other meters is \$1.50 per hour for all other meters and \$1.00 for 30 minutes at the 30 minute meters. Kathy compiled a list regarding a common understanding of the meters, the history of the meters, impact of Parkmobile, and enforcement to forward it to the Committee to give it an opportunity to provide feedback of whether or not they had covered the most important issues. A discussion is needed before making any recommendations of whether or not the 30 minute meters have enhancements to make to location or price and how all the meters fit in to proximity to the Boardwalk and the ocean, etc. The Committee was requested to review the document. No recommendations would be made today about 30 minutes and how they fit into the global parking scheme. Some of the enforcement is challenging especially on the 30 minute meters. Toni will find out who the point of contact is for Parkmobile.

Bill suggested that Krys of Main Street should be involved with this topic.

**Consider delaying traffic lights as a means of increasing pedestrian safety.**

John Gauger said that there should be a delay on the lights at First Street and Rehoboth Avenue. This item was discussed earlier in this meeting.

Bill said that if the State is involved with its traffic engineers, there is no way that the Committee can better them.

Police Chief Banks will provide feedback each month from DeIDOT to the Committee.

**Consider problem of bicycle riders not obeying traffic laws.**

Cindy noted that in a letter to the editor of a newspaper, the City needs to crack down on bicyclists who are not obeying the laws.

Police Chief Banks said that more than 90 violations were written last month for bicyclists not obeying traffic laws. The amount is approximately the same as other years. Approximately 150 warnings have been issued.

Bill said that it is a matter of enforcement of the laws.

Mike Cole has been handing out courtesy notices all summer. Enforcement of the bicycle laws has been arbitrary and capricious. Now the motorists are behaving poorly. Seasonal officers are not doing traffic stops anymore. If the bicycle laws are enforced even handedly, everyone knows what to expect, and there would be more compliance.

**Consider suggested revisions to "Possible Agenda Items" document.**

The Committee will look at the document to see what has not been addressed and determine if it is something that should be addressed. The Committee will forward suggestions to Bill individually.

**DISCUSS ITEMS TO BE INCLUDED ON AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING.**

Items to be included on the next Agenda are: 1. Parking meters and 30 minute parking. 2. New bicycle map and funding vs. DeIDOT map. 3. Problems with bicyclists on Columbia Avenue. 4. Suggestions for Surf Avenue.

Items to be included on the September Agenda are: 1. Recommend ordinance concerning political signs.

**COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENT**

There was none.

**CITIZEN COMMENT**

Lynn Bowen suggested that every traffic light should be numbered and everyone's advertising is coordinated to them. She thought that this is a good tool for traffic, and it is done in Gatlinburg, TN.

Walter Brittingham said that DeIDOT does not want to put any sail-type wind gathering signs on wires at the traffic lights. There has been a recent change with DeIDOT that where it can it is putting up posts on four corners and wires on four corners so that they can hang the traffic lights on them. The next step will be to have a methodology to put the street sign on the wires.

**SET NEXT MEETING DATE.**

The next meeting will be held on August 25, 2014 at 9:00 a.m.

There being no further business, Chair Bill Sargent adjourned the meeting at 10:50 a.m.

**Respectfully submitted,**

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**(Ann M. Womack, City Secretary)**

**MINUTES APPROVED ON  
DECEMBER 29, 2014**

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**(Bill Sargent, Chair)**