

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

**November 24, 2014**

The Streets and Transportation Committee Meeting of the City of Rehoboth Beach was called to order at 9:05 a.m. by Chair Bill Sargent on Monday, November 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, Jim Ellison, Toni Sharp, Lorraine Zellers

Also Present: City Manager Sharon Lynn, 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 September 29, 2014, and October 27, 2014 minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes of the March 24, 2014, April 28, 2014, July 28, 2014 and August 25, 2014 Streets & Transportation Committee Meetings were distributed prior to the meeting. Minutes of the September 29, 2014 and October 27, 2014 Streets & Transportation Committee Meetings were not available for approval. Minutes of the March 24, 2014, April 28, 2014, July 28, 2014 and August 24, 2014 Streets & Transportation Committee Meetings were deferred to the next meeting for approval.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

There was none.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Report on status of speed control devices on Hickman Street.**

City Manager Sharon Lynn had received an email on November 21, 2014 from Senator Lopez's office regarding the speed control devices. The status is that the devices have been funded from DeIDOT in the amount of \$9,500.00. The next step is to take delivery of them.

**Report on status of request that the City work the State on City gateway issues.**

There was nothing to report.

**Discuss status of proposal to conduct a City traffic study.**

Lorraine noted that she will be reporting to the Board of Commissioners on November 25, 2014 with regard to a traffic management study. The Committee has been looking for ways to improve safety for pedestrians, bikes and scooters in light of increased traffic and people the summer brings. Several global areas have been identified: 1. Crosswalks (where to put them and how many to add). 2. Parking options and scope of parking. 3. Traffic flow – in, out and through the City (one-way streets). 4. Surf Avenue improvements. At the Committee's last meeting, it was consensus of the Committee that it needed professional help and had begun discussions as to how to proceed with a traffic management study that could look at the City holistically and provide a long-term plan. The last study was done in the mid-1980s. The Committee would like to continue to work on this with the City Manager and get some cost estimates for future consideration.

City Manager Lynn has been meeting with business owners since February 2014 regarding truck deliveries on Rehoboth, Wilmington and Baltimore Avenues. Main Street partnered with the City to hold an informal meeting last week with 50-60 business owners. The proposal was to see if anything is needed to make delivery truck traffic flow better. A time limit for delivery trucks and one-way streets had been discussed. The business owners did not think the time limit on delivery trucks would work. A citywide traffic study would address the facts. The study would be costly and would be a budget item with a RFP to different engineering firms. Any recommendations would be brought forward to the Committee and then to the Commissioners.

Jennifer Burton, 31, 33, 38 & 40 Baltimore Avenue, said that she did not know anything about the proposal for Baltimore Avenue to be a one-way street until November 15<sup>th</sup>. Main Street did not do their job in contact

businesses. Her 13 tenants were never contacted.

Linda Kauffman, Laurel Street, noted that the root of the problem is traffic flow. A comprehensive parking study had been done by her a few years ago. Linda will forward a copy of the study to the Chair who will distribute it to the Committee members.

**Discuss status of study and possible parking issues such as:**

- 1. Locations of meters (particularly of 30 minute meters).**
- 2. Time limits of meters in various areas.**
- 3. Enforcement of time limits.**

Toni Sharp provided an update on parking issues. The number one challenge is 30-minute meters and cars being parked in front of a business all day long while the occupants go to the beach. At the end of previous discussions, it seemed prudent to reach out to businesses and discuss possible solutions to issues which they have. She suggested that there should be focus groups meeting periodically to discuss possible solutions to which they have. Seven businesses were contacted of which the majority thought that there is no issue with the 30-minute meters. Toni will provide the Commissioners with an update on November 25<sup>th</sup> that the Committee does not have recommended changes to times, costs, etc. at the present time. She will continue to gather feedback from other businesses.

**Discuss how to encourage bike riders to use safer streets.**

Jim Ellison provided an overview that in 2013, the Committee produced a map which shows safe and unsafe streets for bike riders. In 2015, the Committee had produced a black/white map which includes bicycle rules, caution about streets to avoid and important phone numbers. The Committee needs to look at the larger map to see if there is a way to simplify it and go back to the 2013 map format. Through signage, there may be ways to help direct bicycle riders to lead them to safer routes to get to the beach, downtown and trails. Jim provided a spreadsheet to the Committee for review with regard to recommended bicycle signage.

Frank Cole, 18 Wilmington Avenue, suggested that the Breakwater and Gordon's Pond trails should be put on the map.

Kathy Osterholm noted that a directional sign can be placed at the top of the bike route sign. This would let bike riders know where to go to find the bike path. These signs would be visuals for knowing where to turn next. There have been no signs used for Gordon's Pond, but some are used for the Junction Breakwater Trail.

**Consider updating and printing the Bicycle Friendly Street Guide for 2015.**

Jim suggested, if the Committee agrees to the routing, that it would try to include that on the next version of the map. The map would be smaller version that would be used as a handout for people coming from either of the trails and at all the entrances to the City as well as having the other signage. He provided corrections to the 2013 map for the Committee to review, such as simplified bicycle parking symbols, etc. Jim noted that some of the bicycle racks do not exist which are shown on the map. He suggested that two racks should be eliminated on the map, one by the library and the other that is in the mid-block of the second block of Rehoboth Avenue. The rack would be eliminated for clarity and would simplify the map.

**Discuss status of proposal for a snow removal program.**

Cindy Lovett noted that there had been consensus of the Committee to bring forward to the City the idea of removing snow from the sidewalks in the commercial district which is Rehoboth Avenue and the first two blocks of Baltimore and Wilmington Avenues. She will provide a presentation at the Commissioners meeting on November 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Discuss status of proposal for limits on use of bicycles on the Boardwalk.**

Bill Sargent noted that this item will be discussed at the Commissioners meeting on November 25<sup>th</sup>.

Cindy suggested that there should be an alternative to removing bikes on the Boardwalk, even if it involves putting up a speed limit sign and enforcing it between 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. or 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. She also suggested that one of the members should talk to other resort towns about bikes on their boardwalks.

Linda Kauffman, Laurel Street, said that the City will need to come up with a compromise about bike riding on the Boardwalk. The time for riding on the Boardwalk could be readjusted from 7:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. The Boardwalk is wide enough that there could be a bike trail on it. Kathy Osterholm clarified that an official bike trail must be five feet wide.

Frank Cole, 18 Wilmington Avenue, said that police officers have a mechanism to tell people to maintain a safe speed when riding a bicycle. Seasonal officers should be telling people to slow down on the Boardwalk. He has put a proposal on the table for a volunteer group on the Boardwalk from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. to guide people to where they want to go, help people who are having problems and keeping people safe. After 10:00 a.m., it would become a law enforcement issue. Frank envisioned this program in effect during the summer months when school is not in session. This program could be extended to the rest of the City. Frank said that he would provide the equipment and funding. He would like the City to take the reins with regard to what the volunteers would be doing.

Bill will approach the Commissioners at the November 25<sup>th</sup> meeting with this idea.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Discuss bringing Ad Hoc Committee – Rehoboth in Bloom issues to Commissioners.**

Lorraine noted that the Rehoboth in Bloom Ad Hoc Committee has been working on projects for the past three years in partnership with the City Manager. Predominantly the work has been done by vendors. A commitment had been received in the amount of \$7,000.00 for the Ad Hoc Committee's initial budget and has been increased to \$10,000.00. A few of the projects were the Rain Garden, the planting bed at the Historical Society by the Canal Bridge, the Veterans' Memorial on Rehoboth Avenue, planting baskets on Lake Gerar Bridge and the memorial tree beds along Rehoboth Avenue. Irrigation has been the main issue. Over the past few months, the Ad Hoc Committee has been looking at some of the proven models, i.e. volunteer run, vendor based and city run. A volunteer program remains a challenge for Rehoboth since a large majority of property owners are part-time residents. Vendors have limited commitment. A city run initiative could be under the guise of the City Manager/Public Works such as in Bethany Beach. Bethany Beach has a full-time horticulturist whose time and duties are dedicated to implementing the beautification initiative under the direction of the city manager and public works and installing and maintaining all flowering projects including irrigation, soil testing, trimming, spraying, etc. as well as fall and winter holiday decorations. The consensus of the Bloom Committee is that city beautification is important. The Committee would like to ask the Board of Commissioners to adopt and commit to a citywide beautification initiative for the City. This may be an opportunity for a dedicated individual. A cost benefit analysis would determine whether or not this is a revenue-neutral position. There are resources from federal and state grants available.

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

Items to be included on the next Agenda are: 1. Bike lane on the western side of Surf Avenue. 2. Improvements at the crosswalk on Surf and Lake Avenues.

### **COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS**

There were none.

### **CITIZEN COMMENT**

There was none.

### **SET NEXT MEETING DATE.**

The next meeting will be held on December 29, 2014 at 9:00 a.m.

There being no further business, Chair Bill Sargent adjourned the meeting at 11:13 a.m.

**Respectfully submitted,**

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

**MINUTES APPROVED ON  
FEBRUARY 1, 2016**

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**(Lorraine Zellers, Acting Chair)**