

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

May 19, 2014

The Streets and Transportation Committee Meeting of the City of Rehoboth Beach was called to order at 9:02 a.m. by Chair Bill Sargent on Monday, May 19, 2014 in the Commissioners Room in City Hall, 229 Rehoboth Avenue, Rehoboth Beach, DE.

ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Bill Sargent, Kathy Osterholm, John Gauger, Dennis Diehl, Jim Ellison, Toni Sharp, Lorraine Zellers

Absent: Cindy Lovett

Also Present: Sharon Lynn (City Manager), June Embert, Mike Peterman, Police Chief Keith Banks

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Lorraine Zellers made a motion, seconded by Jim Ellison, to approve the Agenda with the deletion of the January 27, 2014, February 24, 2014, March 24, 2014 and April 28, 2014 minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

No Minutes were available for approval.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was none.

OLD BUSINESS

Consider status of markings on Surf Avenue.

City Manager Sharon Lynn and Police Chief Keith Banks requested verification as to where the white line would be located on Surf Avenue.

Bill noted that it should be 11 feet from the centerline on both sides of Surf Avenue. There will still be parking on Surf Avenue. He suggested adding a sign to encourage parking off of the pavement and onto the sandy area. The white line would delineate where the cars should be. Those who are parking their cars should leave room for bicyclists as much as possible. Signage would be to encourage moving as far off the paved area as possible.

Keith noted that if someone parks over the white lines, then they are in the roadway. Bicycles will still need to use the roadway. Signs would not be needed if bicycles are sharing the road with vehicles. He would not want bicyclists to be encouraged to violate the law.

Kathy Osterholm said that the white line would be to delineate car parking. A bicyclist is aware that they may use the roadway safely. Bicyclists will be on the roadway if cars are parked on certain parts of Surf Avenue.

Sharon said that the City will try to get the white line painted before this weekend.

Lorraine Zellers said that sharrows would help to make people aware of bicyclists sharing the lane, and she suggested putting a sharrow at each beginning of the Surf Avenue roadway.

Walter Brittingham, 123 Henlopen Avenue, said that the sharrows should be put on Park and Oak Avenues at the beginning of Surf Avenue.

Keith said that with cars coming from other street and crosswalks, Surf Avenue may become too crowded visually. Walter was technically correct, but a start would be to place the sharrows at the ends of Surf Avenue.

Bill suggested that Sharon, Mike Peterman and Keith should determine if more sharrows than the two should be added on Surf Avenue.

Sharon recommended painting a white line. Then based on traffic patterns and what is observed, she and Keith will make decisions based on. Sharrows will be taken into consideration.

Consider status of speed control device on Hickman Street.

Keith has contacted a vendor and received price quotes of \$4,291.00 for each speed control device. Currently, there are no grants in the budget for that project. He recommended that the City Manager reach out to the State representative for funding. Keith would like a Committee member and the City Manager to discuss exact locations of the devices on Hickman Street. The devices are solar powered, must be seen and should not be close to each end of the street. The device can be placed on a self-contained post. A speed sign can also be attached to the post. Sharon and Keith will make the determination if two devices will be placed in each direction of Hickman Street.

Lorraine volunteered to locate exact locations of the devices.

Tom McGlone, 318 Laurel Street, said that when the location is identified, a letter should be sent out to all the people who are in that general area so they know the device is proposed to go there, and have an opportunity for feedback in the process.

Toni Sharp said that if there are objections to where the device(s) are placed, Country Club Estates Homeowners' Association would be the body to mitigate concerns.

Walter said that when traffic had been monitored that had only been one or two high speed situations on Hickman Street. He suggested putting the speed trailer out there for a weekend.

Lorraine noted that Tom Zellers, President of the Country Club Homeowners' Association, has said that this has been a complaint for years. There is a perception that speeding is happening. When the speed trailer is located on Hickman Street, it works and has slowed vehicles down. Hickman Street is a thru-street, and the residents have been lobbying for any type of traffic calming.

Toni had previously noted that this is a pilot, and there are other areas in the City that may be served by something like this.

NEW BUSINESS

Consider measures to increase safety for pedestrians with respect to hazardous sidewalks.

Kathy said that after reading the City Code and talking with Building Inspector Terri Sullivan, there should be an eight foot clearance above any sidewalk by law. There should be no overhang over a sidewalk in any part of the City. It is the homeowners' responsibility to care of that problem. The City will take care of it and bill the homeowner appropriately if the trimming is not done. By the nature of Terri's limitations and what is or is not done, other parts of the Code indicate that the City Manager and the Police Department shall keep the Commissioners informed of broken or damaged sidewalks. Building & Licensing is expecting to be notified if there are brush or sidewalk issues. Oftentimes no one relays the information to Building & Licensing which results in no letter being sent out or no one is notified. There are regulations to protect sidewalks and citizens, but the problem is with enforcement or trying to keep up with sending letters. Kathy recommended that the Committee as citizens should walk the streets and notify Building & Licensing if there are issues. Summer officers could include this in their duties.

Keith said that if there are issues such as these, these things are passed onto Public Works, such as cutting brush, etc. With regard to sidewalks, Bobby Edmonds from Building & Licensing makes a list of the issues and sends out the letters. The Police Department records it if there is something dangerous with the sidewalks. The Police Department notifies the correct department as to what the issues are.

Walter noted that there is a three-part form in City Hall to fill out if there is an issue, and the City Manager gets a copy. The City cannot fix something unless they know about it. Trees are growing over the street on First Street between Henlopen and Columbia Avenues. Sidewalks can be fixed year round. The Board of Commissioners will not make some people have contiguous sidewalks. In the beginning of the summer season, the Carpenter's Shop cleans all the sidewalks at least in the first block of Rehoboth Avenue.

Sharon acknowledged that Bobby or someone from Building & Licensing will check the sidewalks possibly two times a year or on some kind of a regular schedule. If there are any problems, the Committee should let Sharon know on a daily basis to have them taken care of.

Jim Ellison said that if there is a form that any citizen can fill out and submit, then the City has an education job to do to make sure that the citizens know the proper procedures.

Consider additional locations for Silent Policemen devices.

Bill noted that the silent policemen on Oak and King Charles Avenues have been terrific with calming traffic. He suggested silent policemen all along Surf Avenue where there are crosswalks and on Lake Avenue.

Dennis Diehl suggested adding silent policemen on Rehoboth Avenue around the traffic circle and all of the crosswalks.

The consensus of the Committee was to have Sharon add six to ten more silent policemen in areas where traffic control is important.

Keith noted that before there would be placement of any more silent policemen, the Fire Company should be involved with placement. There is certain criteria for the placement of the silent policemen with regard to the uniform traffic law. He suggested being consistent with the State. Keith will research whether or not silent policemen may be located in the middle of a street other than at a crosswalk.

Walter said that silent policemen are intended to be used at crosswalks. On Rehoboth Avenue in front of City Hall, there may a necessity to have signs on both sides of the street at the curb to indicate crosswalks.

There was consensus of the Committee to have Sharon, Mike and Keith move forward with the placement of a few silent policemen and for the Committee to provide specific recommendations and justifications for additional silent policemen at the next meeting.

Sharon noted that outside of the purview of this Committee, she and Keith can decide where the silent policemen need to be located. It is important that these devices are strategically placed in locations that the police are aware of.

Consider suggested revisions to “Possible Agenda Items” document.

Kathy commented that Rachel of Coast Press had suggested providing her with the bike rules to be placed in the newspaper along with a photo of a sharrow. Sharon will provide this information to Rachel of Coast Press and Ryan of Cape Gazette.

Kathy suggested that the bicycle map should be displayed in the cases at the trailheads. There is no bicycle information visible to anyone located in the City or at the trails. Sharon will look into this.

Committee Member Comments will be added to the agenda for the future.

DISCUSS ITEMS TO BE INCLUDED ON AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING.

Items to be included on the agenda for the next meeting are: 1. Silent Policemen and specific recommendations and justifications for additional locations. 2. Status of markings on Surf Avenue. 3. Status of speed control device on Hickman Street. 4. Parking meters. 5. Snow removal. 6. Report of Rehoboth in Bloom Subcommittee.

Items to be included on future agendas: 1. Status report periodically during the summer of what is going on on Surf Avenue. 2. After September 2014, holistic discussion and broad solutions for Surf Avenue. 3. Parking on Oak and Park Avenues. 4. Bike crossing at Hickman Street and State Road. 5. Pedestrian crossing at Munsion Street and State Road. 6. Bike crossing at Rehoboth Avenue and Canal Street. 7. Additional pedestrian crossing locations.

Karen Zakarian reported on the Walkable, Bikeable Delaware summit in Dover, Delaware on May 1, 2014. She spoke with Jeff Greene of Delaware Greenways about the trailheads, and he will forward information on to the Committee. With regard to the bike maps, a representative from DelDOT will help with trying to find funding. Karen also talked with another representative from DelDOT regarding traffic slow down. There has been \$13,000,000.00 set aside for the State of Delaware to provide for a walkable, bikeable Delaware. Cycling is the official State sport. She will provide contact information to the Committee.

SET NEXT MEETING DATE.

The next meeting is scheduled for June 23, 2014 at 9:00 a.m.

CITIZEN COMMENT

Walter commented that the area cleared on Surf Avenue between Pennsylvania and Oak Avenues looks nice. If jaywalking is going to be enforced, it should be publicized.

There being no further business, Chair Bill Sargent adjourned the meeting at 10:46 a.m.

**MINUTES APPROVED ON
JULY 28, 2014**

Respectfully submitted,

(Bill Sargent, Chair)

(Ann M. Womack, City Secretary)