

**STREETS AND TRANSPORTATION AD HOC COMMITTEE
REHOBOTH IN BLOOM
CITY OF REHOBOTH BEACH**

November 19, 2012

The Streets and Transportation Ad Hoc Committee – Rehoboth in Bloom Meeting of the City of Rehoboth Beach was called to order at 10:05 a.m. by Chair Lorraine Zellers on Monday, November 19, 2012 in the Commissioners Room in City Hall, 229 Rehoboth Avenue, Rehoboth Beach, DE.

ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Lorraine Zellers, Bill Sargent (left the meeting at 11:25 a.m.), Kathy Osterholm (left the meeting at 11:35 a.m.), Annmarie Westerfield of Rehoboth Beach Main Street (left the meeting at 11:34 a.m.), Ann Hubbard (arrived at 10:15 a.m.), Greg Gause, Kathy Osterholm, Jane Wyatt, Priscilla Smith

Absent: Carol Everhart of Rehoboth Beach/Dewey Beach Chamber of Commerce, Ned Kesmodel

Audience: Toni Sharp

INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Jane Wyatt and Priscilla Smith were introduced as new members.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Bill Sargent made a motion, seconded by Kathy Osterholm, to approve the Agenda as written. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the September 14, 2012 Streets and Transportation Ad Hoc Committee – Rehoboth in Bloom Meeting were distributed prior to the meeting.

Bill Sargent made a motion, seconded by Kathy Osterholm, to approve the September 14, 2012 Streets and Transportation Ad Hoc Committee – Rehoboth in Bloom Meeting minutes as written. Motion carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was none.

OLD BUSINESS

Update on current projects: 1. Rain Garden – maintenance workshop. 2. Lake Gerar Bridge. 3. Canal Bridge planting.

Todd Fritchman of Envirotech gave a presentation at the workshop on the rain garden. Todd provided information on the whole concept of the garden, the types of plants that were planted and why they were chosen, the rain barrel and how it works including maintenance, and he instructed the group that were present on where rain gardens and barrels can be placed. This was done as part of the educational outreach with rain gardens for the City.

With regard to Lake Gerar Bridge, the plants were removed after the workshop. At the last Ad Hoc Committee Meeting, there was consensus to not do anything with plantings over the holidays. Lorraine will have Greg Gause remove them and have them stored for the winter.

With regard to Canal Bridge, the Committee had talked about having that area mulched and planted with winter pansies and tulips. Lorraine had talked with Chris Cordrey about planting winter pansies and tulips. He had provided a quote for 30 winter pansies and tulips in the amount of \$170.00. The original projects cost approximately \$5,900.00, and funds were leftover from the initial \$7,000.00 which had been budgeted. City Manager Greg Ferrese agreed to the plantings of the winter pansies and tulips. All the projects have been self-sustaining except for the planter baskets.

Update on proposed projects: 1. Additional lamppost baskets at Canal Bridge including discussion of plant choices and irrigation. 2. Mariners' Park flower bed. 3. Municipal planters at Rehoboth Avenue.

Lorraine received quotes from Chris Cordrey for the additional lamppost baskets on the four poles coming onto Rehoboth Avenue between the bridge and the traffic circle. The current baskets placed at Lake Gerar Bridge are bolted to the posts, but it was suggested by a man from Bethany Beach to have swinging baskets. Members of the Ad Hoc Committee thought that there would be a higher probability of the entire baskets being damaged in a forceful wind. It was suggested that solid baskets should be placed on Rehoboth Avenue and that the hanging baskets should be lowered one foot so there is easier access for watering. The plants would have more visibility and would possibly have more protection from the wind. At the Canal Bridge, Chris had suggested that hayracks be placed across the rails. The cost for the hayracks was approximately \$4,400.00 and would have been costly for that project. Warren Goldie had recommended the plant choices for the lamppost baskets. With regard to the hanging baskets, there needs to be a good watering system. Suggestions were made to have automatic timers and an irrigation system from the pump house at Lake Gerar Bridge to water the plants once a day in Spring and twice a day in Summer. Lorraine will talk with Greg Ferrese about irrigating the hanging baskets. Cordrey or Sposato may possibly be able to install the system. In Lewes, Warren uses his tank truck to water the plantings. Another possibility would be for Lorraine to get an estimate for the season from Chris Cordrey of East Coast with regard to a watering service for the specified plantings. More investigation will be needed. Tentatively, the Committee will earmark monies to do the irrigation. It may be wise to invest this year to set up infrastructure for next year and take steps to make it beautiful in two years. The idea of the automatic timers and an irrigation system, and lowering the baskets will be explored first. Greg Gause noted that two submersible pumps could be located on each side of the bridge. Hoses would be needed to go from the pump sources to the poles to water the plants. There is a source for electricity at the poles to hook up the pumps. Once the pumps would get debris on the filter side would cause them to decrease in efficiency or fail. With the initial watering system that was suggested, only a source of water is needed. The Ad Hoc Committee will look at various types of watering systems, hookups, timer systems and bilge pump systems.

In the near future, Kathy Osterholm, Jane Wyatt and Priscilla Smith will work together to suggest different types of plants that might do better in the hanging baskets. There should also be thought about a liner for the hanging baskets to hold in moisture.

With regard to Canal Bridge, there are areas on either side of the bridge for trough baskets. Cost estimates were originally received for the trough baskets on the Rehoboth side of the bridge. It was suggested to put three trough baskets all the way across the bridge on each side. One of the concerns with this idea was vandalism in that area, and that is why it was decided to plant the bed at the Museum area. One member suggested pricing out four baskets for the bridge with four baskets, and a fundraiser could be done through Main Street. It was suggested that the Ad Hoc Committee should discuss this idea with DelDOT and the City, and also find out what Warren had done to get permission for the Lewes Bridge. The Ad Hoc Committee decided to do the hayracks coming into the City. Priscilla Smith and Annmarie Westerfield will work on this proposed project.

At the last meeting, it was discussed to possibly have planters at the Bandstand. The Ad Hoc Committee has suggested three to four municipal size planters. Lorraine presented a slide show of various types and sizes of municipal planters. She had asked Chris Cordrey for prices of the planters. Consensus of the Ad Hoc Committee was to use cast stone planters which could stay out the entire year. These planters could be gotten from East Coast and could possibly be delivered free-of-charge. Other suggested vendors were Tomato Sunshine, Lowe's and Home Depot. Last year, the Ad Hoc Committee had discussed the areas where the planters could be used on the Boardwalk and at the Bandstand. Nancy Alexander of the Historical Society had found that at one point there were rose bushes in this area. Anything planted in the that area would require a fence around because of people walking through plantings places. A combination of grasses that are different heights, kinds and colors and possibly some knock-out roses would look nice in that area. Lorraine will talk with Sposato about the maintenance of grasses at the Bandstand area and what it is contracted to do on the Boardwalk. After discussion, consensus of the Ad Hoc Committee was to use bricks in the planting areas with grasses in planters or plant the areas with plants or grasses. Another suggestion was made to hang pole baskets at the bus stop and brick in the planting areas or have a raised bed and irrigation system. This area will need to be investigated more thoroughly and be revisited. It was suggested having a meeting with Sposato to get recommendations and costs.

Mariners' Park was suggested at the last meeting to put in a flower bed with annuals. The flower bed would be approximately 20 feet in diameter. This garden has been in place for approximately 25 years and had a working fountain. The garden has not been maintained as well as it should have been. Envirotech has been

involved with this garden in some way. Lorraine has talked with Greg Ferrese, and she found out that the homeowners' association had approached the City about beautifying this area. Chris Cordrey will be provided Lorraine with a planting scheme to fill in dirt around the circle and plant annuals, native plants, etc. on top. There probably will be problems with plant choices, etc. Lorraine will talk with Greg Ferrese and Todd Fritchman of Envirotech regarding the garden and what will be occurring in the future.

A suggestion was made to have a visual impact with baskets hanging from the light poles when coming to the restrooms at the Boardwalk to give the idea of a piazza and the bus stop at the Boardwalk. Members will look into the possibilities at Rehoboth Avenue and the Boardwalk and come back to the Ad Hoc Committee with their suggestions.

NEW BUSINESS

Update on meeting with City Manager regarding Sposato's work for the City including suggested areas in need of attention and areas where additional color could be added.

At the last meeting, the Ad Hoc Committee decided it did not want to ask the City for more money when there are areas in the City that are not being maintained and looking nice. One question was raised as to who maintains the areas around the memorial trees on the first two blocks of Rehoboth Avenue. A meeting was held with Sposato to see what it is that is covered in its contract. Sposato maintains all of common areas from the Canal Bridge to the Boardwalk including the Chamber of Commerce, Administrative Office and fence line at Grove Park, lighthouse circle, Building & Licensing Office, Convention Hall and its parking lot, Parking Meter Division, the triangle across from the Breakers Motel, and the center island and sidewalk beds on both sides of Rehoboth Avenue. Lorraine and Ned Kesmodel talked with Greg Ferrese about the poorly maintained areas. Greg is willing to have Sposato work on those areas around the memorial trees again. Ned has identified that approximately 74% of the areas at the memorial trees in the first two blocks of Rehoboth Avenue need to be replanted. One suggestion was for the merchants to adopt those areas and water them.

A suggestion was made for the areas around the memorial trees to be consistent looking and maintained appropriately. Consensus of the Ad Hoc Committee was to flatten the areas and take the mulch away from the mounds. Merchants could adopt a tree with the idea of putting in plants such as lariope, etc. If it is Sposato's responsibility to maintain those areas and the center islands, then members of the Ad Hoc Committee should meet with Sposato and point out the areas that are of most concern. A meeting will be organized with Sposato for the near future to walk the area of the first two blocks of Rehoboth Avenue and discuss what can be done to improve those areas.

ITEMS TO BE INCLUDED ON FUTURE AGENDAS

Items to be included on a future agenda are: 1. Prioritizing places to do projects. 2. Lake Gerar Bridge. 3. Canal Bridge planting. 4. Additional lamppost baskets at Canal Bridge including discussion of plant choices and irrigation. 5. Mariners' Park flower bed. 6. Municipal planters at Rehoboth Avenue. 7. Organize a meeting with Sposato.

SET NEXT MEETING

No date for a meeting was set at this time.

There being no further business, Chair Lorraine Zellers adjourned the meeting at 11:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

(Ann M. Womack, CMC, City Secretary)

**MINUTES APPROVED ON
APRIL 11, 2014**

(Lorraine Zellers, Chair)