

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

September 30, 2011

The Streets and Transportation Committee Meeting of the City of Rehoboth Beach was called to order at 11:05 a.m. by Chair Pat Coluzzi on Friday, September 30, 2011 in the Commissioners Room in City Hall, 229 Rehoboth Avenue, Rehoboth Beach, DE.

ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Pat Coluzzi, Cindy Lovett, Lorraine Zellers, Kathy Osterholm, Dennis Diehl

Absent: Jim Ellison, John Gauger

Audience: Patrick Gossett, Howard Menaker, Pat Brown, George Brown

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the April 11, 2011 and May 2, 2011 Streets and Transportation Committee Meeting were distributed prior to the meeting.

Kathy Osterholm made a motion, seconded by Lorraine Zellers, to approve the April 11, 2011 Streets and Transportation Committee Meeting minutes as written. Motion carried unanimously.

Lorraine Zellers made a motion, seconded by Kathy Osterholm, to approve the May 2, 2011 Streets and Transportation Committee Meeting minutes as written. Motion carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was none.

Discuss crosswalk issues.

Pat had sent an email to the Committee members regarding the situation with the crosswalks which had been discussed at previous meetings. The thirty-six (36) crosswalks on Rehoboth Avenue have concrete on both sides of the crosswalks with pavers in the middle. The problem is that the crosswalks cannot be seen very well. A recommendation was made to the City that the concrete should be painted to make the crosswalks visible. City Manager Greg Ferrese and Pat had a meeting with the DelDOT regarding this issue. DelDOT advised them that it would apply a white tape with crystals beads impregnated in the tape to the concrete which will be visible during the day and at night to alert drivers of the crosswalks. All of the crosswalks on Rehoboth Avenue will be done including some of the crossovers in the middle of the Avenue. It is anticipated that this project will occur on October 3, 2011 and will only take one day to complete.

Lorraine had received an email from a citizen requesting crosswalks on State Road because one side of State Road has no sidewalks, and it is dangerous crossing State Road at Grove Avenue and Munson Street. This email has been forwarded to Greg Ferrese, and he will be asking DelDOT if a feasibility study can be done to address this matter.

Kathy noted that in regard to the crosswalk in the ocean block of Rehoboth Avenue, there is only a crosswalk located from the south side of Rehoboth Avenue to the median but there is no crosswalk from the median to the north side of Rehoboth Avenue.

Dennis Diehl noted that there are medians in the third and fourth blocks of Rehoboth Avenue which have no crosswalks. In the second block of Rehoboth Avenue, there may be a need for one or two additional crosswalks in the middle of the block.

Pat suggested that the Committee continue to talk about this matter. When the Committee meets with Delaware Greenways in regard to the Bicycle/Pedestrian Master Plan, this will be a topic of discussion and can be put in the

report. Another topic to be discussed will be whether little people signs should be placed in the middle of Rehoboth Avenue to alert drivers of the crosswalks.

Patrick Gossett said that he was involved when Streetscape was done in the City. A traffic management study was done at that time by the engineers. One of the reasons crosswalks were not added to the islands in the third and fourth blocks of Rehoboth Avenue is to force people to come back to the intersections to cross. Theoretically, drivers are more astute at stopping and yielding to pedestrians at an intersection as opposed to a midblock crosswalk. A lengthy discussion had occurred about the number and placement of crosswalks during the Streetscape redesign. It was taken on the recommendation of the engineers to only place crosswalks at intersections.

This item will be placed on the agenda for the next Committee meeting.

Discuss Bicycle Pedestrian Master Plan.

Pat had forwarded a copy of the Bicycle/Pedestrian Master Plan proposal and schedule to the Committee members prior to the meeting. The sub-committee consisting of Cindy Lovett, Jim Ellison and Pat Coluzzi met with Delaware Greenways to discuss a schedule. The first deliverable is the Technical Memorandum, and Delaware Greenways will present it on October 14, 2011 to the Committee. At that time, the Committee will be able to provide input and ask questions. A public meeting is tentatively scheduled for October 21, 2011. Delaware Greenways is currently doing a crash analysis regarding all of the crashes involving bicycle and pedestrians which have occurred on Rehoboth Avenue. It has been talking to a list of stakeholders such as the Chief of Police, Carol Everhart of Rehoboth Beach/Dewey Beach Chamber of Commerce, a bike shop owner, hotels, etc. Delaware Greenways will be talking to the Planning Commission because it has some ideas in regard to issues involving bicycles, etc. Delaware Greenways also has talked with several people at the Farmers' Market.

Patrick had hoped that the company which rents the surrey bicycles would be included as a stakeholder because they present challenges on the street during the season and off-season.

Kathy suggested the idea that during the summer the narrower streets could easily be one-way streets which would allow for bicycles and pedestrians. Pat said that there would have to be serious investigation about traffic flow, etc.

Howard Menaker said that when doing interviews, it would be important for Delaware Greenways to be present in the City on a weekend such as Jazz Festival which would approach seasonal traffic as opposed to midweek in October.

Cindy said that in regard to the line of sight at the circle, she had noticed that the new plantings in the circle are basically as high as the rosebushes that were removed. She also observed that if someone walks the circle counterclockwise, there is no problem with line of sight because that person is walking on the side of incoming traffic. In walking the circle clockwise, that person crosses as traffic is coming around the circle. It depends on which way a person approaches the circle as to whether crossing the circle is an issue or not. She thought that the flashing speed signs at the circle would be the most effective to curb speed, even if they are put up during the busiest part of the season.

Pat Brown commented that the City is good for biking as a mode of transportation. She voiced concern with biking into the City on Rehoboth Avenue because people driving are moving pretty fast. In Lewes, a lot of the intersections have signs regarding crosswalks having priority. Pat Coluzzi had mentioned to the representatives from DelDOT about placing one or two of the people signs at the circle as a trial. George Brown said that those signs would alert the drivers coming into the City of the other crosswalks.

Kathy also noted that the white tape with the crystal beads will be applied to the concrete of the crosswalks at the circle.

Patrick noted that one of the recent studies from U.S. Department of Transportation has come out about traffic calming and the use of design of the pavement. Hash marks or the use of brick pavers or painting to create a narrower lane through a visual effect would be a subtle traffic calming device.

This item will be placed on the agenda for the next Committee meeting.

Discuss items to be included on future agendas.

1. Report on the City investigating new parking meters which operate by cell phone. A presentation is scheduled for October 2011. Pat noted that the Mayor and City Manager are in favor of moving forward this year on new meters.

2. Develop a policy for 30-minute meters.
3. Develop a snow removal policy in regard to where or where not to put the snow, where or where not to park, etc. In regard to snow removal during the winter, there are not appropriate pedestrian walkways to get around the City; a person cannot see at intersections because of the snow being piled up at the intersections. Kathy suggested that the entire center of Rehoboth Avenue be a no parking area during a snowstorm. All snow removal on Rehoboth Avenue could be put in those parking places in order to allow parking on the business side of the Avenue. Pat suggested that Mel Craig, Public Works Director should be invited to a future meeting to discuss this item. Kathy also noted that there are a number of absentee business owners who are not providing safe sidewalks. Pat noted that there is a policy in regard to clearing the sidewalks after a snow, but it is not enforced. Kathy said a suggestion made by her neighbors is for the City to take responsibility for at least purchasing a snowblower which can make one pass across intersections and sidewalks, and billing businesses, etc. Pat suggested that the Mayor attend a future meeting when this matter is discussed.
4. There is no policy for motorized two wheel vehicles. With the motorized bikes, there is no parking policy for them, where they can or cannot ride, etc. Pat said that it would be the responsibility of the Board of Commissioners to develop a policy. The real issue is motorized bikes and parking. Howard did not know what adding a City ordinance would do since the violations would be against State law, but it might be needed. This item will be placed on the next agenda and will be part of what is discussed with Delaware Greenways.
5. Display flowers in the City such as putting flower boxes on the bridge. Pat noted that there is a group in the City of Lewes which is dedicated to doing this type of thing. Discussion ensued as to whether this would be in the purview of the Parks & Shade Tree Commission in the City or if Main Street should become involved in this matter along with involvement from businesses. Pat thought that this subject could be brought before the Board of Commissioners for its input. Patrick suggested that a plan should be developed for the process to be presented to the Board of Commissioners beforehand. There are models for business improvement districts which are active in other municipalities. The model could be paralleled to have Main Street behind it. One of the revenue sources may be from the mitigation of violations of the tree ordinance. The Committee should talk to representatives from the City of Lewes to gain insight. Howard suggested that the Committee should start with Main Street. If Main Street says that this is something which the City's approval is needed, then have Main Street develop a plan and bring it back to the City. Lorraine volunteered to talk with Anna Marie of Main Street to see what her interests are in regard to this matter.
6. Discuss environmentally friendly sidewalks. Pat said that this item can be discussed with Delaware Greenways as to what its opinion would be on this subject. This may be something to be put in the master plan. One place to be considered as a test area would be Lake Avenue. Cindy noted that the rubber sidewalks are made from recycled tires, and there are grants available for using recycled tires.
7. Discuss the consistency and enforcement of the current sidewalks because there are still sidewalks in the City which have not been repaired. Lorraine suggested that there should be a certain amount of money allocated in the budget for the sidewalks which are not getting repaired.

Set next meeting.

The next meeting has been scheduled for October 14, 2011. The time will be determined.

There being no further business, Chair Pat Coluzzi declared the meeting adjourned at 12:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

(Ann M. Womack, City Secretary)

**MINUTES APPROVED ON
OCTOBER 14, 2011**

(Pat Coluzzi, Chair)