

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

October 31, 2011

The Streets and Transportation Committee Meeting of the City of Rehoboth Beach was called to order at 11:02 a.m. by Chair Pat Coluzzi on Monday, October 31, 2011 in the Commissioners Room in City Hall, 229 Rehoboth Avenue, Rehoboth Beach, DE.

ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Pat Coluzzi, Lorraine Zellers, Kathy Osterholm (arrived at 11:10 a.m.), Jim Ellison, John Gauger

Absent: Cindy Lovett, Dennis Diehl

Also: Greg Ferrese, Mel Craig (both left at 12:02 p.m.)

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Lorraine Zellers made a motion, seconded by John Gauger, to approve the Agenda as amended with discussing the options for planting flowers in the City to be heard before discussing a snow removal policy. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the October 14, 2011 Streets and Transportation Committee Meeting were distributed prior to the meeting.

Lorraine Zellers made a motion, seconded by Jim Ellison, to approve the October 14, 2011 Streets and Transportation Committee Meeting minutes as written. Motion carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was none.

Discuss the options for planting flowers in the City.

Lorraine had visited the City of Lewes to view the hanging baskets, etc. and had also spoken with Annmarie Westerfield of Main Street Inc. who has expressed an interest in moving forward with a project like this. Main Street would help in any way it can, but its funding is limited. Since then, Lorraine has spoken with the president of Lewes in Bloom. A 10th year anniversary celebration will be held on November 8, 2011. Lewes in Bloom has approximately 55 members with this being the first year it has had a membership drive and business involvement. The founders were a group from the Pilottown community that became involved with the American Bloom contest. The City of Lewes has supported Lewes in Bloom with \$10,000.00 annually. Warren Goldie, formerly of Baywood, provides all of the information and picks out the plants which are paid for by the City of Lewes. Volunteers get together to do the plantings and the maintenance throughout the year. Warren is a paid volunteer who does the watering of the plants. The cost would be approximately \$900.00 for the City to participate in the America in Bloom contest. The committee would not work as an adjunct to the Parks & Shade Tree Commission. Community members would need to be involved such as the Chamber of Commerce, Main Street and the City both for funding, support and volunteers. America in Bloom has eight criteria which include the tidiness of green spaces, medians and boulevards, environmental awareness, sustainable development, community involvement, preservation, urban forestry, landscaped areas, floral displays, turf and ground cover in various sectors. Two judges would be in the City between the spring and July to evaluate the community. The City can also participate by doing its own thing first to see if community involvement can be fostered. Lorraine will need to get more information on how the City would compare to Lewes in Bloom and what \$10,000.00 would do for the City. She asked about doing a test first with getting blocks, businesses, real estate companies and neighborhoods involved. Lorraine would like to connect with Warren because he is a horticulturist who could provide names of people who might be interested in this matter.

Pat has talked with Mayor Cooper about the Parks & Shade Tree Commission doing things like beautifying the City. She has been trying to get the Farmers' Market which uses Grove Park to make a contribution to the City to beautify the park. Sposato has been working on some ideas to possibly beautify the park with separate gardens and mulching the areas where the farmers come to set up their tents for the Farmers' Market, etc.

Kathy Osterholm suggested that the City should take on the entrance (bridge) and have the expense come out of City funds. At least two trees which were planted throughout the City have been moved by individuals and were moved to places where they wanted the trees to be located. If there will be plantings in parks, they will have to be protected in places used by adults and children. It would be better to put plants on street poles, etc.

Jim Ellison suggested that the mission of the Streets & Transportation Committee could be changed to include beautification projects. Pat thought that the Committee's scope could be broadened to include plantings along streets, parks, etc. The Commissioners would need to decide if this is something they would want this Committee to do.

The consensus of the Committee was that this is a good idea regarding broadening its scope.

Lorraine and Kathy will work together on a plan and proposal for the Commissioners' Workshop Meeting in December 2011. Warren would be a good resource to point them in the right direction, and Sposato would be a good resource regarding the purchase of plants. Jim thought that a better understanding of how the money works in Lewes with contributions, etc. would be useful when presenting this plan to the Commissioners.

Greg Ferrese noted that there is money in the budget for plantings, etc. Approval by DelDOT would be needed for plantings at the bridges to the entrances of the City. Lake Gerar bridge should be a priority. Once the plantings are successful at this bridge, credibility could be built and the Committee could move on to the other bridges. The Committee might be able to get the condominiums to take care of the street ends. A planting plan would be needed where the street ends. Plantings to be used should require minimal water. Starting the beginning of December, the City will be preparing the budget. Pat will forward a memo to Greg for additional money needed for plantings to be placed in next year's budget. Greg acknowledged that the City could put some type of short fencing at the grass areas at the ends of the streets should volunteers place plantings there. A landscape architect can help with the designs to include security of the plantings. Forms of advertising for this project would be the Chamber of Commerce, Main Street and church bulletins. A person from the City is needed to be able to coordinate this.

Discuss a snow removal policy.

Kathy Osterholm voiced concern that there is no policy in the winter after a snowfall of where to or not to park and where the snowplows put or do not put the snow. A suggestion was made to push the snow into the parking spaces at the medians on Rehoboth Avenue and allow vehicles to be parked on the outside of the street instead of putting the snow at the intersections where the crosswalks are located for pedestrians to cross the street. The City should have a snow blower to make sure there is a given pedestrian path across every intersection for people to walk. A policy could be in place to have signs for no parking in certain areas after it snows. Another suggestion was that in moving out two blocks from center city, parking would only be allowed on one side of the street after a substantial snowfall. All of the snow from the street could be pushed to the one side of the street.

Mel Craig thought the best place to put the snow on the streets other than Rehoboth Avenue would be on the side of the street that gets the most sun. On Rehoboth Avenue, if parking would be along the outer sides of the streets, there would be ice along the curbs. In regard to the sidewalks, it is the owner's responsibility to clean the sidewalks. A path the width of the snow blower is made from City Hall to the Boardwalk and back on both sides of Rehoboth Avenue and First and Second Streets. The City will be more careful about not piling the snow as high at the intersections. Pat noted that there would be a drainage issue at the medians because there are no catch basins.

Greg noted that the City does not have the equipment to handle big snows. The priority is to plow the main arteries first. Then the secondary streets are plowed. In a big snow event, a path is made to open the streets for the residents. After that, the parking lots are plowed. If the snow event falls late in the week, the priority is to remove the snow at the churches. After that the snow is removed for the businesses on Rehoboth Avenue. Greg thought the City should continue with its program for snow removal, but snow piled at the intersections can be addressed. Snow is not to be piled to block handicapped parking spaces, fire hydrants, commercial dumpsters, etc. Greg did not know how to address the issue of snow on the sidewalks where there are non-resident property and business owners.

Lorraine noted that in other municipalities, it is the property owner's responsibility to remove snow within 24 to 48 hours from the sidewalks, and there are designated sides of the street to park. If the property owner does not take care of the snow removal, then the municipality assesses that property owner with the costs. An ordinance could be in place for people to know what the policy is in regard to a snow event.

Ann Womack will be in contact with Ocean City - MD, Sea Isle City - NJ and Cape May - NJ regarding their snow removal ordinances for the central business districts and residential areas. She will forward any information when it is received to the Committee.

Discussion ensued as to how to provide open sidewalks on the streets other than Rehoboth Avenue where the businesses are located.

Discuss items to be included on future agendas.

Items to be included will the next agenda will be the discussion of options for planting flowers in the City and discussion of a snow removal policy. On November 19, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. in the Conference Suite, there will be a public meeting for the Bicycle/Pedestrian Master Plan. An item to be included on a future agenda is the discussion of an ordinance regarding political signs around the City. John Gauger will work on a proposal regarding this matter.

Set next meeting.

The next meeting has been scheduled for December 2, 2011 at 10:00 a.m.

There being no further business, John Gauger made a motion, seconded by Lorraine Zellers to adjourn the meeting at 12:17 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

(Ann M. Womack, CMC, City Secretary)

**MINUTES APPROVED ON
FEBRUARY 3, 2012**

(Pat Coluzzi, Chair)