

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

November 19, 2010

The Streets and Transportation Committee Meeting of the City of Rehoboth Beach was called to order at 2:43 p.m. by Co-Chair Dennis Barbour on Friday, November 19, 2010 in the Commissioners Room in City Hall, 229 Rehoboth Avenue, Rehoboth Beach, DE.

ROLL CALL

Present: Cindy Lovett, Lorraine Zellers, Co-Chair Dennis Barbour, Co-Chair Pat Coluzzi, Dennis Diehl arrived at 2:50 p.m., John Gauger

Absent: Kathy Osterholm, Jim Ellison

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the July 16, 2010 and August 20, 2010 Streets and Transportation Committee Meeting were distributed prior to the meeting.

Pat Coluzzi made a motion, seconded by Lorraine Zellers, to approve the July 16, 2010 Streets and Transportation Committee minutes as written. Motion carried unanimously.

The minutes of the August 20, 2010 were deferred to the next meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE

Letter received from Joan Wallace, 805 Scarborough Avenue, who had a signed petition asking for better lighting on that side of the street.

Discuss status of DNREC grant.

Pat informed the Committee members that she had spoken with a representative from DNREC today who anticipates that the City will be informed of the grant the first week of December 2010. A DNREC committee is currently scoring all of the proposals to determine who will be awarded the grant. The City has also submitted a proposal in regard to an electric vehicle and natural gas vehicles.

Discussion of:

Circle issues

Cindy Lovett had talked with Police Chief Keith Banks after the last meeting in regard to the circle and how big of a problem it is. Chief Banks had reported to the City Commissioners in July 2010 that the number of accidents has dramatically decreased since the circle has been constructed. In 2008, there were 156 accidents in the City with three being at the circle. In 2009, there were 188 accidents in the City with four being at the circle. In 2010 year-to-date, there were 88 accidents in the City with two being at the circle. Before the circle's construction, there were 50 accidents at that intersection plus many near misses. Even though there are some issues with the circle, it seems to be working. Even though the plantings will be changed with the next planting cycle at the circle, Cindy suggested that the rose bushes be planted some other place in the City and be replaced with lower plants now.

Dennis Barbour suggested that resolutions for the pedestrian issues at the circle should still be pursued. Pat noted that in regard to pedestrian and crosswalk issues at the circle, people have complained that the brick are not noticeable; and she suggested that a simple solution would be to paint white stripes on either side of the crosswalk. It would be reasonable for the Committee to make a recommendation to the City for this to be done. Dennis B. and Pat will pass this suggestion on to the Commissioners.

Lorraine Zellers made a motion, seconded by Cindy Lovett, to recommend to the City that the striping on either side of the brick crosswalks be considered to make them more visible. Motion carried unanimously.

Dennis B. will write and forward a letter to the City regarding this recommendation.

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

Sidewalks

Pat Coluzzi noted that in regard to Kathy Osterholm's report submitted to the Committee, she had provided the procedure regarding the repair of sidewalks and enforcement. Lorraine was not sure if Kathy has met with City Manager Gregory Ferrese, City Arborist Walter Onizuk or Building Inspector Terri Sullivan to see how many letters are regarding sidewalks in need of repair, if there is a response from the first letter sent, if there is a second letter sent. Lorraine and Cindy have gathered information regarding a "green" sidewalk which consists of a rubberized mat or reinforced gravel with a plastic grid which is ADA compliant. Two tests of public areas in Baltimore, MD have been done regarding the "green" sidewalk, but no follow-up has been done. Lorraine suggested that the "green" sidewalk could possibly be used for a test somewhere in the City of Rehoboth. Permeable sidewalks consisting of poured concrete with spaces were also looked into. Pat noted that if the grant is received which is a pedestrian/bicycle masterplan, it would be possible that the "green" sidewalk would be covered in the masterplan as an alternative to a standard sidewalk. Since the grant is a greenhouse gas reduction grant, there is a continuous source of funding for it through the green energy fund. More monies will become available next year, and the potential exists to do some implementation of the masterplan.

This item will be placed on the agenda of the next meeting for discussion due to Kathy's absence at this meeting.

Bikes.

Lorraine has seen the bike lanes in Bethany Beach, DE. A bike lane has been put along the curb on both sides of the street and on the cross streets. Dennis B. noted that in Washington, DC, there are two-way bike lanes between the curb and vehicles. He suggested that the City should buy blinking lights for bicycles and given them to bicyclists at City Hall. Cindy noted that there are no signs in the City that say bicycles are not allowed on sidewalks, and she recommended that this idea be implemented.

This item will be placed on the agenda of the next meeting for discussion due to Jim Ellison's absence at this meeting.

Pedestrians.

Dennis Diehl presented a summary of existing and proposed crosswalks on Rehoboth Avenue. Proposed crosswalks could be located at: 1. East of Browseabout and at Village By The Sea in the second block with in-street pedestrian crossing signs in the middle of the street. 2. Incoming in the third block just west of City Hall with an in-street pedestrian crossing sign in the middle of the street. 3. In the fourth block at Crosswinds Motel with an in-street pedestrian crossing sign in the middle of the street. In-street pedestrian signs should be also be located at all existing crosswalks. The City should be promoted as a "Pedestrian Friendly Town" with a sign (Yield for Pedestrians...It's the Law) in the median on Rehoboth Avenue in the fifth block. Pat suggested that in the event the grant is not received, the City should still move forward with these recommendations.

John Gauger reported that many of the shops which fly flags are dropping them lower, and people have to walk through them. Pat noted that this is a Code violation, and the height of the flags should be enforced by Building & Licensing. She will contact Jenny Barger of Main Street to send a reminder email to the shops notifying them that there is a height requirement.

Grants.

Other than the grant previously discussed, there was nothing further to report.

Signs.

Dennis B. will look into what is allowable under the State law. He will also look into The City of Lewes' local law that it has in place regarding signage.

Discussion of moving forward on assignments and timelines.

Assignments and timelines were previously discussed during the sub-committee reports portion of the meeting.

Set next meeting.

The next meeting has been scheduled for January 10, 2011 at 1:00 p.m.

There being no further business, Co-Chair Dennis Barbour declared the meeting adjourned at 3:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

(Ann M. Womack, City Secretary)