

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

November 25, 2013

The Streets and Transportation Committee Meeting of the City of Rehoboth Beach was called to order at 9:01 a.m. by Chair Bill Sargent on Monday, November 25, 2013 in the Commissioners Room in City Hall, 229 Rehoboth Avenue, Rehoboth Beach, DE.

ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Bill Sargent, Lorraine Zellers, Cindy Lovett (arrived at 9:02 a.m.), Kathy Osterholm, John Gauger, Dennis Diehl, Jim Ellison, Toni Sharp

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the March 1, 2013 and May 10, 2013 Streets and Transportation Committee Meetings were distributed prior to the meeting.

Kathy Osterholm made a motion, seconded by Lorraine Zellers, to approve the March 1, 2013 Streets and Transportation Committee Meeting minutes as written. Motion carried unanimously.

Jim Ellison made a motion, seconded by Lorraine Zellers, to approve the May 10, 2013 Streets and Transportation Committee Meeting minutes as written. Motion carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was none.

OLD BUSINESS

Update on Surf Avenue (widening and bike lane).

Bill Sargent provided a photograph of a bio-log on Surf Avenue to keep sand and debris from washing onto the road. Originally, the dirt walkway was approximately eight feet wide. It had been proposed to widen the area to 13 feet wide and to go back into the dune at a 1:2 ratio. Had this been done, the dune would have been almost completely eliminated. Bill had worked with Bob Palmer to change this to go back eight feet. They found that the roots in the sand were thick that the sand was being held by them. The dune itself is almost unchanged. After the paving was put in, the bio-log was put in. Unfortunately, a little sand was raked from the dune to behind the bio-log. The consensus of the Committee was to keep the bio-log in place for stabilization. Eventually the bio-log will disintegrate. Beach grass will be planted in a few months to hold it permanently. A major change has been made in terms of safety in that area on Surf Avenue. The Committee may want to identify a bike lane on Surf Avenue in the future. A suggestion was made for the natural width of the road to be marked with a white line because drivers are using that part of the road due to the silent policemen located in the middle of the road. Two potential issues for the Committee to discuss at a future meeting are: 1. Whether or not the white line is needed. 2. Whether or not to eliminate parking on Surf Avenue.

NEW BUSINESS

Discuss general objectives of Streets and Transportation Committee.

Sometimes committees will put together a mission statement which in some cases is important. The consensus of the Committee was to not prepare a mission statement given the amount of time it has to devote to monthly meetings.

Consider additional items for "Possible Agenda Items" document.

Bill had distributed the Possible Agenda Items document to the Committee prior to the meeting. Thirty-three items to be considered were listed in the document. Many of the more important items the Committee wants to do may not be done by the Committee, and notice will need to be given to the Commissioners for their review. The Committee discussed how it will set priorities and what it wants to address. Prior to the next meeting, members will

review the list and add any additional items for consideration. At the next meeting, the Committee will prioritize the items. Each month during the meeting, it will be determined which items will be addressed at the following meeting.

A suggestion was made to prioritize items, especially those that may need a change in policy for next year. The items dealt with first that have to do with rules and regulations, parking, etc. can be addressed by the Committee first so there is a timeframe for it to go to the Commissioners.

Additional items to be added to the document are:

1. Crossing of bicycles on Rehoboth Avenue. This item could be discussed under consider further changes for bicycle safety.
2. Consider policies regarding skateboards. The current ordinance should be updated, and the Chief of Police could be asked for his input on this matter.
3. Consider addressing the height of the plants in the median coming into the City. Line of sight is diminished and causes a hazard.
4. Consider policies regarding smoking on the beach and Boardwalk.
5. Consider need for additional equipment (adult swings) in Tot Lots. The Committee could bring this matter to the attention of the City Manager. Cindy Lovett will send an email to the City Manager and copy Lorraine and Bill.
6. Consider parking meter times and zones in the commercial district. All day parking on Rehoboth Avenue from Fourth Street to the Canal has become more prevalent, and the parking spaces are being tied up for the businesses. A suggestion was made to have three hour parking in this area.

Items in the document that were briefly addressed by the Committee as to whether or not they were in the purview of the Committee:

1. No. 16 – Consider adequacy of scooter parking in downtown and near beach areas. The Committee should speak with the City Solicitor because there is active litigation.
2. No. 17 – Consider possible changes to scooter permit program. The Committee should speak with the City Solicitor because there is active litigation. The Committee will be provided the tallies from the Parking Department in order to review this past season.
3. No. 20 – Consider possible need for a new Public Works garage. This item would fall under the purview of the Budget Committee.
4. No. 21 – Consider daily removal of trash items along the Boardwalk and from parks and playgrounds. Daily pickup is almost non-existent along the Boardwalk. The City does not have a policy of policing that area. There is a possibility of the City doing more rigorous policing for trash in the City. The Committee should work with Mel Craig, Director of Public Works, to come up with a solution.
5. No. 22 – Consider daily removal of sand from the Boardwalk. The point of introducing this item is to establish a firm policy. Things that affect the quality and appearance of the City are appropriate for the Committee to address.
6. No. 24 – Consider removing tree branches if they are a possible impediment for fire engines. This item would fall under the purview of the City Arborist and Delmarva Power.
7. No. 26 – Consider adding a wireless Public Announcement system on the Boardwalk. The captain of the lifeguard had approached the Chair of the Committee on this matter. The captain has a problem with clearing the beach when there is lightning, etc. A cost estimate will be provided to the Committee for them to review and then forwarded to the Commissioners.
8. No. 27 – Consider adding changing rooms or stalls in the public bathrooms on the Boardwalk. A visitor had approached a member of the Committee who works the kiosk during the summer about this matter. An additional comment was made that there is no family bathroom anywhere in Rehoboth. A member of the Committee suggested that the next time the Delaware Avenue restrooms are updated, a family facility could be applied. Other restrooms could also be considered.
9. No. 29 – Consider adding an observation deck near lifeguard headquarters. The captain of the lifeguards had approached the Chair of the Committee on this matter. The captain would like to have something where he can get a better scan of the entire beach. This may be an item that the Committee would not take action on, but it would be aware of what is being proposed. There is a possibility of considering a partnership with one of the hotels so a lifeguard would have easy access to the top of the building. Another idea would be to place cameras on the light poles and have a video system for scanning of the entire beach.

10. No. 30 – Consider problems related to unloading of delivery trucks. This is a big issue the Committee should think about addressing. There will need to be discussions with business and restaurant owners and vendors. It was suggested to have input provided from a traffic manager or planner.

Christine Hastings of Jolly Trolley noted that scheduling of deliveries has been discussed. She suggested the possibility that as delivery trucks are coming into the first blocks, especially on Rehoboth Avenue, there should be policing.

11. No. 31 – Consider problems related to unloading and loading of tourist buses. Pictures have been taken of buses that made the turnaround by the Bandstand and were idling for long periods of time. The buses were impeding traffic. A suggestion was made to unload and load the buses on another street besides Rehoboth Avenue.

Christine Hastings of Jolly Trolley was in attendance at the meeting and verified the congestion on Rehoboth Avenue at the Bandstand.

12. No. 33 – Consider problem of vehicles idling for excessive times. This item not only deals with Rehoboth Avenue. It also deals with other places in the City.
13. No. 33 – Consider problem of improper disposal of wash water. The nature of this item is that when soapy water is used for washing cars, sides of buildings, etc., it is not being disposed of properly and could also be a safety issue. This item would fall under the purview of Building & Licensing.

At the next meeting, the Committee will discuss the highest priority items which should be done immediately and the items which should be eliminated from the possible agenda items document. Bill will send the document electronically to each member. In return, each member will send Bill their prioritizations of the items listed in the document. The items should be prioritized from 0 to 5 with 5 being the highest priority and 0 being an item that is not to be considered by the Committee.

Consider other possible tasks for 2014, such as:

1. Update Bicycle Map.

Commissioner Stan Mills has been responsible for the parking map, and approximately 25,000 maps are printed. Approximately 5,000 copies have done of the bicycle map with a cost of more than \$2,000.00. The Mayor was not pleased with that cost. Bill had talked with Stan who is looking into the possibility of having a common map. Kathy Osterholm, Jim Ellison and Lorraine Zellers will work on updating the bicycle map for the 2014 season.

2. Review Informational Signage.

3. Review Bicycle Parking Program.

A question was raised if there are any statistics on how the bicycle parking areas were used this past season and if more bicycle racks are needed in the future.

4. Review Scooter Program.

The above-mentioned items will be discussed at a future date.

Each member should check their notes from past meetings to see if there are any other items that have fallen by the wayside.

Discuss items to be included on future agendas.

Items to be included on the next agenda are: 1. Prioritizing agenda items. 2. Discuss changes to the bicycle map and printing deadlines.

Items to be included on future agendas are: 1. Thirty minute parking policy. 2. Snow removal policy.

Set next meeting.

The next Committee meeting will be held on December 20, 2013 at 9:00 a.m.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

There were none.

There being no further business, Chair Bill Sargent adjourned the meeting at 10:19 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

(Ann M. Womack, CMC, City Secretary)

**MINUTES APPROVED ON
JANUARY 27, 2014**

(Bill Sargent, Chair)