

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

June 1, 2015

The Streets and Transportation Committee Meeting of the City of Rehoboth Beach was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chair Bill Sargent on Monday, June 1, 2015 in the Commissioners Room in City Hall, 229 Rehoboth Avenue, Rehoboth Beach, DE.

ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Bill Sargent, Kathy Osterholm, Cindy Lovett, John Gauger, Jim Ellison, Dennis Diehl, Lorraine Zellers

Absent: Toni Sharp

Also Present: City Manager Sharon Lynn (left the meeting at 10:17 a.m.), Police Chief Keith Banks (arrived at 9:07 a.m. and left the meeting at 10:17 a.m.)

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Lorraine Zellers made a motion, seconded by Jim Ellison, to approve the Agenda with the exception of moving Item Nos. 6(E) before 6(D). Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

No Minutes were available for approval.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was none.

OLD BUSINESS

Discuss status of speed control devices on Hickman Street.

City Manager Sharon Lynn had received good reports that the speeders are seeing the devices and slowing down. The Police Department has monitored the street, and it has noticed that traffic is moving slower.

Lorraine Zellers noted that the residents have seen the same results and are very happy.

Discuss possible improvements to Surf Avenue.

City Manager Lynn has been in contact with a traffic engineer from AECOM with regard to doing a traffic study on Surf Avenue. She anticipated starting a study sometime this summer. Coordination will be done with the State with regard to Surf Avenue between Columbia and Henlopen Avenues because it is state owned. Part of the charge to the engineer will be to take into consideration the recommendations that are noted and to include them in the study.

Jim Ellison said that since there is no bike path between Henlopen and Park Avenues on Surf Avenue, he would like to see the engineer consider the entire street moved over toward the dunes enough to allow for the planting strip and a bike lane. It may also mean realigning the entire intersection where Henlopen Avenue is, including the street from Henlopen Acres.

Discuss status of proposed additional crosswalks and silent policemen.

Police Chief Keith Banks said that in discussion with the City Manager, a crosswalk will be placed at Lake Avenue and First Street, and a crosswalk will be placed at the intersection of Maryland Avenue and Second Street. There is not enough room for fire equipment to have a silent policeman at this intersection.

City Manager Lynn thought that the crosswalks would be placed at the locations within a month.

Dennis Diehl mentioned that there is no need for a pedestrian crosswalk at Hickman Street and State Road, but the bike path goes through that area, and it should be indicated as such.

NEW BUSINESS

Discuss plans to maintain/repair City streets.

City Manager Lynn noted that the Streets Department handles all minor repairs of City Streets. A city-wide street paving plan has been undertaken through Alan Kercher, consulting engineer. Monies have been budgeted for this plan, and it is underway. A study and plan were completed this past winter. All the streets have been looked at and are monitored for their conditions as to what is done first. This study will be married with the new infrastructure of the Water Department services. City Manager Lynn, Water Superintendent Howard Blizzard and Alan Kercher met last week to come up with a plan of what needs to be done first with regard to the replacement of the old cast iron mains with eight inch improved infrastructure. The Water Department has currently been replacing mains on Oak Avenue, and the paving will be done in Fall 2015. The Water Department will then continue in the first or second block of Hickman Street to replace the infrastructure, and the paving will occur in Spring 2016.

Discuss status of Bike Patrol.

Frank Cole reported that Memorial Day Weekend was the first weekend for the volunteer bicycle patrol. On Saturday and Sunday, there were between three and four volunteers on the Boardwalk at all times. This past weekend there were two volunteers on the Boardwalk. Uniforms for the volunteers have not been delivered to date. He is in the process of trying to find a hands free radio system that is cost effective that will allow three to four people to communicate with each other at one time. Black cycling shorts will be issued to the volunteers by the upcoming weekend. Currently, there are six volunteers and approximately three prospects for this program. The volunteers were instructed to observe and have positive contact with people. There have been no reports of any incidents. All the volunteers have signed waivers which are on file.

Police Chief Banks thought that the program will be effective for the City.

Discuss proposed Bicycle Friendly Street Guide for 2015.

Jim Ellison said that anytime the Committee attempts to designate certain streets as safer than other streets, the Mayor has said that this needs to go to the Commissioners. There will not be a bicycle guide for 2015 because it must be approved by the Commissioners. If the Committee recommends any signage to indicate a safe bicycle route, that would also need to go to the Commissioners. The 8½"x11" map that was put together last year will continue to be used this year. This handout also lists the rules on it. Jim suggested that there should be a meeting with the Mayor to present the views of the Committee on this issue and determine what will happen in going forward.

Cindy Lovett said that getting the signs up at the gateways of the City, especially at Surf Avenue and coming across the two bridges is critical.

Discuss possibility of a lighted speed sign on the Rehoboth Avenue approach to the Circle.

Cindy Lovett had introduced this topic to the Committee last month after having introduced it to the City Manager and Police Chief.

Police Chief Banks did want the lighted speed sign located at the Circle due to all the signage and distractions. He and the City Manager were supportive of having the sign put up on 1A. The State would require a traffic study; and if it would want a lighted speed sign, the State would decide where to place it. His recommendation to place the lighted speed sign before the bridge coming into the City.

Bill Sargent said that the Committee should not take any action on this item. It would be up to the City Manager and Police Chief to take action on it.

Discuss potential City gateway issues and possible solutions.

Jim Ellison noted that the principle reason for the meeting with the Mayor was to discuss the list that the Committee has created of a series of gateway issues. All of these issues have implications in terms of the City's relationship with the State. The Mayor reviewed the list and noted that there were no recommendations as to solutions to the issues. The Mayor agreed to try to schedule a meeting with representatives from DelDOT and DNREC in conjunction with one of the Committee's future meetings. Part of the problem is trying to find out what the State's plan is for trying to further the loop for the two trails and what the implications would be for the City. The Mayor has suggested that the Committee reduce the list to major areas of concern and put a preamble on it that the City is faced with an increase of cars and bikes and is concerned about safety, etc. The City is concerned about its planning efforts within the town and how to make that coincidental with what the State are planning statewide that would affect the City. Jim will work on this matter.

NEW BUSINESS

Discuss accreditation process for a Bicycle Friendly City by the League of American Bicyclists.

This item was deferred to a future meeting

DISCUSS ITEMS TO BE INCLUDED ON AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING.

Items to include on the next agenda are: 1. Discuss possible improvements to Surf Avenue. 2. Give City Manager opportunity to talk about various issues brought up by the Committee.

COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS

There were none.

CITIZEN COMMENT

There was none.

SET NEXT MEETING DATE.

The next meeting will be held on July 20, 2015 at 9:00 a.m.

There being no further business, Chair Bill Sargent adjourned the meeting at 10:38 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

(Ann M. Womack, City Secretary)

**MINUTES APPROVED ON
FEBRUARY 1, 2016**

(Lorraine Zellers, Acting Chair)