

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

December 29, 2014

The Streets and Transportation Committee Meeting of the City of Rehoboth Beach was called to order at 9:09 a.m. by Chair Bill Sargent on Monday, December 29, 2014 in the Commissioners Room in City Hall, 229 Rehoboth Avenue, Rehoboth Beach, DE.

ROLL CALL

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

Absent: Toni Sharp, Cindy Lovett

Also Present: City Manager Sharon Lynn (left the meeting at 9:30 a.m.), Police Chief Keith Banks (left the meeting at 10:20 a.m.)

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 March 24, 2014, April 28, 2014, July 28, 2014 and August 25, 2014 Streets & Transportation Committee Meetings were distributed prior to the meeting. All minutes were deferred to the next meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was none.

OLD BUSINESS

Report on status of speed control devices on Hickman Street.

City Manager Sharon Lynn reported that the paperwork had been submitted to the State, and the devices were approved for funding.

Report on status of request that the City work the State on City gateway issues.

Bill Sargent noted that no meeting has been scheduled with the State at this point in time to work on gateway issues

Discuss possible limits on use of bicycles on the Boardwalk in light of Commissioner comments.

City Manager Lynn noted that during the Commissioners Meeting, they recommended that it go back to the Streets & Transportation Committee. The Commissioners did not want to, at this time, limit any bicycles on the Boardwalk regarding a time factor or reducing the hours. The Commissioners' guidance to the Committee was that riding bicycles on the Boardwalk is a tradition not to be given up, and that the Committee should make some specific recommendations with regard to this matter. No action was taken at that meeting. Some areas for consideration that were mentioned are an education program, an actual presence by volunteers and assigning one to two police officers solely to the Boardwalk area during those hours who could educate the public as well.

Police Chief Keith Banks said that with regard to the recommendations by the Committee to post additional signage on the Boardwalk referring to the times bicycles can be on the Boardwalk and a speed limit, it would be hard to judge speed. The summer officers are not specifically trained for speeding on a bicycle. He will provide officers on the Boardwalk to stop people on bicycles who are performing reckless or careless acts and try to educate them. With regard to additional signage on the Boardwalk, Police Chief Banks thought that there would be too many signs and information that no one would pay attention to it. Putting an ordinance into effect with regard to speed would be hard to enforce and would not be practical.

Kathy Osterholm suggested that a graphic sign could be placed on the Boardwalk to indicate sharing the Boardwalk and staying alert. Jim Ellison and Lorraine Zellers agreed.

Bill Sargent said that posting 8 mph speed limit signs would tell bicyclists who are speeding that it is inappropriate, and it would set a standard.

Frank Cole said that the important issue is that everyone needs to be prepared to stop on short notice. If someone is cycling and they keep in mind about stopping on short notice at any time, then they will keep the speed at 8 mph or under that. He will make a presentation at the next Committee meeting regarding the specifics of the volunteer program.

No consensus was reached by the Committee regarding the posting of speed limit signs on the Boardwalk.

Carol Everhart of Rehoboth Beach/Dewey Beach Chamber of Commerce suggested that there should be a campaign for awareness so people will know what is decided with regard to this topic. Comments she has received had to do with signage, enforcement and education.

Discuss how to encourage bike riders to use safer streets and discuss the proposed Bicycle Friendly Street Guide for 2015.

Jim Ellison noted that the map has everything to do with recommending the most favorable and safest routes in and out of the City. At the last meeting, the Committee discussed the safest routes in and out of the City with the intent of showing people how to get to the core of downtown and to the beaches. A major problem is how to direct bicyclists who are on the south side of Rehoboth Avenue to Highway 1 and the Junction Breakwater Trail. He suggested that people cross Rehoboth Avenue at First or Second Streets where there are traffic lights and then go on the safe routes on the north side of the City. If this is an acceptable set of recommended routes, many signs would be involved to help direct bicyclists coming in from the trails, finding their way into the City and then back out. Large scale reproductions of the map would be posted at the ends of the trails coming into the City and two other key locations. The next step would be to hire a graphic individual to put this in a form to consider further.

Discuss status of study of possible parking issues such as:

- 1. Locations of meters (particularly of 30 minute meters).**
- 2. Time limits of meters in various areas.**
- 3. Enforcement of time limits.**

These items will be deferred to the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Discuss possible adjustment to dates that various activities are permitted.

Lorraine Zellers had distributed a packet providing background on adjustment to times and dates. Commissioner Stan Mills had developed a list, in conjunction with Police Chief Banks, former City Manager Greg Ferrese and Mayor Cooper, which lists all the date and time restrictions. There was not full support from the Commissioners at that time to change date and time restrictions. Currently in the Code, no bicycles are allowed on the Boardwalk from 10:00 a.m. to daybreak of the next day from May 15th thru September 15th. As an example, the Committee would need to discuss the possibility of changing time because of the high season and more people and the possibility of changing the day from May 1st thru September 30th. There are other proposed dates and times to be reconsidered, not including parking meters and parking permits because these would be discussed by the Commissioners.

Kathy Osterholm said that the inconsistency of dates, whether it is parking meters, parking permits, dogs, bikes, etc. is confusing to visitors. The more consistent the City can be with every regulation would allow a visitor to know when the summer regulations start and end.

The consensus of the Committee was to provide consistency with dates because it would make enforcement easier, and it would eliminate confusion in the minds of the public. Lorraine will work with Police Chief Banks recommend proposed dates. Then the Committee would discuss each item individually, and then take them to the Commissioners for review and approval.

Discuss possible improvements to southbound lane of Surf Avenue.

Police Chief Banks had indicated at a previous meeting that there is not sufficient room to make a boundary at the southbound lane of Surf Avenue. The City does not have the right to pave the egress on all of the west side of Surf Avenue because the State would be involved with part of it. For the most part, if there are memorandums of understanding, the State would allow it.

Bill Sargent said that Surf Avenue is not bicycle friendly on the southbound side and is not conducive to

inviting bicyclists to ride into the City. The Committee should look at the matter and ask an engineer to take a look at it to see what the feasibility is.

Kathy Osterholm noted that if signage is put into effect, the Committee is recommending for bicyclists not to be on Surf Avenue where it is dangerous, but to go on First Street where it is less travelled and safer.

OLD BUSINESS

Discuss possible City traffic study in light of Commissioner comments.

Lorraine Zeller recommended that this item be tabled due to no appetite from the Commissioners to go forward with a stand-alone traffic study. Commissioners Mills and Gossett would like to have a more detailed scope of work, what will be included in the study, how it will be set up, a possible RFQ and more information. All the Commissioners felt that the study should be a part of what the vision is for the City going forward.

Discuss possible snow removal program in light of Commissioner comments.

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

Discuss possible Bloom initiative in light of Commissioner comments.

Lorraine Zellers had given a presentation to the Commissioners. There was consensus of the Commissioners that beautification is an important aspect for the City. One concern was that the beautification should not be at the expense of the maintenance of everything that is already in place. The majority of the Commissioners were in agreement that the City Manager could explore hiring a dedicated person for the bloom project, possibly a horticulturist. No meeting has been scheduled for the Bloom Committee at this point.

DISCUSS ITEMS TO BE INCLUDED ON AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING.

Items to be included on the next agenda are: 1. Frank Cole's presentation regarding the specifics of the volunteer program. 2. Discuss status of study of possible parking issues. 3. Discuss possible snow removal program. 4. Flashing speed device on Rehoboth Avenue inside the bridge.

COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS

There were none.

CITIZEN COMMENT

There was none.

SET NEXT MEETING DATE.

The next meeting will be held on January 26, 2015 at 9:00 a.m.

There being no further business, Chair Bill Sargent adjourned the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

(Ann M. Womack, City Secretary)

**MINUTES APPROVED ON
FEBRUARY 1, 2016**

(Lorraine Zellers, Acting Chair)