

**STREETS AND TRANSPORTATION AD HOC COMMITTEE
REHOBOTH IN BLOOM
CITY OF REHOBOTH BEACH**

September 14, 2012

The Streets and Transportation Ad Hoc Committee – Rehoboth in Bloom Meeting of the City of Rehoboth Beach was called to order at 10:05 a.m. by Chair Lorraine Zellers on Friday, September 14, 2012 in the Commissioners Room in City Hall, 229 Rehoboth Avenue, Rehoboth Beach, DE.

ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Lorraine Zellers, Ned Kesmodel, Carol Everhart of Rehoboth Beach/Dewey Beach Chamber of Commerce (left the meeting at 11:13 a.m.), Annmarie Westerfield of Rehoboth Beach Main Street (left the meeting at 11:34 a.m.), Bill Sargent

Absent: Kathy Osterholm, Diane Perkie

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Bill Sargent made a motion, seconded by Carol Everhart, to approve the Agenda as written. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the January 9, 2012 and April 9, 2012 Streets and Transportation Ad Hoc Committee – Rehoboth in Bloom Meeting were distributed prior to the meeting.

Ned Kesmodel made a motion, seconded by Annmarie Westerfield, to approve the January 9, 2012 Streets and Transportation Ad Hoc Committee – Rehoboth in Bloom Meeting as written. Motion carried unanimously.

Bill Sargent made a motion, seconded by Ned Kesmodel, to approve the April 9, 2012 Streets and Transportation Ad Hoc Committee – Rehoboth in Bloom Meeting as written. Motion carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE

Resignation letter received from Diane Perkie, member of the Ad Hoc Committee.

OLD BUSINESS

Review of projects including startup, maintenance, costs and future for the Rain Garden, Lake Gerar Bridge and Canal Bridge Planting.

Lorraine gave a presentation with photographs showing when the rain garden was installed on May 10, 2012 in front of City Hall by Envirotech. The total cost for the project was \$3,036.00 which included rental of an excavator. A photograph was shown of the rain garden with signage on September 10, 2012. A rain barrel has been installed as part of the rain garden, and a City employee fills the barrel if it is not filled with rainwater. The sign was received from Inland Bays on August 18, 2012 and was installed prior to Labor Day. To date, the rain garden has not received the exposure of what its purpose is, and it is hoped that there will more exposure next year. Carol Everhart suggested promoting the rain garden in the Chamber's publications for next year. These publications are done by December 2012. Bill Sargent will take photographs of the rain garden and forward them to Carol for the publications. Lorraine continued with her presentation and noted that the rain garden will be sustainable, but there will be ongoing maintenance that needs to be done. Todd Fritchman of Envirotech is willing to provide onsite training on a Friday morning in the fall with regard to maintenance. Suggestions are needed on how to get volunteers and get them energized to provide maintenance for the rain garden. Carol suggested that the City send out a press release to get the information out to the public about the rain garden, and Carol said that she would also send out the information. Lorraine presented photographs of volunteers and plantings for the Lake Gerar Bridge project. A photograph was taken of what the plantings at the bridge look like as of Section 10, 2012. A City worker has volunteered to water the plantings, but 150 feet of hose with a watering wand is used from either end of the bridge to reach the plantings. Currently, the plantings in the baskets on the east side of the bridge have done poorly. It was suggested to look at different plants for future plantings, ones that would sustain the wind. There have been issues with getting the watering done; and one solution is install permanent watering hoses with valves on the poles. The initial estimated cost

for the Lake Gerar Bridge project was \$4,000.00, but the actual cost was \$1,844.00. In moving forward, the Ad Hoc Committee will need to talk about maintenance and storage of the hayracks, and consideration of winter foliage such as greens for the holidays. Lorraine presented photographs of the Canal Bridge project which was installed on June 6, 2012. Currently, there are three irrigation heads which will provide the watering for the plantings. A photograph of the project was also taken on September 10, 2012. The plantings are easy maintenance, but someone may be needed to deadhead from time to time. In moving forward, the Ad Hoc Committee will need to decide on plant choices for next year and what kind of maintenance will be needed in the fall and spring. It was suggested that one more irrigation head be installed in the future. The City provided \$7,000.00 towards the projects for this year, and the total actual cost was \$5,674.00. Lorraine suggested putting another sign in the rain garden which shows what the different plants are.

Carol suggested using Sposato to install and maintain plantings, and use volunteers for a stop-by and critiquing, suggestions, etc. If the watering problem is solved, then have Sposato do the plantings. Lorraine will talk with Sposato and Cordrey's with regard to installation and maintenance of the plantings.

Ned Kesmodel suggested using pine needles for the winter. The Ad Hoc Committee should have input on the types of plants and colors with regard to the plantings that Sposato installs. The plantings should be coordinated at the Canal Bridge and the traffic circle. The planting beds in the medians need to be updated. The grass along the curbs in the City should be cut and edged, and the grounds around the trees should be maintained. He suggested that there should be a monthly meeting with Sposato. Ned and Lorraine will meet with Sposato with regard to the plantings. Lorraine will meet with the City Manager to review what Sposato is contracted to do, and what the City's responsibilities are, and what Cordrey's can possibly do. The consensus of the Ad Hoc Committee was to get the planting bed at the Canal Bridge edged, mulched possibly with pine needles and ready for winter.

Volunteers update.

Lorraine has a list of people of volunteers, but most are not full-time residents. A schedule will need to be established with regard to the volunteers. She would like to reach out to the current volunteers by sending out a flyer and putting something out in the press with regard to the rain garden. Ned suggested providing outreach to the garden clubs, Kings Creek and Sussex Gardeners. Lorraine will be meeting with Sussex Gardeners on September 20, 2012 to discuss ongoing projects and needs. She will also meet with Carol and Annmarie with regard to getting the word out to the public and press.

NEW BUSINESS

General discussion of how citizens/groups could be encouraged to tackle projects on private/public lands.

Bill suggested that there should be a funding mechanism to get a lot of trees planted in areas of the City where there are no trees. Once that is established, it could possibly encompass providing funding or volunteer support for flowers. Flowers could be an easy component of that but the timing is not right. Ned said that the many of the trees which were planted two years ago were planted inappropriately near large trees. The trees were planted by the State, Building Inspector Terri Sullivan and Davey Group. Bill said that he would not want the flower program competing with the tree program. Lorraine referred to informational sheets that South Bethany provides for its residents such as taking care of lawns and watering, etc. South Bethany's adopt a canal program could be blended into the City's possible adopting the end of a street program. Lorraine, Carol and Annmarie will work together to provide information for residents and volunteers about the current projects. Information could also be provided on the City's website. This could appeal to property owners with regard to beautifying their properties. Carol will send out a press release with information to people might bolster interest in volunteering.

Discussion of organization/oversight into the future.

Lorraine said that currently the Ad Hoc Committee does not have a mission statement, and there is no real organizational hierarchy, etc. in moving forward. This Committee was tasked with designing some projects, and it was based on the Lewes and Bethany models. The beautification committee in South Bethany was formed and later became the community enhancement committee which is appointed and has a mission statement and various projects. Ned said that the Ad Hoc Committee's charge should be beautification, flowers and landscaping in conjunction with the City Manager, and then possibly expanding into something more later. There was consensus among the members. Lorraine also said that the Ad Hoc Committee would make suggestions to the City about planting for the future.

Future project ideas funding.

The Ad Hoc Committee will continue with the basket project. Kathy Osterholm had suggested promoting the ends of the streets at the Boardwalk. Bill suggested establishing six to ten competitive flower gardens near the streets around Lake Gerar, Silver Lake, etc. Lorraine mentioned that Pat Coluzzi, Chair of the Streets & Transportation Committee, has been working with Sister Cities Association on the proposal of a Sister City garden in Cranberry Park. Other projects could be done at the tot lots, medians on Scarborough Avenue, planting bulbs at medians near the traffic circle and around the lighthouse, the canal bridge, etc. Lorraine will present these ideas to the City Manager. Bill suggested the possibility of increasing the budget from \$7,000.00 to \$20,000.00 to be able to incorporate future projects. Ned said that coordination is needed with the City Manager and how much money the City would be spending to refurbish the beds around trees, maintenance in the flower beds, etc. The trees that have been planted need to be maintained. The hanging baskets at Lake Gerar Bridge should be planted with different plants for one more season, or move them to the four poles between the median and Canal Bridge where they will get less wind. Another area for a flower bed and plantings would be at the Henlopen Hotel where the fountain was in the triangle at the end of the Boardwalk. Planter could be placed in the median on Rehoboth Avenue and in the area of the Bandstand. Bill suggested making a list of suggestions and providing photographs to the Commissioners of future projects.

Items to be included on future agendas.

Items to be included would be: 1. Review projects and prioritize for next year. 2. Discuss more about volunteers. 3. Possibly installing two or four baskets at Canal Bridge. 4. Tulips, daffodils, pansies at Canal Bridge and the lighthouse with approximate costs. 5. Flower bed at the triangle at the Henlopen Hotel with signage.

Set next meeting.

The date of next meeting was tentatively set for October 26, 2012 at 1:00 p.m.

There being no further business, Bill Sargent made a motion, seconded by Ned Kesmodel, to adjourn the meeting 11:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

(Ann M. Womack, CMC, City Secretary)

**MINUTES APPROVED ON
NOVEMBER 19, 2012**

(Lorraine Zellers, Chair)