

**MAYOR AND COMMISSIONERS MEETING  
CITY OF REHOBOTH BEACH**

**June 4, 2012**

The Workshop Meeting of the Mayor and Commissioners of the City of Rehoboth Beach, was called to order at 9:01 a.m. by Mayor Samuel R. Cooper on Monday, June 4, 2012 in the Commissioners Room in City Hall, 229 Rehoboth Avenue, Rehoboth Beach, DE.

City Solicitor Glenn Mandalas gave the Invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL**

Present:	Commissioner	Patrick Gossett
	Commissioner	Bill Sargent
	Commissioner	Pat Coluzzi
	Mayor	Samuel R. Cooper
	Commissioner	Stan Mills
	Commissioner	Lorraine Zellers
	Commissioner	Mark Hunker

Also in attendance was:           City Solicitor Glenn Mandalas  
  City Manager Gregory Ferrese

**CORRESPONDENCE**

There was none.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Mayor Cooper called to discuss Bicycle Plan implementation recommendations for 2012.

Commissioner Pat Coluzzi distributed the Bicycle Map to the Commissioners. The recommendation from the Streets & Transportation Committee is to publish the Bicycle Map for the current season in 2012. The No. 1 concern has always been safety. The Plan speaks to taking people away from Rehoboth Avenue and places them in the directions of trails and/or reaching the beach. Two signs would be used – one called Trail Connector and the other called Reach The Beach. The signs will correspond with the map to get to those destinations. The Committee is trying to move forward with the idea of an experimental program by putting three sharrows on the street to give an indication of direction of where to go as well as the idea of motorists sharing the streets with bicycles. The thought is to put the sharrows in a few places so a lot of people will see them and give their comments to the Committee. The locations are Canal Street off of Rehoboth Avenue, near Grove Park and Henlopen Avenue, and Stockley Street or King Charles Avenue in South Rehoboth. Another idea the Committee is moving forward on are (2) bicycle parking stations on Baltimore Avenue at the intersection of Baltimore Avenue and First Street. Two parking spaces have been eliminated on First Street to increase visibility when people are trying to cross First Street. First Street has the highest incidents of accidents in the City. The bicycle parking stations will be a new idea in terms of how bicycle parking is possibly placed throughout the City. These bicycle parking stations will be on a trial basis. More bike racks are needed to be placed in the right areas. Commissioners Coluzzi and Sargent will walk the Boardwalk to identify areas where the bike racks should be stationed. The Bicycle Map will be different from the 2012 Parking and Walking Guide which Mayor Cooper and Commissioner Mills put together. The Bicycle Map will have rules of the road, etc. on the reverse side.

Commissioner Mark Hunker noted that sharrows have enlightened people about sharing the road in Washington, DC. Accidents have gone down, and speeds has slowed. Proper bike racks that allow for better parking and access are key, especially on the south side of the City.

Commissioner Stan Mills said that the second block of Maryland is not particularly bicycle-friendly, but it is a good routing to get people from that area to the beach. There are bike racks at almost all of the street ends at the Boardwalk. Mr. Mel Craig, Public Works Director has a map that was created two years ago by Commissioner Mills of the Boardwalk with the placements of the bike racks at the street ends, etc. A lot of the platforms that the bicycle racks go on were not made to standard sizes. Commissioner Mills and Mr. Craig are looking into additional custom racks to fill the sizes optimally. Any extra racks could be placed in the sand next to them on a temporary basis.

Commissioner Lorraine Zellers noted that the bike shops would be located on the map with a bicycle icon. No names of the shops would be shown on the maps. This would aid people if they have a flat tire, mechanical problem, etc.

Mr. Howard Menaker, 16 Dover Street, supported the Bicycle Map. He suggested that the legend should be simplified. The map suggests that Rehoboth Avenue is a suggested State bicycle connector route, and the map almost recommends that people ride on Rehoboth Avenue. His issue would be with the State because a mixed message is being sent. Commissioner Zellers said that Rehoboth and Bayard Avenues are designated by the State as bicycle routes. Commissioner Sargent said that under the legend it is noted that these routes are not recommended for families and young children. The Committee's focus has been on families and safety of children. Commissioner Coluzzi thought that the colors for the Suggested State Bike Connector Route could be eliminated from the map and legend.

Ms. Libby Stiff, 1007 Scarborough Avenue Extended, voiced concern that no access is shown for the people who live on Scarborough Avenue Extended. People would have to ride in the caution area on Route 1. Commissioner Coluzzi noted that the Bicycle Map is meant for tourists and people who do not know the City. It is not recommended for people to ride fast across Turtle Bridge on their bicycles because it is dangerous. Commissioner Zellers said that the Bicycle Map is the first map. The Committee wanted the idea of a simple map. Then it could work with the communities and different neighborhoods where there are issues with speeding, etc. The Biking in Rehoboth Beach Map: 2012 was to get people talking and thinking about alternatives to Rehoboth Avenue.

Commissioner Patrick Gossett asked what the metrics are and how to evaluate this at the end of the season for success. There are probably some systems or models through the offices at DelDOT that could be used. Commissioner Coluzzi noted that some time is left with the consultant in terms of doing additional work. Perhaps during the summer, metrics could be taken in terms of counts, etc. The Committee will make sure it can measure the success of this project. The Plan will be submitted to the Commissioners within the next two weeks.

Ms. Toni Sharp, Scarborough Avenue Extended, noted that on the one-way section of Lake Drive from the bridge to Scarborough Avenue, surreys turn the wrong direction and go west. Commissioner Coluzzi said that the Committee has talked about this matter. There are one-way arrows indicated on the map, and hopefully it will help some people. One thing that is projected in the Plan for Lake Drive is a bike lane in both directions.

Mr. Walter Brittingham, 123 Henlopen Avenue, said that it is getting worse with vehicles delivering to Lingo's and the other stores along the street. There needs to be enforcement and telling the owners and delivery people that they cannot park and block the stop sign. People do not need to be parking on First Street. A bulletin should be issued to the shop owners from the City Manager's office to encourage people to not park and block the stop sign at Baltimore Avenue and First Street. Commissioner Zellers suggested talking with Rehoboth Beach/Dewey Beach Chamber of Commerce and Main Street Inc. about meeting with some of the vendors and business people to see if a solution can be found. Commissioner Mark Hunker said that deliveries will not be stopped at certain times, but the trucks on Baltimore Avenue should be parked further away from the stop sign. Discussions are needed with the vendors.

Mayor Cooper thought the map is very good, and the information that will be on the back will be very helpful. He voiced concern about trying to concentrate all the bicycles on a few streets in the City because it may be more of a problem than there is today. Mayor Cooper said that he is willing to try the sharrows, but he is opposed to them. They are superfluous and will fall into disrepair. He did not see the benefit of them. Mayor Cooper said that if motor vehicle speed can be kept down in the City to 25 mph or below, people will then have a chance to react to whatever someone does on a bicycle or pedestrian, etc. Speed is the real problem with the vehicles. In a lot of cases, congestion is a friend because it makes people slow down. Commissioner Coluzzi will forward a copy of the sharrow to Mayor Cooper.

Commissioner Coluzzi said that costs and recommendations are in the Plan. Projects will be done each budget year as opposed to a five-year budget plan. Commissioner Gossett suggested that a line item be placed in the budget for maintenance.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Mayor Cooper called to discuss possible amendments to the Charter of the City of Rehoboth Beach Section 5(e) which provides for the payment of mileage to non-resident Commissioners for travel to meetings for the Commissioners and committees.

Commissioner Gossett said that this matter should be addressed because it affects a few of the Commissioners. He has no problem with deleting this sub-section entirely from the Charter. The current language is not effective. Commissioner Gossett distributed copies of the proposed language. The City does not have to reimburse non-resident Commissioners. The provision has been in the Charter for a long time. There is no written travel policy so if the Commissioners decide that Section 5(e) is not needed, it can be stricken from the Charter. If the Commissioner decide a policy is needed, Commissioner Gossett has provided proposed language changes to the provision. He also proposed that in the next six months a training conference and travel policy be established for the City. The current language in the Charter only affects elective offices. Any other member of an appointed body or committee has been discriminated against.

Mayor Cooper thought that this provision could be taken out of the Charter. There are several pitfalls in what is proposed language. The definition of a non-resident Commissioner needs to be resolved. The proposed language uses the word “necessarily” driven which means that a Commissioner is coming specifically for the meeting. Mayor Cooper thought that there should be wordsmithing to clean up the language. It seems a bit unseemly that the Commissioners take care of themselves and do not provide for others.

Commissioner Zellers said that as a non-resident Commissioner, travel has been part of the deal. If a Commissioner is coming specifically for a meeting or a special meeting in the middle of the day, then that mileage could possibly be reimbursed. With leaving this provision in the Charter, there needs to be a time limit when applying for the reimbursement and adequate documentation, etc. She had no problem either way with eliminating this provision or amending the language.

Commissioner Hunker said that the definition of non-resident Commissioner needs to be addressed. He thought it is important to have this provision in the Charter, and it should be optional for the Commissioner to take the reimbursement or not.

Commissioner Sargent said this is a complicated issue. Only one person has tried to get reimbursed for mileage.

Commissioner Coluzzi thought that the language needs to be cleaned up. It makes sense to do this in terms of elective offices, and the Commissioners need to make sure it is tight enough so there is not another as in the past. The reimbursement would need to be claimed in a certain amount of time.

City Solicitor Mandalas acknowledged that the Commissioners can, by resolution, put restrictions on it that the time for filing for reimbursement would need to be in a certain amount of time, and the City Manager could set up a policy that establishes some of those things. Mayor Cooper said that he would rather have the Commissioners do it. The biggest problem with the last one was the timing.

Commissioner Coluzzi suggested having a travel policy since the Charter would not have to be changed. Mayor Cooper recommended that the Commissioners would vote on it.

Commissioner Mills thought about reimbursement for resident Commissioners and other committee members where there is a situation that someone may be a caretaker and spends a certain amount of time with a relative, and only returns for a specific meeting and goes back. If “receiving an allowance for every mile necessarily driven from permanent home” is kept in the language, it needs to be defined better and a policy needs to set. Commissioner Mills would give consideration using the charitable/volunteer work mileage at \$.14/mile as opposed to current mileage from IRS at \$.55.5/mile for business or \$.23/mile for medical/moving purposes. He noted the omission of a timeline reference. He could also support deleting the current provision in its entirety.

Mayor Cooper suggested that a report should be done each month as to who got paid what. This could be part of the City Manager’s Report.

After discussion, the consensus of the Commissioners was to have a Charter change at a future date to make it more of a purpose clause, and Commissioner Gossett and City Manager Gregory Ferrese should work on a policy and come back to the Commissioners for their review.

### **City Manager’s Report**

City Manager Gregory Ferrese reported that the parking meter collection from May 25 through May 28, 2012 was \$107,589.00 which does not include cell phone revenue. For the same period last year, the collection was \$97,964.00. The Parkmobile system worked extremely well during the Memorial Day Weekend. There were 4,635 users and \$14,978.00 was collected. Mr. Ferrese sent a letter to Representative Pete Schwartzkopf and Senator Bunting requesting Community Transportation monies so the ADA Ramping Project can continue this fall. Both

have been receptive in the past. The auditors started working on the 2011/12 Audit. The City Newsletter was mailed last week, and all Courtesy Notices have been delivered. From April through October, there will be 67 weddings on the beach.

Commissioner Gossett noted that with regard to the Parkmobile participants, 34 states and Washington, DC were represented in the City over Memorial Day Weekend. The report was provided by Mr. David Henderson, IT Director. Mr. Ferrese said that a report can be received from Ms. Carol Everhart of Rehoboth Beach/Dewey Beach Chamber of Commerce of the input from businesses.

### **Committee Reports**

Commissioner Mills of Communications Committee distributed the May 29, 2012 report to the Commissioners prior to the meeting. The Committee would like the Board of Commissioners to consider formally adopting a new mission statement for the Communications Committee. The Committee desires to issue an invitation for anyone to submit an application to show interest in becoming a member of the Communications Committee. There is a vacancy due to Ms. Dottie Cirelli resigning. The Committee would like to better utilize the City E-News to send out a press release and solicit applications. The status of the City website facelift is ongoing with an expectation to be completed during the summer 2012. More details will be provided at a future meeting.

### **City Solicitor's Report**

There was nothing to report.

### **Commissioner Announcements/Comments**

Commissioner Mills thanked Ms. Everhart and Ms. Annmarie Westerfield for their efforts and guidance at the beginning of the creation of the map. He also announced that Great Lakes' subcontractor is finishing the sand fencing at the dune crossings. The subcontractor was required to rebuild all the dune crossings from Pennsylvania Avenue to Hickman Street. After completion, DNREC will come back in and fill the remaining sand fence at the toe of the dune to connect to the dune crossings.

Commissioner Hunker announced that he spoke briefly with the City Manager and sent an email today about getting together with regard to the RFP and communication plan for the citywide re-assessment. He will working on that in the next two weeks.

Commissioner Gossett announced that in the June issue of Delaware Today, there was an article on Mr. Kent Buckson.

### **Discuss items to include on future agendas.**

An item to be included on the June 15, 2012 agenda is to adopt an ordinance to exempt the VIA property from being included in the fire district.

Mr. Walter Brittingham said that there has been confusion about outfalls in the streets vs. the sewer outfall. He asked what the status is of the EIS report.

Mayor Cooper said that the hearing was on April 10, 2012. People had until May 10, 2012 to submit their comments. All the comments have been received by DNREC. A copy has been sent to the City's engineer, and Mayor Cooper has seen it. A copy was also sent to Tim Burrough who is the hearing officer for his assembly and inclusion in his report. It will then be up to the City to address any comments that need to be addressed. The comments will be put in the Final EIS which will go to the Secretary of DNREC for his consideration.

Mr. Brittingham asked the Fire Marshal's office about surveys of crowding in the City, and how it will be doing surveys for the amount of people vs. allowed occupancy. The response was that at this time unless the Fire Marshal's office is requested to come in to do counts on places of public assembly, it will not be coming into the City. The Commissioners need to address this issue.

The Mayor and Commissioners Regular Meeting will be held on Friday, June 15, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.

There being no further business, Mayor Cooper adjourned the meeting at 10:17 a.m.

**Respectfully submitted,**

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**(Patricia Coluzzi, Secretary)**