

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

January 26, 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, January 26, 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 (left meeting at 10:43 a.m.), Jim Ellison, Toni Sharp, Dennis Diehl, Lorraine Zellers

Also Present: City Manager Sharon Lynn, Police Chief Keith Banks

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Jim Ellison made a motion, seconded by Lorraine Zellers, to approve the Agenda with Item No. 6(F) being heard after Item No. 6(G). Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of March 24, 2014, April 28, 2014, July 28, 2014, August 25, 2014 and September 29, 2014 Streets & Transportation Committee Meetings were distributed prior to the meeting.

Jim Ellison made a motion, seconded by Cindy Lovett, to approve the March 24, 2014 Streets & Transportation Committee Meeting minutes as written. Motion carried unanimously.

Lorraine Zellers made a motion, seconded by Jim Ellison, to approve the April 28, 2014 Streets & Transportation Committee Meeting minutes as written. Motion carried unanimously.

Toni Sharp made a motion, seconded by Lorraine Zellers, to approve the July 28, 2014 Streets & Transportation Committee Meeting minutes as written. Motion carried unanimously.

Toni Sharp made a motion, seconded by Jim Ellison, to approve the August 25, 2014 Streets & Transportation Committee Meeting minutes as written. Motion carried unanimously.

Toni Sharp made a motion, seconded by Jim Ellison, to approve the September 29, 2014 Streets & Transportation Committee Meeting minutes as written. Motion carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was none.

OLD BUSINESS

Report on status of speed control devices on Hickman Street.

Police Chief Keith Banks noted that the City has received approval for funding from the State, specifically from Senator Lopez. After an updated price quote for the black decorative pole is received, the purchase order will be sent to City Hall to order the pole. The City will be installing the speed control devices.

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

Bill Sargent noted that the Mayor has not heard anything more on this issue. Bill had received a phone call from Carol Everhart saying that Patrick Cooper from Delaware State Parks had asked if Bill and a few representatives of the Committee and Commissioners as well as Atlantic Cycles would be in attendance at a meeting scheduled for January 30, 2015 at 1:00 p.m. at the Lewes Chamber of Commerce. The goal of the meeting is to identify suggested improvements and issues in the City parks and Route 1 areas which includes routes, connections, signage, etc.

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

Frank Cole of Atlantic Cycles provided a handout to the Committee for its review. He has proposed an all-volunteer program to patrol the Boardwalk that would be geared towards safety with regard to bicycle and pedestrian issues. The program would be staffed by young people 14 and 18 years of age. There would be a minimum of 10 and a maximum of 15 volunteers. There would be one adult coordinator either from the private

sector from within the City or the police department to coordinate all the activities. The primary goal would be to do things that will increase safety on the Boardwalk during peak times. Secondary goals are outlined in the handout. The main obstacle with the program is insurance, and the preferred method would be to bring the program under an umbrella organization. The program could be adapted to be solely adults or targeted towards senior citizens. A sample application and waiver form for minors was provided for the Committee to review. Similar organization in the country. In the long term, the program may be expanded to coordinate with the parks & recreation department.

Police Chief Banks said that the volunteers would be support education, such as handing out flyers, etc. They would not be enforcing the laws.

Frank Cole noted that he has secured a corporate co-sponsor for the program. Fuji Bicycles of Philadelphia has agreed to provide bicycles at a low price. He will coordinate some of the logistics such as arranging the funding, supply the bicycles, do the maintenance and take part in some of the instruction and training. The uniform should not be confused with the seasonal police officers, and it should be a visible color such as red or yellow. He would be willing to foot the bill for the program himself, but he would also welcome help from local businesses or organizations. The creation of the program and the execution of recruiting volunteers and scheduling them would be done by Frank and/or his employees. With regard to day-to-day operations, two to three volunteers would ride the Boardwalk from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Every volunteer would be expected to devote a minimum of 50 hours during the entire summer. It is anticipated that roll call and inspection would occur at 7:30 a.m.

City Manager Sharon Lynn said that any program would have to go through the Police Chief and his officers, more or less like a public/private partnership. In order for this program to be successful, there would need to be a leader who is trained and can accomplish work with private citizens. At the beginning, this program will take some coordination and a level of commitment from the police department to establish the roles of the volunteers.

Bill noted that by posting an 8 mph speed limit on the Boardwalk would give the volunteers a standard. Several members of the Committee were not in favor of posting the speed limit. Jim Ellison suggested that signage could be posted that the Boardwalk is to be shared by pedestrians and bike riders.

The consensus of the Committee was to move this idea forward to the Commissioners and to have continued exploration of the issues with bicycles on the Boardwalk, times and dates related to bicycles on the Boardwalk and signage for this program. This presentation will be scheduled for the February 9, 2015 Mayor & Commissioners Workshop Meeting.

Discuss possible adjustments to dates that various activities are planned.

Lorraine had met with Police Chief Banks on January 24, 2015 to review possible adjustments to dates and bicycles that had been discussed by the Commissioners. Options for consideration would be to completely ban bicycles on the Boardwalk, reducing the hours and changing the dates bicycles are allowed and removing the surreys. Letters have been received by Committee members from concerned bikers and the business community in opposition to a bicycle ban on the Boardwalk. The Committee needs to look at solutions to help preserve the tradition going forward in the short term. Possible solutions are to reduce times, extending the season where bikes are prohibited, enforcement and education. There should be minimal signage, such as share the Boardwalk. Solutions to be brought to the Commissioners would be to keep the times the same this year.

Police Chief Banks suggested that the hours should be kept the same until 10:00 a.m. There should be more interaction with the seasonal officers. Currently, there are three seasonal officers patrolling the Boardwalk and the Bandstand. One bike officer is located on the Boardwalk until 10:00 a.m. His officers will be instructed to be more interactive with violations. The new season should be defined as May 1st through September 30th.

The consensus of the Committee was to change all regulations that have a date of May 15th to back up to May 1st through September 30th. What would be affected is that there would be no bicycles on the Boardwalk between 10:00 p.m. and daybreak of the next day, the summer season would be extended from May 1st through September 30th, bicycles would be allowed except between May 1st and September 30th of which bicycles would need to be off the Boardwalk at 10:00 a.m., the date for no scooters on the Boardwalk and Rehoboth Avenue would change to May 1st through September 30th. the dates of all for changes of times on boardwalk, and there would be no rollerblading in specific areas..

Discuss proposed Bicycle Friendly Street Guide for 2015.

Jim Ellison provided an update to the guide for 2015. People will be directed into the core of the City as well as the various trails. He recommended that the bike route should be down Canal Street which will take people in on the south side of the City to the beaches and downtown. On the north side, the only way to go would be through the parking lot at the Museum, through Grove Park to Henlopen Avenue, then crossover Columbia Avenue to Sussex

Street and follow the route on in to the beach. This presentation will be for the big maps at the entrances to the City. Proposed bike signs will show the bike route should the City be willing to fund them. The big maps will be ready to be put up for May 2015. The 11"x17" maps will also contain rules and contact information.

Carol Everhart of Rehoboth Beach/Dewey Beach Chamber of Commerce, mentioned that it is important to show the bike route to Dewey.

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.**

Toni Sharp noted the City Manager is aware that there is not a tight process on how it has been decided where the 30-minute meters are located. Cindy Lovett, Kathy Osterholm and Toni are in favor of having a process for locating these meters. All parking issues should have consistency with less change to promote better enforcement and ease of enforcement. It is not known at this time whether or not additional revenues might be on the table. More meetings will occur in the next 30 days to discuss these issues. Nothing will change for 2015.

Suggestions made by Committee members were to have different prices on meters to enforce time limits, do away with time limits, have different color meters for different prices, etc.

City Manager Lynn noted that she is currently exploring the use of new pay stations. The pay stations would give the amount of time wanted. They would be first implemented in the premium spots on Rehoboth, Wilmington and Baltimore Avenues. This matter will be explored at the budget meeting. June Embert of the Parking Division has advised that meters are enforced, and there is a system for enforcement.

Discuss possible Bloom initiative in light of Commissioner comments.

Lorraine noted that there was consensus from the Commissioners that they are in favor of the Bloom initiative. A part-time position will be discussed at the budget meeting.

Discuss possible snow removal program in light of Commissioner comments.

Cindy Lovett noted that her presentation with the Commissioners went well. At this point, there are two ways to have a snow removal program: 1. Require and enforce it through the use of City staff. 2. Bethan Beach could be used as a role model where its horticulturist in the off-season is used to clear snow from the sidewalks. Support was given by the Commissioners for the Committee to discuss how the program should be done.

City Manager Lynn expected in general that snow removal this year will be better than it has in the past. There is more organization and better use of manpower. It is possible that snowblowing can happen on the sidewalks. All will depend on the weather, and all departments are cooperating with each other, including the streets, water and wastewater departments.

NEW BUSINESS

Discuss possible locations for additional crosswalks and discuss possible locations for additional silent policemen.

Bill noted the possible addition of crosswalks at State Road and Munson, Munson Street and Bayard Avenue, Second Street and Maryland Avenue, and Lake Avenue and First Street.

After discussion, the consensus of the Committee was to eliminate the proposed crosswalks on State Road at Munson and Hickman Streets. Bill will provide photographs of the areas at First Street and Lake Avenue for the location of a crosswalk and a silent policeman and Lake and Surf Avenues for a silent policeman at the next meeting. Cindy will provide photographs of the area at Munson Street and State Road for the location of a silent policeman.

City Manager Lynn will pursue the addition of crosswalks and silent policemen based on the recommendations from the Committee which would then be forwarded to the Commissioners for approval.

DISCUSS ITEMS TO BE INCLUDED ON AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING.

An items to be included on the next agenda is: 1. 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 February 23, 2015 at 9:00 a.m.

There being no further business, Toni Sharp made a motion, seconded by Jim Ellison, to adjourn the meeting at 11:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

(Ann M. Womack, City Secretary)

**MINUTES APPROVED ON
FEBRUARY 1, 2016**

(Lorraine Zellers, Acting Chair)