

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

March 23, 2015

The Streets and Transportation Committee Meeting of the City of Rehoboth Beach was called to order at 9:03 a.m. by Chair Bill Sargent on Monday, March 23, 2015 in the Commissioners Room in City Hall, 229 Rehoboth Avenue, Rehoboth Beach, DE.

ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Bill Sargent, Kathy Osterholm, John Gauger, Dennis Diehl, Jim Ellison, Toni Sharp

Absent: Cindy Lovett, Lorraine Zellers

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Kathy Osterholm made a motion, seconded by John Gauger, to approve the Agenda as written. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

No Minutes were available for approval.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was none.

OLD BUSINESS

Report on status of speed control devices on Hickman Street.

Police Chief Keith Banks reported that the speed control devices have been put together and are waiting to be installed at specific locations on Hickman Street. A resident has complained about one of the signs being installed in front of his home, so a different location will be found in an open area along the street. The devices will be installed by the next meeting. Leave on agenda.

Kathy received a telephone call from someone about the devices and what procedure they would need to follow in order to obtain them for placement on streets in the City. Chief Banks noted that any inquiries should start with the City Manager to see if there is a need for a device.

This item will remain on the agenda.

Discuss possible locations for additional crosswalks.

Possible locations are:

1. State Road and Hickman Street

Chief Banks reported that there have not been any accidents involving pedestrians or motor vehicles in this area that would warrant crosswalks or silent policemen. The police department is not recommending any at this time. In order to put in crosswalks, this particular area would require existing sidewalks.

Dennis Diehl had suggested that area needed special attention because this is part of the bike route to Dewey Beach. Chief Banks said that something could possibly be done, but not a crosswalk. Permission would be needed from the State since it is a state road. The State would probably say no to a silent policeman since there is no existing crosswalk.

John noted that the bushes are in the way of visibility. Chief Banks will contact a company to cut back the bushes in that area because this is an issue at times.

2. State and Munson

The scenario for this area is the same as State Road and Hickman Street.

3. Bayard and Munson

Chief Banks reported that this crosswalk does not seem to need a silent policeman due to the stop sign being there. The intersection by design causes vehicles entering onto Bayard Avenue either north or south to use caution. There have not been a high number of accidents involving pedestrians or motor vehicles in this area.

The Committee agreed that there is no advantage to having a crosswalk or silent policemen at this location.

4. Olive Avenue and Second Street

Chief Banks had not focused on this area for an assessment. Bill noted that there is not enough concentrated traffic in this area.

5. Second Street and Maryland Avenue

Chief Banks reported that this area sees a high volume of both pedestrian and motor vehicle traffic during the summer season, especially with the no left-hand turn signs. At this point, there is no crosswalk in this area, but one would be warranted and a silent policeman would be justified. Foot traffic travels back and forth from the west and east side of Maryland Avenue. Talk with Mike. Do both. Recommendation to the Commissioners.

The Committee will recommend a crosswalk and silent policeman to the Commissioners for this area.

6. Lake Avenue and First Street

Chief Banks reported that this area sees a high volume of both vehicle and foot traffic during the summer including pedestrians going to the park and tot lot area. At this point, there is not crosswalk in this area but one would be warranted, and a silent policeman would be justified to slow down the vehicle traffic. This area is part of a long stretch of roadway without a stop sign.

The Committee will recommend a crosswalk and silent policeman to the Commissioners for this area.

7. Surf Avenue and Lake Avenue

Chief Banks reported that this area sees a high volume of vehicle and pedestrian traffic throughout the year. There is currently a crosswalk in this area, and a silent policeman would be extremely beneficial. This area involves a blind curve where drivers are unable to see what is ahead of them. The silent policeman would cause them to slow prior to entering the curved area.

The Committee will recommend a silent policeman to the Commissioners for this area.

Bill will put together a package for review by Chief Banks and City Manager Sharon Lynn before submitted it to the Commissioners for consideration.

Discuss possible locations for additional silent policemen.

This matter was discussed in the item above.

Discuss proposed Bicycle Friendly Street Guide for 2015.

Jim Ellison noted that the State has an emerging revision to its Bike At The Beach regional map. A meeting was held in Lewes, DE with representatives from the State, Lewes and Rehoboth present to get input about the revisions to the map. Two additional meetings were held with one being held in Rehoboth to deal with its issues, and one held in Lewes to deal with its issues. During the Rehoboth meeting, several recommendations were made based upon the work done by the Committee. The Rehoboth map is aimed at providing guidance to the safest streets. The State, although concerned about safety and biking, wants to make sure people have access to the most scenic routes. The Committee can graphically coordinate both maps when proceeding with its map which will be more detailed. The State partially incorporated the recommendations that Rehoboth, Columbia and Bayard Avenues are not safe streets. There are still a few issues which are being negotiated with the main objective of trying to have the two maps synchronized as possible. Jim has not done anything further with the Rehoboth map until the coordination level is seen and how it will work. He is ready to proceed with the map. He did not think that directional signage to the State Parks or downtown would be approved by the Commissioners. The Committee's approach should be to (1) get the map designed, (2) create the handout and (3) have larger permanent, outside versions of the map at the entrances to the City. The design of the Rehoboth map may be ready by the next meeting.

Bill noted that the map possibly could be posted at the Chamber of Commerce and at the entrance to Gordon's

Pond. The Commissioners are reluctant to do too much signage. He thought that the map could be forwarded to the City Manager. No formal approval would be needed by the Commissioners.

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

Bill was not sure that the State representatives would be responsive to what is needed.

Jim said that this matter started with the DelDOT and DNREC presentation of a new set of pathways coming from Junction Breakwater into the City. It called for two-way bike traffic across the north side of Canal Bridge and then ending at the Circle. There was no consideration for anything beyond that. The City needs input, and the Mayor should be involved and probably in charge of. He suggested that the Committee should discuss the items it has concerns about and develop an agenda which can be forwarded to the Mayor.

Kathy said that there is no big plan to look at the bike path and pedestrian sidewalks and crosswalks that would have to meet certain requirements. There has been no coordination with the issue of entering the City.

Jim said that the intent of the proposed meeting with the State would be an exploration with both sides of the various issues. Out of that could come a process to resolve the issues. The meeting would have to come from the Mayor.

Toni Sharp suggested that there should be a list of gateway issues to show the Mayor. Then a meeting could be held with representatives from DelDOT, DNREC and the City to make sure that all three entities have an awareness of how to move forward together.

Karen Zakarian said that the next Walkable Bike Summit will be held on May 7, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. in Dover at Legislative Hall. Representatives from DelDOT and DNREC will be attending the summit. This may be a way to speak with them. She volunteered to take a list of issues to the summit from the Committee.

Frank Cole said that DelDOT representatives are open to suggestions. Their position is that they do not have plans in place and the funding is not there. He suggested that the Committee should start brainstorming on different ways to funnel people along the canal who are coming east and funnel people somehow through the Museum and Chamber of Commerce parking lot and Grove Park. This may be a big public works project, and maybe an engineer would have a different perspective on it.

Bill, Jim and Toni will meet with the Mayor about the gateway issues after the Committee's next meeting. The issues are (1) the map, (2) traffic at the Circle and (3) traffic flow on Rehoboth Avenue during the summer season. Representatives from DelDOT and DNREC will need to be at a future Committee meeting to discuss these issues.

Bill will contact David Mellen, Chair of Planning Commission, regarding the gateway issues since the Comprehensive Development Plan (CDP) reflects bicycle and pedestrian matters.

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 noted that the parking rate for 2015 will be \$2.00 per hour for every meter. The issues that the Commissioners feel may need some longer range planning are still on the table. The Commissioners discussed looking at the possibility of a differential in pricing in going forward. Daily rates for permits will be \$10.00, and the weekly rates will be increased incrementally. There has been a lot of discussion with the City Manager with regard to the 30-minute meters and how they came to be, and where they are now. Feedback for the 2015 season will be provided from the Chamber of Commerce, Main Street, residents and visitors. A survey has been done with business owners regarding the 30-minute meters. Some of them want the meters, and others are not concerned about them. This item does not need to be on the Committee agenda any longer. Toni will work with Kathy and Cindy on a long term view and will bring it back to the Committee at a later date.

Discuss possible Bloom initiative in light of Commissioner comments.

Toni noted that the funding has been allocated in the current budget for a part-time horticulturist. The expectation would be for that individual, not the Commissioners, to assess what would be a valuable project for the next step.

NEW BUSINESS

Discuss status of Bike Patrol.

Frank Cole has scheduled an informational meeting for April 7, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. The place will be announced on March 27, 2015. He will be on the radio on March 27, 2015 focusing on the bike patrol. The intent is to ask for volunteers. To date, there are three volunteers for patrol and three coordinators. An application will be in place by April 7, 2015.

Chief Banks said that a bike officer will be on the Boardwalk from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Training for the seasonal officers begins April 10, 2015.

Consider improvements to Surf Avenue.

Bill thought that it would be possible to have a southbound bike lane on Surf Avenue.

Jim said that the State may show Surf Avenue as the more scenic route, but the City's map shows the safest route is to go to First Street. There would not be a bike lane on Surf Avenue for the first two blocks from Henlopen Avenue. It would be worthwhile to make improvements the remainder of Surf Avenue.

Toni suggested that Bill should talk to the property owners in the area between Park and Oak Avenues to see what their reactions would be because of their landscaping.

Kathy noted that Surf Avenue does not have enough surface area to be paved on both sides. This would create an issue because improvements cannot be made on the side unless money is put into paving it sufficiently to mark the west side of the road.

Bill recommended that Chief Banks and Bob Palmer should look at the feasibility of this project and get an estimate of the cost. Chief Banks recommended that the City Manager should address this matter, and the State should be involved. Bill will meet with the City Manager and Mayor at a future date.

The majority of the Committee agreed to look into the possibility of making the west side of Surf Avenue safe, and that it would be handled by the City Manager.

Discuss items to be included on agenda for next meeting.

An item to be included on the agenda is the gateway issues and possible solutions. Jim will develop an agenda based on all the input prior to the meeting.

Committee Member Comments

There were none.

Citizen Comment

There was none.

Set next meeting date.

The next meeting will be held on April 27, 2015 at 9:00 a.m.

There being no further business, Chair Bill Sargent adjourned the meeting at 10:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

(Ann M. Womack, City Secretary)

**MINUTES APPROVED ON
APRIL 27, 2015**

(Bill Sargent, Chair)