

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

September 29, 2014

The Streets and Transportation Committee Meeting of the City of Rehoboth Beach was called to order at 9:05 a.m. by Chair Bill Sargent on Monday, September 29, 2014 in the Commissioners Room in City Hall, 229 Rehoboth Avenue, Rehoboth Beach, DE.

ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Bill Sargent, Kathy Osterholm (left the meeting at 11:34 a.m.), Cindy Lovett, John Gauger, Jim Ellison, Toni Sharp

Absent: Dennis Diehl, Lorraine Zellers

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

Chair Sargent recessed the meeting at 9:06 a.m. for the Committee to attend a meeting with regard to the Route 1 improvements that will affect Rehoboth Avenue. The meeting was reconvened at 9:49 a.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Cindy Lovett made a motion, seconded by Jim Ellison, to approve the Agenda as written. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There were none.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was none.

OLD BUSINESS

Report on status of speed control device(s) on Hickman Street.

Police Chief Keith Banks noted that an email had been received from Senator Lopez's office with regard to what the costs of the project would be. Police Chief Banks had provided a response with the amounts within the last two weeks. He noted that there currently is funding for this project.

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

Bill noted that Mayor Cooper has not set up a meeting for September 29, 2014 with regard to this matter. Mayor Cooper will try to schedule a meeting with representatives from the State when the Committee holds its next meeting. Bill Sargent suggested that Sarah Hastings from the State should be included in the meeting. He will also ask Mayor Cooper for a DelDOT or DNREC representative to be present at the Committee's October meeting for an update on the gateway issues.

Consider possible locations for additional crosswalks (and silent policemen).

- 1. First Street and Lake Avenue**
- 2. Second Street and Maryland Avenue**
- 3. Bayard Avenue and Munson Street**
- 4. State Road and Munson Street**
- 5. State Road and Hickman Street**

Bill noted that Mayor Cooper has said to make sure that City Manager Sharon Lynn does not have the idea of doing these projects without the Commissioners' approval. The crosswalks would consist of white striping. Silent policemen would be addressed at a later date. Bill proposed that the City Manager should possibly talk with Mayor Cooper and possibly have Bob Palmer draw up the plans for the crosswalks to be presented to the Committee and then forwarded to the Commissioners. There may be a potential problem when putting in the crosswalks because the curbs should all be ADA compliant at the same time..

Toni Sharp suggested that thought should be put in framing up why these five locations were selected by the Committee.

Consider 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.**

Kathy Osterholm provided data from other municipalities to the Committee. Most localities have consistent times and schedules. There are different meter rates. The City's information was provided to the Committee. Kathy had contacted Bethany Beach and Lewes Police Departments to find out how they enforce parking. Lewes has just begun using Parkmobile within the last two to three weeks. The basic understanding is that Parkmobile makes it convenient for visitors, but parking limits cannot be enforced.

Toni said that with regard to the 30 minute meters, in October 2014, she, Cindy Lovett and Kathy will work with Main Street as the facilitator of a discussion or discussions with a focus group of businesses, to find out why things are the way they are and hopefully come to consensus of what the best ideas are of any changes to make. Toni has contacted Krys Johnson of Main Street to get in depth feedback on 30 minute meters and other ideas they may like or dislike such as differentiation of prices of meters and times of meters. The group is particularly focused on the commercial area at this point. The group also thinks that it is safer to validate that problems exist with the business community. It is anticipated that at the end of October or November 2014, the group will compile that information and provide a synopsis to the Committee on what it has learned and whether the problems that may exist can be solved. Main street has sent out a brief survey to businesses in the summer season about 30 minute meters which has provided some data for the group. A more comprehensive review of this issue is to include the off-season.

Kathy noted that there is no City policy as to where 30 minute meter are located, or how they are approved. No 30 minute meters and their locations have been evaluated. There should be a policy.

This item will remain on the agenda.

NEW BUSINESS

Consider ways to discourage bicycle riding on Columbia Avenue.

Bill noted that there has not been much enthusiasm for discouraging bicycle riding on Columbia Avenue, but there was not much enthusiasm for that.

Police Chief Banks noted that Columbia Avenue is very dangerous. There are no sidewalks and curbing, and there are more bicycles and people jogging on this street. There have been more and more complaints of vehicles speeding. The 25 mph speed may be too fast. Encouragement is needed for people to bicycle, walk or jog somewhere else.

Christine Hastings of Jolly Trolley provided input to encourage, not discourage. She voiced the same concerns regarding Bayard Avenue.

Kathy noted that neither Columbia nor Henlopen Avenues are conducive to bicyclists, joggers, vehicles, etc. Multiple signage, or at least good signage, is needed because there are unknowledgeable bicyclists. The City does not have safe roads to get across town, let alone tell bicyclists where to safely ride. Discussion ensued.

Toni suggested that the problems and concerns should be compiled into a report for a professional expert to look at.

Kathy noted that Delaware Greenways was resourceful in providing recommendations. The Committee should have made a 1-5 year plan on how to get the City financially and supportive wise to make those recommendations happen.

Walter Brittingham, 123 Henlopen Avenue, said that no thru truck signs should be located on Henlopen Avenue, and that traffic should be pushed to Columbia Avenue to make Henlopen Avenue safer.

Kathy has asked at the State Parks that the bike map be posted. She has not followed up on that matter to date. Signage is also needed where they need to be seen from one sign to the next sign.

Jim Ellison suggested that the bicycle map should be tweaked and should be permanently produced for all the entrances to the City. The Committee needs to look at the map in terms of how people on bicycles should be directed at the center of town as well as through town. He and Kathy will make recommendations for 10 places to display the bicycle map.

Cindy suggested that the bicycle maps could be placed in a Plexiglas holder. Bill noted that maps could be posted at Ocean Drive, near the Museum and possibly at two locations along Columbia Avenue.

Consider ways to encourage bike riders to turn right on Canal Street when entering the City on Rehoboth Avenue.

Cindy suggested that a directional arrow or sharrow should be placed to get people to turn right onto Canal Street from Rehoboth Avenue. The purpose of this would be to try to get bicyclists to avoid the circle on Rehoboth Avenue. She suggested that an expert should look at this and make a recommendation.

Jim acknowledged that this would be part of what he is going to be working on so that this will be a part of the master plan. Kathy and Jim will make recommendations for the bike map and signage.

Consider updating and printing of the Bicycle Friendly Street Guide for 2015.

Jim has been working on possibly decreasing the size of the guide to 11"x17". The guide in a smaller format would reduce costs for publication of it and would be more convenient for bicyclists to carry with them. He suggested that the guide should remain a colored guide. Jim has been working on updating the guide. More consideration needs to be taken of how to get people into town who are coming from the Gordon's Pond area and from the Junction Breakwater area. The rules could be provided on the reverse side of the map.

Review proposed snow removal program.

Cindy has found a way to get the City sidewalks cleared. Because Cindy felt so strongly about this issue, she asked the Committee whether this issue is something the Committee should discuss and move it to the Commissioners or if this is something she should pursue on her own.

Kathy noted that approximately three years ago, she had brought this issue to the Committee. At that time, she said that the City does not have staffing to clear sidewalks without additional staffing during the winter for that specific purpose. The City has a snowblower that could potentially be used to make a patch on the sidewalks. This issue was shut down because the enforcement of it would cause more problems than it was worth. Bill said that Mayor Cooper had expressed another factor which was the potential liability of it.

Cindy referred to the Cape May, NJ enforcement policy for the commercial areas. When a sidewalk is not cleared, a certified letter is sent to the owner as a warning. The second offense is a scheduled mandatory court appearance of which the owner is required to appear. The number of snow covered sidewalks have declined dramatically, and the costs of enforcement is less than the cost of a lawsuit to the City of Cape May. The only way the City is involved is by sending out a certified letter to the property owner and the mandatory court appearance. City Manager Sharon Lynn feels that she has staff to handle enforcement, but not staff for clearing the sidewalks. Cindy also referred to reports from other municipalities comments from business owners in the City. A mandatory court appearance would take place in the Alderman Court.

Kathy was in support of Cindy pursuing this matter, and she suggested that Cindy should contact Krys Johnson of Main Street to get more businesses to provide input. Another issue to be considered is that the State clears Rehoboth Avenue and dumps the snow at the intersections so that it is nearly impossible to cross Rehoboth Avenue at any crosswalk.

Before this issue is presented to the Commissioners, the Committee will discuss further findings at the next meeting regarding the current involvement of the City, liability and fines.

Consider suggested revisions in use and content of the "Possible Agenda Items" document.

Kathy suggested that at the next meeting, the Committee should revisit this document and reach consensus on what items need to be addressed or put that document to sleep.

DISCUSS ITEMS TO BE INCLUDED ON AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING.

Items to be included on the next Agenda are: 1. Bicycles on the Boardwalk during the summer season. 2. Snow removal policy. 3. Possible Agenda Items document.

COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS

There were none.

CITIZEN COMMENT

There was none.

SET NEXT MEETING DATE.

The next meeting will be held on October 27, 2014 at 9:00 a.m.

There being no further business, Chair Bill Sargent adjourned the meeting at 11:37 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

(Ann M. Womack, City Secretary)

**MINUTES APPROVED ON
JANUARY 26, 2015**

(Bill Sargent, Chair)