

STREETS AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE CITY OF REHOBOTH BEACH

October 27, 2014

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, October 27, 2014 in the Commissioners Room in City Hall, 229 Rehoboth Avenue, Rehoboth Beach, DE.

ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Bill Sargent, Kathy Osterholm (left meeting at 11:41 a.m.), Cindy Lovett (left meeting 11:17 a.m.), John Gauger, Dennis Diehl, Jim Ellison, Toni Sharp, Lorraine Zellers

Also Present: City Manager Sharon Lynn (left meeting at 11:00 a.m.), Police Chief Keith Banks (left meeting at 11:15 a.m.)

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the July 28, 2014 and August 25, 2014 Streets & Transportation Committee Meetings were deferred to the next meeting. Minutes of the March 24, 2014, April 28, 2014 and September 29, 2014 were not available for approval.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was none.

OLD BUSINESS

Report on status of speed control devices on Hickman Street.

City Manager Sharon Lynn had a conversation with Senator Lopez regarding this issue. This project is in the pipeline, but there has been no approval to date.

Police Chief Keith Banks said that the devices cannot be ordered prior to approval.

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

Bill reported that a meeting has not been scheduled with the State. There has been no coordination with DelDOT about work in the City with regard to the sidewalks.

Consider possible locations for additional crosswalks.

- 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**

City Manager Lynn noted that Chief Banks has done research and will be forwarding his conclusions to the Committee. The proper channel to move this forward would be to take it to the Commissioners.

Chief Banks noted that with the recent issue that DelDOT is facing with the design flaws on Route 1 were brought out in the media recently. The bus stop on the north side of Route 1 across from Walmart had no means for pedestrians to get anywhere along Route 1 because there were no sidewalks. State Road in the City faces the same issue. He has met with his officers to get input. Three of the five locations are State maintained roadways and would require DelDOT review and approval before proceeding with any crosswalks. State Road and Hickman Street, as well as State Road and Munson Street, would draw foot traffic across a state road to the side of the road without a sidewalk. In addition, State Road and Munson Street would lead a pedestrian straight onto Grove Street which does not have a sidewalk. There is no traffic or pedestrian access statistics at any of the five locations to believe that there are problems in these locations. Chief Banks has not researched cost factors for these projects because additional sidewalks, etc.

would need to be put in. An engineer would need to be contacted to estimate these projects. He suggested that a complete traffic study should be considered before recommending these locations prior to any decisions being made. Chief Banks recommended to not move forward with these projects before a complete study is done.

City Manager Lynn said that a traffic engineer should look at this matter should the Committee want to move forward with it. The Committee would be looking at having a comprehensive traffic study done throughout the City. From that, there needs to be identifiable areas so the traffic engineer can deliver what the Committee needs.

The consensus of Committee is that expert knowledge could bring significant improvements to the City. Bill suggested that City Manager Lynn should take the initiative of what needs to be done.

Jim Ellison said that the Committee needs to provide a list of all items as a starting point, and then a preliminary estimate of costs could be gotten from a consultant so that when it is forwarded to the Commissioners there will be a reasonable sense of what the cost will be based upon the tasks identified by the Committee.

Kathy Osterholm said that she would also like to see definite long range plans.

City Manager Lynn said that as a next step, it would help if the Committee would compile a list of the most critical areas that the Committee has been challenged by. Spending money on a traffic study would need to be made to the Commissioners.

Cindy Lovett will compile the ideas, send the list out to the Committee and then send to the City Manager. Chief Banks thought it would be better to collect all the ideas and send them to the Mayor to be put on an agenda as a committee report.

The consensus of the Committee is to provide a path forward with the items that the Committee has been challenged by, and then at a time Bill thinks is appropriate, he will provide a committee report to the Commissioners for the Workshop Meeting on November 10, 2014. Toni will work with Bill on points to bring forward to the Commissioners.

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.**

Toni noted that a focus group meeting was held on October 21, 2014 at Main Street with some of the business owners to get feedback from them on this matter. Cindy and Kathy were also in attendance at that meeting. Four business owners were in attendance. Business owners are supportive of vehicles being parked at meters in front of their businesses. They did not support vehicle turnover. Main Street had provided a survey to business earlier in the summer. Sixty-three businesses responded to the survey. The four business owners at the meeting last week thought that it was more important as to where their seasonal employees can park in the summer season. These owners thought that guests to the City do not understand the scope of its parking. There may be a need for more education on the breadth of parking choices the City has. They also thought that there is no bearing on how much to pay at the meters. These business owners hoped that the City would continue to validate with them if it chooses to make any changes. These business owners also thought that the meters should run from 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Kathy Osterholm noted that business owners may/may not see a need for 30-minute meters, Business owners are aware that they all they had to do to request a 30-minute meter is contact the City Manager.

Toni said that Main Street is supportive of future meetings with business owners. Toni, Kathy and Cindy recommended to hold additional meetings on this matter.

Consider proposed presentation of a snow removal program.

Cindy provided her presentation to the Committee that she will be presenting to the Commissioners. Her objective is to accomplish snow clearing without causing a burden on the City in expense or liability and penalizing those businesses that already clear their sidewalks by charging fees. Cindy contacted seven seasonal municipalities similar to Rehoboth. She provided a copy of Cape May, NJ Code on snow removal. If the Commissioners are interested in a snow removal program, there are two ways to go about it: 1. The City would buy a piece of equipment. 2. The City does not get involved except for enforcement. Currently, there is no provision in the Code

on addressing snow removal. Krys Johnson's survey results from Main Street resulted in the property owner or tenant thinks that the City should not be responsible.

City Manager Lynn said that there is a huge liability issue which is the main focus. There would need to be steady enforcement. Business owners are responsible for cleaning the sidewalks. If they are absent, then there should be a property manager.

Jennifer Burton, Property Manager for Baltimore Commons Shops, said that most of her shops are closed from January to April. Three to four shops are open year-round. Snow removal is done by her. The one major thing that is a huge problem in the City is when the City plows and blocks parking spots. The property owners have to figure out how to make a path through the snow embankments. The issue for liability is the City not removing the embankments and creating areas so people can get onto the sidewalks.

Cindy will make her presentation at the Commissioners' Workshop Meeting on November 10, 2015.

Consider how to encourage bike riders to use safer streets.

Kathy noted that a directional sign can be placed at the top of the bike route sign. This would let bike riders know where to go to find the bike path. This directional sign could also be used to turn right onto Canal Street from Rehoboth Avenue. These signs are visuals for knowing where to turn next. There have been no signs used for Gordon's Pond Trail, but some are used for the Junction Breakwater Trail.

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

This matter was mentioned in the item above.

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

Jim Ellison had proposed at the last meeting to take the map and reduce it to 11"x17". Safe streets have been identified on the map, but not much has been done to direct people to specific locations such as downtown. He is trying to link the various destinations. This would show ways to get people into the first and second blocks of downtown. Kathy and Jim will do more work on the map and will bring it back to the Committee at the next meeting. On the map, he would like to remove a lot of the bicycle parking notations on Rehoboth Avenue in favor of bike parking along the beach.

NEW BUSINESS

Consider dates and times for bicycles on the Boardwalk.

City Manager Lynn said that this year was extremely busy as far as complaints with bicycles on the Boardwalk. Mention has been made to possibly prohibit bicycles on the Boardwalk during the summer season.

Cathy thought that this should be considered as a last resort. She had suggested a bike lane down the middle of the widest part of the Boardwalk.

Chief Banks said that most municipalities which have a boardwalk, the bike lane is located on the side not the middle of the boardwalk. His officers have received complaints that they are not enforcing bicycles going too fast. The Boardwalk is getting too congested.

John Gauger suggested revisiting the time restrictions for bicycles to be on the Boardwalk.

Kathy said that if bicycles would not be allowed on the Boardwalk, then a safe place would need to be provided for riding through the City.

The consensus of the Committee a recommendation to the Commissioners that the time restriction should be changed from daybreak to 8:00 a.m. instead of 10:00 a.m. beginning May 1 to October 1.

DISCUSS ITEMS TO BE INCLUDED ON AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING.

Items to be included on the next Agenda are: 1. Report on status of speed control devices on Hickman Street. 2. Consider possible parking issues such as locations of meters, time limits and enforcement. 3. Revisit directing bike traffic through Grove Park. 4. Consider dates and times for bicycles on the Boardwalk.

COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS

John Gauger said that there is a problem with clear sight lines and angles on corners of streets, and this issue

should be addressed.

CITIZEN COMMENT

Jennifer Burton said that she would like the Committee to take a look at Baltimore and Wilmington Avenues and what can be done with regard to lighting, decorating, cracked sidewalks and streetscape. She also suggested that Park-n-Ride buses should drop off people in the third block of Rehoboth Avenue, instead of at the Boardwalk where there is so much congestion. This way people would walk by the businesses and patronize them.

SET NEXT MEETING DATE.

The next meeting will be held on November 24, 2014 at 9:00 a.m.

There being no further business, Toni Sharp made a motion, seconded by Kathy Osterholm, to adjourn the meeting at 11:42 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

(Ann M. Womack, City Secretary)

**MINUTES APPROVED ON
APRIL 27, 2015**

(Bill Sargent, Chair)