

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

January 4, 2013

The Streets and Transportation Committee Meeting of the City of Rehoboth Beach was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chair Pat Coluzzi on Friday, January 4, 2013 in the Commissioners Room in City Hall, 229 Rehoboth Avenue, Rehoboth Beach, DE.

ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Pat Coluzzi, Kathy Osterholm, Cindy Lovett (left at 10:04 a.m.), John Gauger, Dennis Diehl, Bill Sargent

Absent: Lorraine Zellers, Jim Ellison

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Bill Sargent made a motion, seconded by Kathy Osterholm, to approve the Agenda with the deletion of the August 10, 2012, September 7, 2012, November 2, 2012 and December 3, 2012 minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

No minutes were available for approval.

CORRESPONDENCE

Letter received from Lynn Bowman, 110 Henlopen Avenue, requesting a weight limitation of 5,000 lbs. for trucks on Henlopen Avenue to restrict tractor trailers, dump trucks and heavy equipment trucks for construction purposes because this has become a daylong problem with this type of traffic.

The Committee will take up this matter at a future meeting. In the near future, construction for the outfall pipe will be started, and it will necessitate having heavy construction trucks on that street. The Committee will take this into consideration on a city-wide basis, not only for one street. Bill Sargent will investigate what is legally permitted to be done with regard to this matter.

Phone correspondence from Kathy Osterholm, regarding a neighbor falling over a survey marker. The neighbor has corresponded with the City Manager, and he indicated that it is the property owner's responsibility. The woman's concern is that these markers are located all over the City, and she suggested that the markers be painted or somehow indicate to people that there is an obstruction.

This item will be taken up under pedestrian hazards in terms of policy at a future meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

There was none.

NEW BUSINESS

Presentation of new shuttle business by Mary Ann Slinkman.

Ms. Mary Ann Slinkman introduced the idea of The Original Rehoboth Beach Shuttle which can pick people up at the door and drop off at destinations being served in the City including Canal Corkran, Grand at Canal Point, Rehoboth Grand Canal Landing and Edgewater. The hours of operation would be between 9:30 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. The idea is to shuttle people to the beach with beach chairs and coolers, eliminate the hassle of parking meters, eliminate searching for a parking space, shuttle to restaurants and bars and would allow for no drinking and driving. The business is a shuttle service using a stretch limo golf cart that can carry up to eight passengers including the driver. It is a street legal cart that will be tagged by DMV and will be allowed to operate on public streets. Due to the limited amount of parking spaces in the City, this service will solve people's problems with getting around downtown. This service will also eliminate the expensive costs of the parking meters. This service will be beneficial to the City's revenue. The reasons why this business will be successful are: 1. No service in the downtown area that will compare to this shuttle. 2. Families trying to get to the beach with all their beach chairs and children. 3. Homeowners going out to restaurants and night clubs but do not go because there is no parking available. 4. Handicap and older people who have to park too far away will use this service. 5. Customers who do

not want to drink and drive. 6. Shuttle will be unique and very visible. Please will want to use it because of the novelty, friendliness, cleanliness and professionalism of the drivers. The golf car will cost approximately \$11,000.00 to \$13,000.00. Licensing, insurance, inspection and registration will be approximately \$3,000.00 per year. The goals are to bring a service to Rehoboth Beach that is greatly needed, to have a transportation service that is unique, town friendly and charming, to improve the hospitality industry and offer a service that will create more business for downtown merchants. Ms. Slinkman voiced concern with trying to obtain insurance with regard to the shuttle service. She also noted that Police Chief Keith Banks is in favor of this service. Seat belts would be required and no one would be allowed to exist to the left of the shuttle.

Members of the Committee were receptive to this idea and would like to see a shuttle service such as this in the City. The critical thing to find out about is whether or not Ms. Slinkman will be able to get insurance for the service. One concern was that this shuttle would be perceived to be in direct competition with taxicabs. It was suggested that Ms. Slinkman speak with the City Manager and Mayor with regard to this service. The consensus of the Committee was for Ms. Slinkman to move forward with this shuttle service.

Discuss a possible policy for snow removal from sidewalks with a goal of recommending a policy to the City Commissioners.

Kathy has met with Annmarie Westerfield of Rehoboth Main Street, Carol Everhart of Rehoboth Beach/Dewey Beach Chamber of Commerce, Mel Craig of Public Works, City Manager Greg Ferrese and Mayor Sam Cooper for the first meeting and Greg, Sam, Annmarie and Carol for the second meeting with regard to a possible snow removal from sidewalks. From both discussions, it was indicated that there are multiple problems with snow removal. Companies that had been contacted about snow removal could not do it for the City because it is an intermittent need and there are many issues. If this is to be a function that the City would take responsibility for, it will have to be done by City employees and City equipment. The City was made aware that there needs to be a better job done by City personnel with regard to snow removal. The City has two snow blowers. The issue then becomes where to put the snow that is blown by the snow blowers. There needs to be a more conscious effort. Another issue which was brought to light is that the businesses have complained about this matter. For the winter, Carol and Annmarie will send out blasts to businesses. Currently, there is no ordinance and no enforcement. Part of the discussion was to charge each business licensed in the City a minimum of \$40.00 to be used to contract out to clean sidewalks in the winter. A question was raised whether to tell the businesses or the property owners. Kathy felt comfortable that the message was received that there is a best effort the City will do to try to make a conscious effort of keeping a path on the sidewalks with the understanding that there is a specific snow removal priority list in the City. There are some places that have to be done within a very short period of time. Once those are done, then the City can do some of the other places.

It was suggested that the City should have a hand plow to push the snow along the curb on the commercial streets so there is a five to six foot passageway for pedestrians to walk on the sidewalks. Then the individual businesses that are open could clear the snow from that point on. It was recommended to put money in the budget for a hand plow. The majority of the foot traffic in the winter is on the north side of Rehoboth Avenue, and the biggest problem is the south side. It was suggested that the City focus on snow removal on the south side of Rehoboth Avenue. Greg Ferrese agreed, but the merchants will not accept that suggestion. All of the central business area will need to be done on Rehoboth Avenue. Annmarie will look to other Main Streets to see what they are doing in their municipalities with regard to snow removal. The ideal situation is to have a dependable contractor to come in after a certain amount of snow and clean the sidewalks and bill all the merchants in the location and put it in a separate fund to pay the outside contractor. The City's priorities are the main arteries, secondary streets, convention center parking lot, senior citizen center parking lot, Chamber parking lot and the churches. Greg's recommendation was for the City to hire a contractor to remove the snow. An update will be provided at the next Committee meeting.

Discussion of potential areas within the City for scooter parking.

Pat, Greg and Commissioner Patrick Gossett went out and looked at all the street ends at the Boardwalk and took photographs of potential areas for scooter parking. In her presentation, Pat also noted potential areas for bicycle parking. Suggested areas are: 1. Queen Street – decking and landscaping project with scooter parking on the left side of the street and bicycle parking on the right side. 2. Prospect Street – currently there are bicycle racks on the beach. This area would be difficult for parking. 3. St. Lawrence Street – on-street scooter parking on the left side of the street and bicycle parking on the right side. 4. Rodney Street - on-street scooter parking on the left side of the street and bicycle parking on the right side. A corral would be used for scooters and racks for bicycles. 5. Norfolk Street – on-street scooter parking on the left side of the street and bicycle parking on the right side. 6. Stockley Street – on-street scooter parking on the left side of the street and bicycle parking on the right side. 7. New

Castle Street – on-street scooter parking on the left side of the street and bicycle parking on the right side. 8. Philadelphia & Laurel Streets – on-street scooter parking. 9. Maryland Avenue – two curb cuts would be required for scooter parking on the left side and bicycle parking on the right side. 10. Olive Avenue – two curb cuts would be required for scooter parking on the left side and bicycle parking on the right side. 11. Virginia Avenue – on-street scooter parking on the left side of the street and bicycle parking on the right side. 12. South side of Rehoboth Avenue at Fifth Street – scooter parking in the oversized parking space. 13. North side of Rehoboth Avenue at Second Street – scooter parking in the oversized parking space. 14. North side of Rehoboth Avenue at Fourth Street – scooter parking in the oversized parking space. 15. Scooter parking at VIA. 16. Scooter parking behind the Fire Company.

Greg suggested that the Committee should consider increasing scooter parking at the restroom area on Rehoboth Avenue. The consensus of the Commissioners was that if scooter parking is provided on the street, a seasonal permit pass should be used.

The Committee will make suggestions for scooter parking and forward them to the Commissioners for their review. The potential areas for bicycle parking will eliminate the bicycle parking on the Boardwalk and corrals will be provided in the potential bicycle parking areas on the street. A suggested bike rack for Maryland and Olive Avenues and Queen Street is a wave type rack. Greg recommended that a few members should go with Mel to pick out locations for the bike racks on the Boardwalk and have the racks bolted down. Mel has instructions to refurbish the existing bike racks. Greg suggested adding more bike racks if needed rather than buying different styles of racks. Bill and Kathy will locate potential areas for bike racks in the same way she did for the scooter parking areas. This topic will be discussed at the next meeting.

Kathy Osterholm made a motion, seconded by Dennis Diehl, that the Committee recommends the proposed scooter parking configuration to the Commissioners for approval. Motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSS ITEMS TO INCLUDE ON FUTURE AGENDAS.

Item to be included on the next agenda is: 1. Update on snow removal. 2. Bicycle path connectivity – meet with the State about things to possibly do to cross Rehoboth Avenue with a bike path and crosswalks. 3. Discussion of potential areas within the City for bicycle parking at racks.

Item to be included on future agendas are: 1. Restrictions on vehicle weights. 2. Pedestrian hazards.

SET NEXT MEETING.

The next Committee meeting will be held on February 1, 2013 at 9:00 a.m.

There being no further business, Bill Sargent made a motion, seconded by John Gauger, to adjourn the meeting at 10:26 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

(Ann M. Womack, CMC, City Secretary)

**MINUTES APPROVED ON
MARCH 1, 2013**

(Pat Coluzzi, Chair)