

**STREETS AND TRANSPORTATION AD HOC COMMITTEE  
REHOBOTH IN BLOOM  
CITY OF REHOBOTH BEACH**

**April 11, 2014**

The Streets and Transportation Ad Hoc Committee – Rehoboth in Bloom Meeting of the City of Rehoboth Beach was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Chair Lorraine Zellers on Friday, April 11, 2014 in the Commissioners Room in City Hall, 229 Rehoboth Avenue, Rehoboth Beach, DE.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Chair Lorraine Zellers Toni Sharp, Kathy Osterholm, Bill Sargent, Carol Everhart, Priscilla Smith

Absent: Ned Kesmodel, Jane Wyatt, Anne Hubbard

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes of the November 19, 2012 Streets and Transportation Ad Hoc Committee – Rehoboth in Bloom Meeting were distributed prior to the meeting.

Bill Sargent made a motion, seconded by Kathy Osterholm, to approve the minutes of the November 19, 2012 Streets and Transportation Ad Hoc Committee – Rehoboth in Bloom Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Correspondence was deferred will read when the discussion of potential beautification efforts for the State Road entrance to the City including the City yard, pumping station and traffic median portion of the meeting is held.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Update of 2013 bloom season including review of current projects and discussion of successes/challenges including irrigation, maintenance, additional beautification efforts and locations for the upcoming season.**

**A. Rain Garden**

The Rain Garden has been self-sustaining. It requires minimal attention. In Spring, the rain barrel is prepared. Compost is applied to the Garden. All of the plants are natives and do extremely well. If the Gard is dry, the grounds crew maintains the water level in the barrel. Weeding and trimming is done as needed. In Fall/Winter, plants are cut back as they die off, and compost is applied. Additional signage was installed last year identifying the plants used as part of the educational outreach. Expenses have been minimal. Bill Sargent will photograph the Rain Garden in the near future.

**B. Canal Bridge planting bed**

The Canal Bridge planting bed was done as an alternative to putting baskets along the bridge. It has been self-sustaining. The irrigation system is in place. Minimal weeding is required during the growing season. At the November 2012 meeting, the Committee had discussed putting in plants for the winter. Lorraine had approached Greg who approved this idea. RSC Landscaping planted winter pansies and mulched the beds. The expenses were minimal. It was recommended that there should be an annual contract for the spring/fall planting and maintenance. A photograph was presented of the planting bed.

**C. Lamppost baskets – Lake Gerar Bridge**

The Lake Gerar Bridge planters continue to be the most challenging. In 2012, the plant choices did not do well overall. There were irrigation issues. Watering was done manually and was labor intensive. In 2013, Lorraine met with City Manager Greg Ferrese to explore several options with regard to this project. One option was an automatic drip irrigation system. The quote received from Sposato was greater than \$3,000.00 which is not reasonable for four planters. An alternative was to use a pump and a 250 gallon truck-mounted water tank. A part-time summer employee was identified to water the planters three times per week. RSC Landscaping

installed different salt tolerant plants. The results were better, but the plants never reached their full potential. Most of the irrigation issues was due to sporadic watering, done at most twice per week. In 2014, Lorraine met with City Manager Sharon Lynn and Public Works Director Mel Craig for a post-season review. Challenges with staffing and a potential plan in going forward were discussed. Photographs of this project were presented.

**D. Rehoboth Avenue memorial bed project, Wilmington Avenue project, Bandstand area restroom beds**

In January 2013, Lorraine met with City Manager Ferrese and Sposato to discuss what can be done with the memorial beds in the first two blocks of Rehoboth Avenue. Ned Kesmodel had developed a map, identifying the areas on Rehoboth Avenue that needed attention such as the memorial tree beds, bandstand restroom areas and the memorial fountain. Two proposals were received of which one was for the memorial tree beds. With regard to the memorial tree beds, Sposato proposed removing the soil and mulching to below grade and installing 600 houttuynia in 20 beds in the first block of Rehoboth Avenue. The second proposal was to replace the shrubs at the memorial fountain and along the bandstand restroom area. The plantings in the tree beds were done in May 2013, but the majority of them did not survive due to irrigation issues. The expenses for this project were a significant part of the 2013 budget. Sposato will be replacing the plantings at no cost to the City. Currently, 10 beds have been replaced. The plan going forward is that employees from Public Works will water the beds every morning. The remaining 10 beds will be planted later. Photographs of this project were presented.

Kathy Osterholm noted that when every parking space is taken in the summertime, there is only approximately six inches of space to walk with the way the beds were put in. She suggested exploring the idea that on the parking side, the beds should have garden signs for people to stay off the beds. Bill suggested the possibility of a short fence for the beds.

A property owner on Wilmington Avenue had tried to landscape an area in front of her establishment, but there are discrepancies with sidewalk, curbing, right-of-way, etc. The former City Manager obtained a quote for the property owner to partner with the City and split the costs. RSC Landscaping dug out the bottom layer, put plants in and mulched, but as of last week the area looked dismal. Toni Sharp will keep an eye on what is happening in that area. Lorraine will check to see if the bushes that were planted by RSC Landscaping are under warranty. Toni suggested that a long-range streetscape should take place one day on Wilmington Avenue because it is not representative of how the City should look.

Action items for 2014 have been the rain garden, Canal Bridge planting bed, Rehoboth Avenue memorial bed project and lamppost baskets at Lake Gerar Bridge. The rain garden has been sustainable. The Lake Gerar Bridge baskets should be relocated to the Bandstand plaza area and should be watered twice a day. A planter should also be considered in the center of the plaza for color. The major problem with the baskets at Lake Gerar Bridge was irrigation. Watering was done manually, but a permanent solution was needed. Lorraine had met with the former City Manager to explore options such as a drip system which was quoted at \$3,000.00 from Sposato. Other alternatives were researched. A pump was mounted on a truck, and a City employee watered three times per week. The part-time employee was lost, and the watering was done sporadically. Lorraine met with City Manager Sharon Lynn and Public Works Director Mel Craig to discuss challenges and a plan in going forward.

**E. Revisit the possibility of municipal planters.**

Lorraine and Kathy will work on determining a location for the flower baskets on the Boardwalk that will be visible and pleasing to the eye. Kathy suggested checking with master gardeners to find out what plants will grow in that area. Lorraine met with Mary of Sussex gardeners to devise a plan.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Veterans' Memorial at the Bandstand**

Mayor Cooper and Lorraine did a walkabout at the Veterans' Memorial. Mayor Cooper presented the idea of a hedge across the dirt path to deter people from taking a short cut across the lawn. A short fence could possibly be installed along the front to deter people. A suggestion was made to plant knockout roses in front of the memorial. Sposato and RSC Landscaping will provide proposal for review. A suggestion was made to have a giant flower pot placed in the paved area, but there would be a problem with enforcement on the nights of concerts. Lorraine would like to revisit the idea of hayracks at the Bandstand. Another suggestion was to place planters on the wall behind the memorials to deter people from sitting on the wall. Sharon will follow-up with Sposato regarding an estimate. A suggestion was made that a field trip should take place after today's meeting to better visualize the area.

**Discussion of potential beautification efforts for the State Road entrance to the City including the City yard, pumping station and traffic median.**

Correspondence:

1. Email from Tom McGlone with regard to the beautification of the State Road entrance to the City. The triangle of grass could be landscaped. He volunteered to work with this project.

Kathy suggested that decorative fencing could be used at the City yard.

Lorraine noted that she will check into who has jurisdiction in these areas, screening and types of landscaping.

**Items to be included on future agendas.**

Items to be included on future agendas are: 1. Beautification efforts for the State Road entrance to the City including the City yard, pumping station and traffic median. 2. Veterans' Memorial at the Bandstand.

**Set next meeting.**

The next meeting will be held on May 16, 2014 at 10:00 a.m.

There being no further business, Chair Lorraine Zellers adjourned the meeting at 11:30 a.m.

**Respectfully submitted,**

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**(Ann M. Womack, City Secretary)**

**MINUTES APPROVED ON  
OCTOBER 3, 2014**

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**(Lorraine Zellers, Chair)**