

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

May 16, 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, May 16, 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, Ned Kesmodel

Absent: Carol Everhart, Priscilla Smith, Jane Wyatt, Steve Elkins

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Bill Sargent made a motion, seconded by Kathy Osterholm, to approve the Agenda with the deletion of the April 11, 2014 Meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

No Minutes were available for approval.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was none.

OLD BUSINESS

Update of current projects:

A. Rain Garden

The Rain Garden is currently set up and working.

B. Canal Bridge planting bed

The Committee will continue with the Canal Bridge plantings at the Rehoboth Beach Historical Society. Various plants were planted on May 15, 2014.

C. Rehoboth Avenue memorial tree bed project

The memorial tree beds seem to be thriving. Marcus of Sposato, City Manager Sharon Lynn and Mel Craig of Public Works Department had discussed watering techniques. At least once a day, city employees will be irrigating the beds. Approximately 10 memorial tree beds have been replanted. Part of the problem with keeping these beds thriving is that people stomp on the plants instead of walking around them. Marcus had recommended certain plants for those areas that would deter people walking on the beds.

D. Lamppost baskets

The Lake Gerar Bridge planters were relocated to the Bandstand and were planted on May 15, 2014. The wind and lack of water were big issues why the plants did not thrive at the bridge location.

E. Update and further discussion of municipal planters including feasibility, container choices, locations, maintenance and “adoption” options.

After the last meeting, a few members went to the Bandstand area to see if it is feasible to have a few baskets and one huge planter placed in that area. It is not feasible due to seating and the need for a band set-up area.

Discuss challenges and plan going forward for Veterans’ Memorial at the Bandstand.

The Committee discussed how to maintain the dirt path area at the Veterans’ Memorial. This area is sodded every year by Sposato in an effort to keep it green and natural. A suggestion that the Committee had made previously was to install pavers in this area, but Mayor Cooper thought that this area should remain natural. Marcus had suggested that a natural barrier should be done in the area of the Veterans’ Memorial. In the front of the

Memorial, 22 drift roses should be planted to make a natural hedge; and at the end of the dirt patch, knockout roses should be planted to form a hedge. This would create continual color throughout the year. Annuals could be planted inside the hedged area, and plantings could be placed on top of the memorial stones to discourage people from climbing onto them. A memorial sign could be placed in front to show respect that this area is a memorial site. Corey Groll, Director of Bandstand activity, was contacted to see if this would have any impact to the shows. The challenges for this area are that the eastern end of the Rehoboth Avenue restroom building is used to store sound equipment which is rolled out for the show and is usually located at the southeast section of the building where the dirt path begins. Other shows require the equipment to be placed in the octagonal area to the east of the building which would require large cords being dragged across the rose bushes and would create a cosmetic issue. At least four feet of space would be needed between the building and the first set of roses. Corey and Marcus had met to discuss these challenges. A possible solution would be to have two gates, one at either end of the Memorial, to discourage people from walking behind the Memorial and to pull the cables through this area when there are shows. Pavers in certain areas were also suggested so as to create another area for walking because the dirt path would be blocked. New sod and upgraded irrigation would be placed in the area of the dirt patch. The estimated cost for irrigation would be \$250.00 to \$400.00. The total estimated cost for sod, 22 drift roses and 10 knockout roses is \$1,900.00. The irrigation would be additional, and the gates would cost an additional \$1,400.00 total.

Suggestions made by the Committee were:

1. Install a beach themed fence with rope strung between the posts.
2. In the first year, something will need to be placed around the perimeter to alert people to the new plantings. Then take it under advisement for the second year as to how well the plantings were established, and what should be done for the next phase.
3. Talk with Police Chief Keith Banks about the times the first block is cordoned off for shows in order to give people time to find a place on the street.
4. Clarify with Corey about what space is needed for shows.
5. Possibly rewire the sound system for people to hear the shows who are sitting on the benches on the Boardwalk.
6. Establish guiding principles. An objective would be to protect the green space and beautify the rectangle.
7. The Memorial should be lit at night.
8. An upgraded sprinkler system is needed in this area.
9. Professionals should weigh in and provide recommendations with regard to protecting the planting area during its first year.
10. Look at fencing material next year.

The consensus of the Committee was to plant roses and sod in this area and block the traffic to the dirt path. Then the Committee should view the usage of the area around the Memorial in a year's time and decide whether or not it makes sense to keep this as a green area.

Lorraine will meet with Sharon to present the information that the Committee has discussed.

Update and continued discussion of potential beautification efforts for the State Road entrance to the City to include the City yard, pumping station and traffic median including ownership, potential projects/planting options, screening alternatives.

At the last meeting, the Committee had suggested beautifying the pumping station area at Bay and State Roads which is at the third entrance to the City. Currently, the pumping station is under construction. Sharon contacted DelDOT and received clarification that the City owns this land. Clarification is needed as to who owns the triangular area of land at the intersection. One of the plans is to get quotes and recommendations from Sposato and RSC Landscaping for a long range project to beautify this area of the City. Decorative pre-printed screening options were discussed for the City Yard at State Road. The average cost for pre-printed screening is \$9.00 to \$10.00 per linear foot. Samples pictures were provided to the Committee of pre-printed screening. This would be a long range project for the future. There was also discussion about types of plantings that could be used in this area. Should the Committee decide to pursue this idea, its recommendation would be presented to the Commissioners. Buy-in will be needed from Public Works to do this project with regard to staffing, maintenance, etc. Toni Sharp will talk to neighbors in this area regarding their input. Members of the Committee will also come up with ideas for screening and plantings in these areas.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion of short-term project ideas.

Suggested ideas for short-term projects for this summer were:

1. Since Lewes is known as the tulip city, Rehoboth could be known as the daffodil city.
2. Plantings at bicycle area in front of Mariachi.
3. Plant daffodils and daylilies on Bayard Avenue.
4. Planters on the Boardwalk.
5. Adopt a planter program.
6. Adopt a park and have a community garden.
7. Businesses to adopt a pot with three plants in it.
8. Encourage businesses to water the memorial beds in front of their establishments.

Items to be included on future agendas.

Items to be included on future agendas are: 1. Update and continued discussion of potential beautification efforts for the State Road entrance to the City to include the City yard, pumping station and traffic median. 2. Plan going forward for Veterans' Memorial at the Bandstand. 3. Discuss beautification of Mariners' Park next to the Henlopen Hotel.

Set next meeting.

The next meeting will be held on June 13, 2014 AT 10:00 a.m.

Citizen Comment

There were none.

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

Respectfully submitted,

(Ann M. Womack, CMC, City Secretary)

**MINUTES APPROVED ON
JUNE 13, 2014**

(Lorraine Zellers, Chair)