

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

June 13, 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, June 13, 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 (left meeting at 11:34 a.m.), Carol Everhart, Priscilla Smith, Ned Kesmodel

Absent: Steve Elkins, Jane Wyatt, Anne Hubbard

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Kathy Osterholm made a motion, seconded by Toni Sharp, to approve the Agenda with the deletion of the April 11, 2014 minutes and transposing 6(C) and 6(D) such that 6(B) and 6(D) are discussed together. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the May 16, 2014 Streets and Transportation Ad Hoc Committee – Rehoboth in Bloom Meeting were distributed prior to the meeting. Minutes of the April 11, 2014 Streets and Transportation Ad Hoc Committee – Rehoboth in Bloom Meeting were not available for approval.

Bill Sargent made a motion, seconded by Kathy Osterholm, to approve the minutes of the May 16, 2014 Streets and Transportation Ad Hoc Committee – Rehoboth in Bloom Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence received from Cindy Lovett regarding beautification of Lake Placid will be discussed during the discussion of 6(B) and 6(D).

OLD BUSINESS

Current projects update:

A. Veterans' Memorial at the Bandstand, lamppost planters and memorial tree beds – challenges going forward.

The ongoing projects for 2014 are: 1. Canal Bridge is looking really good. 2. Rain Garden. Some weed maintenance may need to be done, and volunteers are needed. 3. Memorial tree beds in the first block of Rehoboth Avenue are filling in and flowering. Daily watering is being done by City employees 4. Lamppost planter baskets were moved from the Lake Gerar Bridge to the Bandstand area. Lorraine will meet with Mike Peterman, Streets Supervisor to devise a plan for watering by the City employees. One of the new projects for this year was the Veterans' Memorial. Sposato provided a plan for redoing this area with the idea of trying to keep people off of the grassy area. Challenges arose with concerts in this area because the back end of the building is used to store sound equipment that is rolled out for the shows. This equipment requires large cords being dragged across the rose bushes and will create a cosmetic issue. A space of at least four feet is needed between the building and the first set of roses. Corey Groll met with Sposato and determined that one of the possible solutions is to install two gates at each end of the wall to discourage people from walking behind the memorial. Photographs were provided of the Veterans' Memorial before the Memorial Day ceremony. Roses were planted, new sod was in place and the irrigation was upgraded in this area. The gates have not been installed to date. Lorraine had spoken with City Manager Sharon Lynn about placing little under construction signs in this area. The consensus at the last meeting was to not fence off this area at this point. The baskets at the Bandstand are blooming, but there is still a slight water issue. Lorraine will be meeting with Chris Cordry of RSC Landscaping today to discuss the possibility of putting in additional plants. The City's function is to maintain the baskets.

Cindy Lovett, 4 Canal Street, suggested that alternatives should be used instead of the mesh baskets.

Lorraine will confirm with Sharon that since the Bandstand activities start this evening, the plan is for

police officers to ask people to stay off the grass. A suggestion was made for police tape to be used before and during the event and removed after the event.

- B. Municipal planters – further discussion including feasibility, possible container choices, locations, maintenance, “adoption” options.**
- D. Discussion of short-term project ideas, including daylilies and daffodils, “adopt a pot/bed/park, etc.” projects and ideas for how to make that happen.**

Correspondence from Lake Placid was read by Lorraine. Lake Placid uses a water truck which is used three days a week to water the plants. A coffee can of miracle grow is added to the water. A moisture wand is used to see if the soil is moist enough. A diary is kept of flower types. Barrels were recommended with holes drilled in the bottoms and set them up on bricks. The oil soil should be saved from the previous year.

There are a lot of beautification/adoption programs. The successful ones have an organized program and group. The funding is either through the city, non-profit or a combination of city/volunteers through “adopt” programs. A park/street/spot can be adopted. Through the “adopt” programs, there is an application with contact, location, start-finish, frequency of service, description of project and agreement/waiver. It would require a one year commitment. This may be something to look to in moving forward. This is an idea for businesses, homeowners’ associations, etc. to do something. The watering and irrigation would not fall on the City’s shoulders. The Committee would need to choose what projects the City would maintain with the watering truck. City buy-in would be needed. Lorraine suggested that the Bloom Committee is an ad hoc committee which should become its own committee with a mission statement and become a more organized group.

Cindy Lovett said that a person who knows gardening has to be in charge of the program. She would like to join the Bloom Committee and would like to expand a volunteer program.

Kathy would like to hear from Main Street with regard to the businesses.

The first step would be to understand what the City’s role would be, if there is one. Then there would need to be rules for the volunteers. The application process would set out what the project is about, a timeframe, who would be responsible, etc. In many cities that have an adopt-a-program, the adoptees maintain the project. The City could possibly buy some of the plants for the projects and provide some of the barrels. First the Committee would have to decide if this is something it would like to pursue. If it is, then a process would need to be developed and parameters would need to be set. At the next meeting, Lorraine will provide samples of parameters for the program. One of the goals would be for the projects to look natural and beachy. Part of the discussion with the City Manager should be about locations.

Krys Johnson of Main Street suggested that a representative of Sposato should consult with the Committee in moving forward.

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

There are two areas the Committee considered in going forward for a long range type of project. Decorative fencing could be used to hide the generator, and plants could be put in around it. In the center of the triangle on State Road is a storm drain. Lorraine will talk with Chris Cordry of RSC Landscaping and Marcus of Sposato to see what can be done with the triangle. Ownership of the triangle will need to be confirmed. The triangle needs to be a self-sustaining bed. A suggestion was made that a rain garden could be planted in the triangle. In the area of the City yard, plantings could be used to create a natural barrier. There was no consensus with regarding to using decorative screening/fencing in the area of the City yard. There are four areas in the City, i.e. State Road, Rehoboth Avenue, Bayard Avenue and the City yard that are main thoroughfares. If there would be an RFP or RFI from several large companies, there would be a really good sense of what the cost would be to take a phase in approach. It should be left up to the professionals to see if there is a cohesiveness over time in all the areas of entering and exiting the City. A suggestion was made that a plan should be built prior to the budget sessions.

NEW BUSINESS

There was none.

ITEMS TO BE INCLUDED ON FUTURE AGENDAS.

An item to be included on the next agenda is the adoption program.

SET NEXT MEETING.

The next meeting will be held on August 1, 2014 at 10:00 a.m.

CITIZEN COMMENT

Krys Johnson of Main Street thought that there should be a cohesive plan in going forward with the professionals.

There being no further business, Chair Lorraine Zellers adjourned the meeting at 11:36 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

(Ann M. Womack, City Secretary)

**MINUTES APPROVED ON
OCTOBER 3, 2014**

(Lorraine Zellers, Chair)