

**AVALON ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
SEPTEMBER 17, 2013 MEETING MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 pm by Chairman Reynolds. Flag salute. Chairman Reynolds read the Open Public Meetings Act. Roll call was taken.

Present: Beth Tipping, Donna Rothman, Harry Keyser, Terry Sasdelli, Brian Reynolds

Absent: Debanne Macaluso, Kevin Coyle

A motion to approve the minutes of the August 20th meeting was made by Harry Keyser and seconded by Donna Rothman. Approved by all.

Donna Rothman gave an update on the Beach/Dune trail project. There are currently five people helping with the writing of the content of fourteen signs. Stu Friedman is taking photographs and there is a volunteer naturalist involved and they will also have maps.

Chairman Reynolds asked if there was any public comment(s). Martha Wright of 6327 7th Street said that she was disappointed in the project being so far underway. Ecotourism does not benefit her or the environment. She believes in protecting the dunes and this project will bring in buses of people who will stomp over the dunes. Leon Wilk of 273 60th Street, represents PAD, which is dedicated to the protection of Avalon's dunes. PAD had originally supported the project with stipulations but has since withdrawn its support. PAD supports an educational component without signs and a project which protects the natural beauty.

Scott Taylor of Taylor Design Group, a landscape architect, was present to address concerns. Scott's specialty is park design. Scott explained where the signs would be placed, the size of the signs, placement of the signs, color of the signs and how they would blend in. It is a self-directed trail so anyone can utilize it and be educated.

Elaine Scattergood of 75 W. 30th Street said that the signs will ruin the beauty of the dunes. People can learn about the dunes at the Library. Chairman Reynolds advised the audience that the Committee will take their comments under advisement.

The Chairman next spoke about new construction at 17th Street and the property owner there extending light fixtures, the lawn and flower beds and irrigation into the dunes. This prompted a request for the Environmental Commission to look into intrusion of non-native plantings in the dunes between 8th Street and the north side of 20th Street. This information was turned over to the Zoning Official, the Code Enforcement Official and the Construction Official who will contact the DEP and any further action will be decided by those officials.

October 5 is the next dune grass planting.

Milkweed and persimmon added to plantings list.

Harry Keyser has resigned from Environmental Commission effective September 30, 2013.

Adjournment at 4:55 p.m.