**Avalon Environmental Commission**

**December 19, 2017 Meeting Minutes**

The meeting was called to order ay 4:00 pm by Chairman Reynolds. Flag salute. Roll call.

**Present:** Kevin Coyle, Joe Dvorak, Steve Malyszka, Brian Reynolds, Donna Rothman, Beth Tipping

**Absent:** Debanne Macaluso

A motion to approve the minutes of the October 17, 2017 meeting was made by Brian Reynolds, and seconded by Steve Malyszka. Approved by all.

Report on the DVMP Monitoring projects by Aaron Baker from LOMAX Consulting Group. Aaron stated there are eight active projects and would like to see more projects conducted. The Glaser project on 64th Street overall looks good. Recommends remedial planting and temporary irrigation. Continue monitoring in fall 2018. Middleton project by Hess Landscape Architects at 73rd-74th Street, vegetation spreading and growing nicely. Remedial planting is not recommended. Recommend additional maintenance of bamboo and continue monitoring of plantings after 2018 growing season. Carter, 66th-68th Street, no remedial planting recommended, temporary irrigation should be removed and decommissioning is recommended. Smith, 37th-39th Street, no remedial planting is recommended due to the number of surviving plantings and establishment of native volunteer vegetation. Recommend the irrigation system be disconnected and continue monitoring in 2018. Schneider, 65th Street, problems with irrigation have occurred due to the demolition next door to the property. Aaron has reached out to sponsor in hope of planting more vegetation and getting irrigation. Continue monitoring in 2018. Fries, 72nd Street, no remedial planting is recommended due to the successful planting and establishment of native volunteer vegetation. Recommend irrigation system be turned on again in the spring of 2018 and continue monitoring in the fall of 2018. Swales, 23rd-22nd Street, no additional actions are recommended at this time due to high survivorship of the plantings and establishments. Recommend drip irrigation be disconnected, monitor growth of damaging vines and non-native vegetation. Continue monitoring in 2018. Shea, 24th Street, no additional actions recommended. Drip irrigation should be winterized and turned on again in spring 2018. Continue monitoring in 2018. Steve asked about the Bayberry project. Irrigation is set up and will continue to monitor. Brian asked about Nazaria on east 22nd Street. Aaron stated they have submitted interest in DVMP but have not heard back about going forward. Motion to accept reports from LOMAX Consulting Group made by Steve Malyszka. Seconded by Beth Tipping. Approved by all.

Joe from LOMAX Consulting Group discussed the pilot study carried out in Armacost Park in 2016. Vines that were stopping the sunlight from coming in have been cut but have not been pulled down. The first observation showed the crowns of the trees beginning to flourish as well as ground species. In the seconded observation the attempt to plant trees and bring in acorns was made. Joe stated there was a 10% survival rate without irrigation. Recommend another cutting on damaging vines coming back. Steve asked about the size of the vines that need to be cut back. Joe stated the vines are thin but blossom out. Recommends landscapers to do the job and not volunteers.

Review of the maintenance pruning request of DVMP projects. Aaron discussed two requests by people who have DVMP projects have been made. Smith, 2015 pruning maintenance project, to gage where it was pruned before and see how far the vegetation has grown. Discussion on a pruning protocol program to be established. Donna asked about something to be available in the Borough website to guide landscapers and homeowners of how to go through the process. To be made public and to allow homeowners to see the success of other projects throughout the town.

Implementation of the tree planting grant from New Jersey Forestry Service. Scoping scale of project identified where tree planting will be beneficial, used as a kick-off for the Tree Management Committee to join Public Works. Trees will be planted, not seedlings. Sacks or wells to be around trees to provide irrigation. Project needs to be started by spring in order to not lose the grant. DEP will need an estimated date of when the project will begin. Steve suggested a report or plan to show where the planting will happen and what areas are part of the grant.

Discussion of the 2018 meeting dates. Dates to be published in the Atlantic City Press. Motion to approve 2018 meeting dates made by Steve Malyszka. Seconded by Joe Dvorak. Approved by all.

Adjournment at 5:25 pm.