

Avalon Environmental Commission
September 20, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm by Chairwoman Rothman.

Pledge of allegiance.

Chairwoman Rothman read the Open Public Meetings Act Statement.

Roll call: **Present:** Claire Driscoll, Joe Dvorak, Steve Malyszka, Brian Reynolds, Donna Rothman, and Jamie McDermott
 Absent: Dave Coskey, Kevin Coyle, Beth Tipping and Chris Amacher

A motion to approve the minutes from the August 16, 2022 meeting was made by Steve Malyszka and seconded by Jamie McDermott. Approved by all.

Donna Rothman introduced Victoria Deever, who recently made her thesis presentation to the Borough. She noted it is possible that Victoria will be joining the Environmental Commission's membership as an Associate Member of the Environmental Commission, pending Mayoral approval. In the meantime, Victoria has expressed interest in attending the next few Environmental Commission Meetings.

Status of Environmental Commission 2022 & 2023 Plans: Donna Rothman distributed the Environmental Commission work plan for 2022, as well as the proposed work plan for 2023 to all present. A review of the 2022 work plan ensued, and an overview of items completed, initiatives to be continued for 2023, and objectives to be added to the 2023 plan were addressed. Discussion took place to identify important parts of the plan, specifically educational programs for both adults and children. New initiatives were presented and discussed, as well as volunteers for each initiative, both existing and newly added.

Victoria Deever presented some ideas, such as a Community Development Plan, which would create a bike trail with a virtual ecological component. Discussion took place concerning stop locations, information to add, and how to implement the plan. Available grants were discussed, and it was suggested to employ the help of AHLOA to add a bike safety aspect to the project as well. Business engagement to promote not only this initiative, but also the educational programs offered by the Environmental Commission, was discussed. Victoria agreed to assist with the design and writing of a Native Plant brochure created for the public and for real estate agents to give to new homeowners.

Restoration Plan for Armacost Park: Steve Malyszka reviewed the site plan and action item list for the Armacost Park Restoration. Meetings have recently been held, which have included the Department of Public Works, Jamie McDermott, Donna Rothman, Steve Malyszka, Tom Thornton, and Lomax Consulting Group, to discuss this project. There are hopes to hire Windward Consulting to help with this project, as they consulted on the restoration of this park in the past. Grant opportunities for this project are unlimited and there is a group of volunteers and Borough officials dedicated to move this project forward. Many initiatives associated with this process have begun, unfortunately, many have been left unfinished. Restoration of this park is crucial, and maintenance of the park once the restoration is complete is also a vital component of the project.

Steve Malyszka gave a detailed outline of the history of Armacost Park, as well as an overview of flooding issues investigated and identified at the intersections of 72nd Street and Dune Drive and 72nd Street and Ocean Drive. Solutions for these flooding issues have been identified and are expected to be implemented at the end of 2022 and mid-2023, respectively. He gave a brief report regarding the maritime forest, including the status, plant species identified to exist within the forest, overgrowth, phragmites, and other concerns within the forest. A proposed restoration plan for the maritime forest has been developed, which includes the removal of existing Japanese Black Pines. Other problem areas within Armacost Park were identified. He stressed the need for solutions, and the members present discussed potential solutions that could be implemented, including the development of a maintenance plan. The discussion closed with an overview of the recreation grounds at the facility that are also in need of restoration.

Donna Rothman mentioned that Pat Sutton has agreed to help with the development of a maintenance plan for the Pollinator Garden. Joe Dvorak reported that the Tree Committee is getting closer to a final Commemorative Tree Program Plan to present to the Borough. Claire Driscoll noted that an appointment has been made with Ms. Krause, science teacher at Avalon School to discuss dates and particulars of this year's Dune Grass project.

Adjournment at 5:26 pm.