

Avalon Environmental Commission
January 17, 2023

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:** Dave Coskey, Kevin Coyle, Joe Dvorak, Steve Malyszka, Brian Reynolds, Donna Rothman and Jamie McDermott

Absent: Claire Driscoll and Beth Tipping, Chris Amacher

A motion to approve the minutes from the November 15, 2022 meeting was made by Dave Coskey and seconded by Jamie McDermott. Approved by all.

DVMP Inspection Reports: Aaron Baker presented yearly inspection reports for five properties, which included providing an overview of each project's scope and the survivorship percentage, as follows:

9th Street North – Benz: This project has concluded its second year in the program, which is successful at this point in time. Rabbits have posed a threat to the survivorship of the beach plum in this project area; therefore, such plantings may be avoided in this area for future plantings. Per the Memorandum of Agreement, there is one more year of monitoring to be done. At this time, it is recommended to continue irrigation through the end of the third year of this project.

3105 Avalon Avenue – Franzoni: This project has concluded its second year in the program, during which some Japanese Black Pine seedlings were found in a substantial seed base. All seedlings have been removed upon discovery. Per the Memorandum of Agreement, there is one more year of monitoring to be done. Due to the aforementioned seed base of Japanese Black Pine, it is expected that a maintenance project for this area will be necessary in the future.

13th Street North – Norris: This project has concluded its first year in the program. Similar to the Benz project, rabbits have posed a threat to the survivorship of the newly planted beach plum, which will be closely monitored for the remaining duration of the monitoring period for this project, which will be for two more years.

4369 Dune Drive: This project has concluded its third and final year of monitoring. Unfortunately, during this year, there was an unauthorized pruning of vegetation in this project area; however, the project has been successful during the monitoring period, and continued success is anticipated at this time. This project is ready to be decommissioned. It is not anticipated that there would be a need for a maintenance project for this area in the future.

70th Street South – Kim: This project has concluded its third and final year of monitoring. At this time, there are no remedial actions required, and this project is ready to be decommissioned. It is expected that a maintenance project for this area will be necessary in the future.

A motion to approve the decommissioning of the projects located at 4369 Dune Drive and 70th Street South was made by Steve Malyszka and seconded by Joe Dvorak. Approved by all.

Donna Rothman inquired if there are any upcoming DVMP projects, with Aaron Baker responding two requests for new projects have been received; one at 36th Street, and the other at 34th Street. Both projects are being researched by The Lomax Consulting Group at this time.

Commemorative Tree Program: Joe Dvorak announced after a very thorough review, the Tree Committee is happy to report the Commemorative Tree Program is ready to be finalized and submitted to the Borough for approval. This program was developed in line with the Community Forestry Management Program, and has mirrored other communities with similar programs. This program recommends dedicating existing and established trees throughout the Borough. A total of 10 trees have been selected for a test of this program. A Resolution has been drafted, and will be recommended to Borough Council. The price for the program will be based upon the cost of planting a 2" DBH tree, and a commemorative plaque. The fee will provide ability for the maintenance of the tree, and a 7-year warranty, valued at approximately \$1,200.00. A renewal of the memorial will be permitted after the 7 years has lapsed, with the cost subject to adjustment, based on the cost-of-living index at the time of renewal.

Donna Rothman added this program would replace the memorial bench program, which has been suspended indefinitely. Due to the Borough's harsh environment that impacts tree survival, it was determined existing and established trees would better serve this program, rather than newly planted trees. Various members of the community have expressed interest in participating in this type or program. Worth noting, during the research process for this program, numerous memorial plaques were found in Grace O'Brien Park, and other memorial markers were also found throughout the Borough. The 7-year warranty period was chosen due to the survival rate of trees.

Lengthy discussion took place amongst all present members of the Environmental Commission, with topics including program pricing, the viability of a warranty, typical timelines of memorial programs, options for recognizing donors and the memorialized, plaque designs and materials, plaque mounting, maintenance of trees, contracting with an arborist for tree maintenance, and locations of trees.

All present were in favor of implementing a memorial tree program without a warranty, with certain elements to be discussed further such as maintaining the fee to be earmarked for the planting of future trees and renewal of the memorial after 7 years. A meeting with Administration will be requested to discuss the potential of having this item added to an upcoming Borough Council agenda.

Letter from Mayor Pagliughi regarding Armacost Park and ERI: Donna Rothman distributed the referenced letters to those present, and overviewed its contents. The letter was briefly discussed, as well as pollinator garden maintenance and the best plans for same moving forward.

Bayside Park: Donna Rothman noted the roof color of the planned structures to be built at Bay Park Marina are intended to be royal blue, and asked for input regarding this proposal.

Brian Reynolds suggested that green would be a better, more characteristic color for the roofs of the proposed structures.

Discussion took place regarding the roof color, with all agreeing to recommend a more natural color for the roofs to better compliment the aesthetic of the bay.

Environmental Commission Accomplishments for 2022 and 2023 Plans: Donna Rothman gave a detailed overview of the 2022 Accomplishments and 2023 Work Plan, sought volunteers for upcoming events, discussed proposed programs and ways to implement new programs and incite community involvement.

Bay Issues: Kevin Coyle reported work on this project is expected to begin in October 2023.

Adjournment at 5:52 pm.