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SEP 08 2017

Long Beach Land Conservation Committee
Sept. 6, 2017
Rm 2 LB Community Center

Present:

Dr Annabella Juhasz
Kevin Higdon
David Hoppe
Brian Kanyer
Natalie Johnson

Meeting called to order by Dr. Juhasz at 4 pm.

Approval of minutes from August meeting.

Welcome to new committee member Brian Kanyer and guest Natalie Johnson, Executive Director, Save the Dunes.

Discussion of Eagle Scout trail-clearing project. Kevin Higdon, David Hoppe and Brian Kanyer have all visited the portion of trail cleared by Danny in the Long Beach section of Moon Valley in recent weeks – Brian did additional trail maintenance in the past few days. Everyone expressed admiration for Danny Thalmann's work, including the building and installation of benches, a bike rack and some signage. Kevin expressed interest in trimming some overgrowth at the trail entrance to make the trail more visible and accessible to the public.

Dr. Juhasz and Kevin are in continuing contact with The Beacher about a story featuring Danny's work and the larger effort to create a Moon Valley trail network.

Brian affirmed that the Parks Dept will maintain the trails on an ongoing basis.

Natalie Johnson informed the committee that Save the Dunes is in the midst of a long-range planning process, during which her

organization will decide what their position will be concerning the acquisition and maintenance of green spaces, including Stockwell Woods in Moon Valley. She assured the group that, whatever her board decides, Save the Dunes will continue to work to protect the Stockwell property from development, as well as the contiguous properties adjacent to it that are currently owned by Long Beach. This means that Save the Dunes could become either a temporary or fulltime steward of these properties, depending on its strategic planning process. She observed that, should the Long Beach Town Council decide to donate its parcels to Save the Dunes, the timing of that donation could create a strategic opportunity to raise public awareness about the preservation of Moon Valley. She proposed the creation of a public stewardship day to help inform people about Moon Valley, as well as to further the process of clearing trails to enhance public access. She recommended the eventual creation of signage for the trail system.

Dr. Juhasz suggested other forms of public events, like a fitness run, to further involve the public with Moon Valley trails.

David spoke about the opportunity being created to connect the Long Beach trail network with Stockwell Woods and the contiguous Long Beach parcels to its west. He suggested that, as this work goes forward, whomever owns the Moon Valley Land Trust might be persuaded to include a portion of that parcel as part of a continuous trail spanning the Valley at least as far as Stop 13.

Meeting adjourned at 5:50 pm.