

Long Beach Land Conservation Committee Minutes
Oct. 11, 2017
Rm 2 LB Community Center

Present:

Dr Annabella Juhasz

Kevin Higdon

David Hoppe

Jim Neulieb

Joy Schmitt

Meeting called to order by Dr. Juhasz at 4:30 pm.

Approval of September meeting minutes.

Dr. Juhasz reported on progress regarding the story about the Long Beach trail work slated to run in The Beacher. It appears the story is ready for publication; it may be a truncated version of what we hoped for, focusing on the Eagle Scout project and not including background we hoped to see dealing with our larger aspirations for a Moon Valley trail system. It will, nevertheless, bring some attention to use of Moon Valley as a recreational area — which supports the committee's goal of bringing public awareness to Moon Valley's value to the community.

Joy Schmitt reported on the background of the growing desire for a tree ordinance. There is currently no such ordinance in Long Beach. Recent events concerning removal and potential tree work at Stop 16 has brought the need for an ordinance to the fore. Martha Maust has shared the Michigan City tree ordinance and Joy brought additional examples from nearby communities. David Hoppe will use these examples to develop a draft ordinance for committee consideration; once everyone has had a chance to work on it, Joy will take it to the Planning Commission for further study.

Natalie Johnson, Executive Director of Save the Dunes, while not able to attend the meeting emailed an update regarding her efforts to convene a meeting involving Michigan City and Long Beach stakeholders and planners concerning future plans for Moon Valley. David Hoppe reported that Town Council President Pete Byvoets has expressed a desire to attend such a meeting. To date, Natalie reported that she has not been able to reach Craig Phillips, the head Michigan City planner, but will continue to try. Jim Neulieb suggested that an informal approach might be best, adding that a meeting between Pete Byvoets and Mayor Ron Meer of Michigan City might be arranged. Conversations with Long Beach officials indicate that

there is little information sharing taking place between the two adjacent communities, but that planning being developed in Michigan City concerning the future of Moon Valley could have a major impact on traffic patterns, public safety and beach use in Long Beach.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:50 pm.

The next meeting will take place at the Community Center Wednesday, Nov. 1 at 4:30 pm.