



Alpharetta Natural Resources
Commission Work Session
OCTOBER 15, 2024

APPROVED MINUTES

ALPHARETTA CITY HALL
2 PARK PLAZA

This action summary is provided as a convenience and service to the public, media, and staff. It is not the intent to record proceedings verbatim. Any reproduction of this summary must include this notice. This is not an official record of the Alpharetta Natural Resources Commission Meeting proceedings.

1. CALL TO ORDER
 - a. Natural Resource Commission Work Session and Meeting began at 6:37pm in the Executive Conference Room, 2 Park Plaza on October 15, 2024.
2. ROLL CALL
 - a. Present were:
 - i. Commissioners: Herb Velazquez, Mike Buchannan, Vijay Desai, Beth Ott, Kate Tunison, and Ben Manley.
 - ii. Staff: Terry Porter, David Shostak
3. MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS
4. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES
 - a. Approval of the Natural Resource Commission Meeting and Work Session Minutes from September 17, 2024.
 - b. Motion to approve made by Kate Tunison and seconded by Beth Ott. Passed unanimously.
5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
 - a. Strategic Plan- Discussion held whether to keep moving forward with the Four Pillars or to revamp our plan. Terry Porter asked for all commissioners to write or call her with their preferences for moving forward. It was determined we needed the equivalent of 2 meetings to articulate this and that our November 2024 meeting time should be dedicated to starting this process.
6. NEW BUSINESS
 - a. Fall Festival at Ed Isakson YMCA will be held on 10/26/24, 11 AM – 1 PM. Beth has planned a program and activities about the 4 pillar topics and asked for volunteers to assist that day.

- b. Terry Porter announced that Keep America Beautiful (KAB) has a national sponsor with offices in Alpharetta. This sponsor is ADP. KAB contacted us regarding a service project for ADP employees to involve them in their local efforts. KAB is offering a donation towards the project. Work to finalize the project and implementation are in process. The NRC commissioners to be present to network with ADP and assist with facilitating the event.
- 7. WORK SESSION ITEMS
 - a. Staff Reports
 - i. Arborist Report by David Shostak
 - 1. Nothing new to report.
 - b. Environmental Programs by Terry Porter
 - i. Bird Walk on 10/8/24 was held however no one attended. It was on a weekday, and several registered to attend but all were no shows.
 - ii. Household Hazardous waste event will be on 11/16/24. Registration is open.
 - iii. Rivers Alive on 10/5/24 was well attended with an estimated 70 attendees. Activities included planting native plants, pine straw was laid, pet waste outreach, stenciling storm drains, roadway and greenway clean ups.
 - 1.
- 8. COMMITTEE REPORTS
 - a. Clean Waterways
 - i. The 10/5/24 Rivers Alive is the main public Event for this committee. No additional updates at this time.
 - b. Recycling and Sustainability – Beth Ott and Vijay Desai
 - i. Beth and Vijay met with Republic city staff. Republic noted that if Hefty Bags are accepted curbside that Republic cannot be held responsible for contamination. Vijay Desai has sent a response back to Republic regarding this. Final answers regarding are forthcoming.
 - ii. A survey of the Hefty bag program, recycling, and composting was taken on 9/14/24. Results were discussed. Also discussed were two options for the Hefty bag program of drop off or curbside collection. There may be other options. Charts were provided from the 142 responses received from the survey where over 70% of respondents supported recycling options at city parks, Alpha Loop, Farmers Market, City Center, etc.
 - c. Wildlife and Habitat – Mike Buchanan
 - i. Community Wildlife Recertification was discussed. At this point we are in good shape regarding the number of points we need to be recertified.
 - ii. Mike Buchanan to write an article for Appen Newspapers regarding the NRC and the programs we support. Discussion was held about the format and future articles. Mike to discuss with Appen and further discussion at our next meeting.
 - iii. Educational handouts and some from NRC and Alpharetta's Wild Side are being passed out at Farmer's Market tent for The Alpharetta Bee Company. More materials are needed.
 - d. Tree Canopy and Preservation- Kate Tunison
 - i. Arbor Day – We are still awaiting communication from the Principal at Innovation Academy regarding getting students involved with several of our programs including Arbor Day. Per Terry Porter MA Center has inquired about helping plant trees on Arbor Day so there will need to be coordination with MA Center and IA Academy.

9. NEXT MEETING DATE

- a. Next meeting will be November 19, 2024, at 6:30pm in the Executive Conference Room, first floor, 2 Park Plaza.

10. ADJORNMENT

- a. Motion made to adjourn the meeting and work session at 8:09pm made by Kate Tunison seconded by Beth Ott. Motion passed unanimously.