



Alpharetta Natural Resources Commission Meeting

JULY 16, 2024

APPROVED MINUTES

ALPHARETTA CITY HALL
2 PARK PLAZA

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1. CALL TO ORDER

- a. Natural Resource Commission Work Session and Meeting began at 6:30pm in the First Floor Community Room 2 Park Plaza on July 16, 2024.

2. ROLL CALL

- a. Present were:
 - i. Commissioners: Davis Mitchell, Mike Buchannan (via Teams), Vijay Desai, Kate Tunison, Beth Ott, and Dana Davis.
 - ii. Staff: Terry Porter and David Shostak

3. MEETING ANNOUNCMENTS

- a. none

4. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

- a. Motion was made to delay the approval of June's Meeting Minutes until some corrections can be made. Motion passed unanimously. They will be presented for approval at the August 2024 NRC meeting.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. Discussion regarding where and how we want to focus our efforts. It has been suggested we go to a project-based approach vs. the 4 Pillars strategic plan however this needs further discussion and refinement. This was tabled until more members are present.

6. NEW BUSINESS AND WORK SESSION ITEMS

- a. Staff Reports
 - i. Arborist Report by David Shostak
 - 1. A discussion of Pine Beetles took place which indicated Pine Beetles are prevalent when the weather is hot and dry. They attack old pines so there is expected tree loss. David Shostak will put out an article about

this for dissemination to social media and HOAs in Alpharetta. No other updates.

ii. Environmental Programs by Terry Porter

1. Terry Porter reported the Rain Barrel Workshop was well attended with 20 attendees.
2. Bird Walk to be held 7/17/24.
3. Collective Recycling Event for electronics, shredding, Styrofoam, and plastic film is scheduled for 9/14/24.
4. Rivers Alive is scheduled for 10/5/24.
5. The NRC purchased two tents with weights, a wagon, and table display with the remaining NRC FY24 budget money. Mike Buchanan reported that the Fire Marshall indicated tents need 40 lb. weights on each tent leg for safety.

b. Committee Reports

i. Clean Waterways

1. No updates at this time.

ii. Recycling and Sustainability by Vijay Desai

1. Vijay Desai discussed recycling and the progress made in this initiative.
 - a. A detailed discussion of the Hefty Bag recycling project was discussed as it is currently being done in Forsyth County. The process involves Hefty Bags being dropped off, then they go to Waste Management and then to the West Rock MRF facility. No sorting is involved in this process. The final outcome of this waste varies based on available options at the time but includes clean burning, repurposing collected plastic for making bricks, pallets, candles etc. At this time, it does not seem to be a possibility of Alpharetta working with Forsyth County based on costs. Mike Moran, a consultant, may be able to come to our NRC meeting to discuss options with us. Mike helped Forsyth bring this program to the county without any upfront or ongoing cost to the county. Our goal would be along the same lines that we are able to offer this program to Alpharetta residents without additional cost to the city.
 - b. The Compost Now Program was discussed and how it could work as a program complimentary to the current Alpharetta Agriculture Program. The target audience would be any city resident interested in composting their waste with as low cost and effort (up front and ongoing) as possible.
2. The logistics of the Green Cell Program were discussed. Green Cell, a local nonprofit, will sponsor the startup costs of this program. Interested residents will be charged around \$10/month subscription fee for their participation. They will need to drop off their compostables at a Green Cell location within the city limits. Entire program will be managed by Green Cell so there will be no additional cost or effort needed from the city. Success of this program depends on participation

from the residents hence Green Cell would like the city to help promote this program. Vijay Desai will continue to work with the city administration regarding the promotion of the program.

iii. Wildlife and Alpharetta's Wild Side by Mike Buchanan

1. Mike Buchannan met with the Scott Kent, Principal of Innovative Academy (AI). There is an opportunity for IA students to work with the NRC as part of their showcase projects. Students will select their project topics beginning in September. Mike requested that NRC develop a list of project options that are complementary to our initiatives now, so these may be offered to IA as options for students.

iv. Tree Canopy and Preservation by Kate Tunison

1. No updates at this time.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

- a. None

8. NEXT MEETING DATE

- a. Next meeting will be August 16, 2024, in the First Floor Community Room 2 Park Plaza.

9. ADJOURNMENT

- a. Motion made to adjourn the meeting and work session at 8:30pm. Motion passed unanimously.