



Alpharetta Natural Resources
Commission Work Session
SEPTEMBER 17, 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 6:35pm in the Community Room 2 Park Plaza on September 17, 2024.

2. ROLL CALL

- a. Present were:
 - i. Commissioners: Herb Velazquez, Mike Buchannan, Davis Mitchell, Vijay Desai, Beth Ott, Kate Tunison, and Lindsey Ann Burnett.
 - ii. Staff: Terry Porter, David Shostak
 - iii. Members of the Public: Dylan and Terry Zasio

3. MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. There will be a meeting on Thursday September 19 from 12:00pm-1:00pm for all City Commissioners regarding a Refresher on Public Meeting Procedures by the city attorney.

4. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

- a. Approval of the Natural Resource Commission Meeting and Work Session Minutes from August 20, 2024.
- b. Motion made by Kate Tunison and seconded by Beth Ott. Motion passed unanimously to approve NRC meeting and work session notes from August 20, 2024.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. Innovation Academy student relationships on going. One student project has specific focuses around beautification of retention ponds and beekeeping. David to continue relationships by connecting students with correct city staff members. David will discuss limitations regarding retention ponds.

- b. Locations needed for 30 remaining bat houses. Terry asked for creative suggestions on where they should be placed. We now have 24 bird houses to be placed through various projects.
- c. Strategic Plan needs to be addressed. Additional meeting dates to be determined to gather and discuss. Program requirements are needed for meeting.

6. NEW BUSINESS

- a. None

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

- a. Dylan Zasio, 710 Windsor Court attended. He is interested in clean waterways and is involved in a Capstone project at Fulton Academy of Science and Technology focused on how to improve water quality.

8. WORK SESSION ITEMS

- a. Staff Reports

- i. Arborist Report by David Shostak

- 1. Conversation held about how to best help citizens who come to NRC meetings with concerns about the tree canopy. Speaking directly to city council members is always encouraged. Link to Department liaisons <https://www.alpharetta.ga.us/government/elected-officials>
 - 2. Tree Canopy Code verbiage discussed such as the critical root mass and structural root plate measurements. Thoughts on hiring consultants to help with code wording changes.
 - 3. Heritage southern plant guidance revisited. Suggestions will be complied.

- ii. Environmental Programs by Terry Porter

- 1. Recycling event went well. Thanks to Beth Ott, Herb Velazquez, and Vijay Desai for helping at the event.
 - 2. Rivers Alive on October 5, 2024, at Rock Mill Park. Event is held from 8:30am-Noon. Setup begins at 7:45am. Break down begins around 11:30am.
 - 3. Bird Walk on October 8, 2024, at Wills Park 9:00am -11:00am and will meet at the community center.
 - 4. Rain barrel session will be informative and educational. It will be held at the Department of Public Works on November 14 from 6:30pm-8:00pm.
 - 5. Potential date for the household hazardous waste and paint collection to be held is Nov 16, 2024.

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Clean Waterways- Lindsey Ann Burnett
 - i. No updates at this time.
- b. Recycling – Beth Ott and Vijay Desai
 - i. A survey of the Hefty bag program, recycling, and composting was taken on September 14. Results were discussed. Also discussed were two options for the Hefty bag program of drop off or other collection ideas. 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. Educational handouts being passed out at Farmer’s Market for NRC. More information is needed.
- d. Tree Canopy and Preservation- Kate Tunison
 - i. No updates at this time.

10. NEXT MEETING DATE

- a. Next meeting will be October 15, 2024, at 6:30pm in the Community Room, 2 Park Plaza

11. 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.