



Alpharetta Natural Resources Commission Meeting

JUNE 17, 2025

OFFICIAL MINUTES

ALPHARETTA CITY HALL

2 PARK PLAZA

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NRC WORK SESSION

1. CALL TO ORDER

- a. The NRC Work Session and Meeting began at 6:42pm in the First Floor Community Room on June 17, 2025.

2. ROLL CALL

- a. Present were:
 - Commissioners: Michael Buchanan, Kate Tunison, Vijay Desai, Herb Velazquez, and Beth Ott.
 - Resident: Duane DeBruler (Public commenter)
 - Staff: David Shostak, Terry Porter.

3. WORK SESSION ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. At the adjournment of this Work Session the Natural Resources Commission will conduct its monthly public meeting.

4. WORK SESSION ITEMS

- a. Staff Reports
 - i. Arborist Report
 - There was no Arborist report.
 - ii. Environmental Programs Update
 - A. Recycling event this weekend - Household hazardous, paint, close to 350 registered, majority bringing few items, team discussed logistics
 - B. Rain barrel workshop on July 12, 2025. Partners include City of Alpharetta, Fulton County, and City of Roswell
 - C. Rivers Alive is scheduled for Oct 25, 2025.
 - D. The next electronics and shredding recycling collection on Sept 27, 2025. Hefty hard to recycle plastics and Styrofoam will be included.

b. Programming Updates

- i. Tree City USA Program

- A. Discussion ensued regarding NRC's role in the update, maintenance, and enforcement of the tree conservation, buffer, and landscape code.
- B. Discussion ensued regarding NRC's role in how tree bank funds are spent and allocated. This may include identifying tree and/or landscape projects or expanding the use of tree bank funds to "promote the protection of Alpharetta's trees and other natural resources and to provide public education regarding environmental and conservation issues".

Herb Velazquez shared a presentation he created of existing examples of Alpharetta development projects and clear cutting. Herb met with Councilmen Doug DeRitto and Brian Will to figure out how to get in front of the city council. Doug was very supportive. Doug would like Kathy Cook to come to the NRC meeting to share additional information regarding the tree codes. Doug was supportive of NRC taking over some of the tree code responsibilities. Herb suggested very large amounts of fines for taking down specimen trees like Atlanta is doing. This will force the developers to find work arounds rather than clear cut. Herb suggested that the tree code is perhaps not being enforced and that's where NRC could help. Brian suggested meeting with each city council members 1:1 ahead of time to brief them and then bring it to the council. Mike mentioned that some of the current council members will be retiring this election cycle so we need to bring this to the current members soon. Mike offered to write up talking points that each member could use when they meet with their councilman to go over before it's brought to the council by Herb.

ii. Keep America Beautiful Program

- A. Vijay Desai presented a proposal for a city compost drop-off area for residents in partnership with Green Cell Inc. He attended a recreation committee meeting earlier in the month where he also presented this proposal. A meeting with Amanda Musilli is proposed.
- B. Beth Ott handed in the litter index survey forms from her and a friend.
- C. Alpharetta's Wild Side, National Wildlife Federation Community Habitat Certification. No new business was discussed.
- D. Terry presented budget and provided information on items purchased. Terry and Mike to work on finalizing the tent design.

c. Adjournment

A motion was made and seconded to end the work session and begin the monthly public meeting at 8:00pm. Motion was unanimously approved.

NRC PUBLIC MEETING

The NRC public meeting began at 8:00pm.

1. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

- a. A motion was made for the Approval of the Natural Resources Commission Meeting and Work Session Minutes of May 20, 2025 by Beth Ott. Seconded by Michael Buchanan. Motion passed unanimously.

2. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
 - a. Design for the new NRC logo tent was discussed.
3. NEW BUSINESS
 - a. No new business was discussed.
4. PUBLIC COMMENT
 - a. No public comment at this time.
5. NEXT MEETING DATE
 - a. The next Natural Resources Commission Meeting will be held on July 15, 2025 in the First Floor Community Room at 6:30pm.
6. ADJOURNMENT
 - a. A motion was made to conclude the NRC Work Session and Meeting by Kate Tunison. The motion was seconded by Beth Ott. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting concluded at 8:20pm.