



Alpharetta Natural Resources  
Commission Work Session  
FEBRUARY 17, 2026

MEETING MINUTES

ALPHARETTA CITY HALL  
2 PARK PLAZA

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*Urnette,*

1. CALL TO ORDER

- a. The Natural Resource Commission Meeting began at 6:33pm in the first-floor Community Room on February 17, 2026.

2. ROLL CALL

- a. Present were:
  - i. Commissioners: Herb Velazquez, Mike Buchanan, Kate Tunison, Lindsey Ann Burnett, Vijay Desai, Teri Rondone, and Jacqueline Jenna.
  - ii. Staff: Terry Porter
  - iii. Visitor: Mary Alice Hellrung

3. WORK SESSION ANNOUNCEMENTS

*At the adjournment of this Work Session, the Natural Resources Commission will convene and conduct its monthly public meeting.*

4. STAFF UPDATES

- a. Arborist Report - none at this time. David Shostak is not present, due to illness.
- b. Environmental Programs Update - by Terry Porter
  - i. Handout provided by Beth Ott by email with NRC events/projects/goals/discussion topics
  - ii. Volunteer projects occurred on February 16, 2026 with volunteers from HSS at Rock Mill Park. Projects included Big Creek Greenway pickups and installation of bird houses.

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Tree City USA - no new updates at this time.

b. Arbor Day Details

i. Beth Ott by email suggested moving forward on Arbor Day plans, separate from Innovation Academy's Celebration. The commission agreed due to timing and Innovation Academy's schedule. The tree planting with Innovative Academy can still occur if logistics can be arranged within the proper time for planting trees. David asked that the commission think of places where they would like to see a tree planted. It must be a city public area for the tree. March 11, 2026 was decided as the day to plant a tree for Arbor Day by those present at the meeting. Herb Velazquez suggested planting a Fire Autumn tree. It was suggested that an article in the Appen newspapers would help with awareness, Mike will reach out to his contacts there.

c. Nature Matters Film Screening

i. The program was well attended. People enjoyed the film and many participated in the question-and-answer discussion. Special thanks to those who came. An attendee wants to continue showing the film in other areas.

d. Keep Alpharetta Beautiful

i. Future Program Ideas

Jaqueline Jenna mentioned wanting to capture contact information from volunteers for potential contact including texts, calendar invites, newsletters, and potential ideas. Jaqueline and Teri will meet with Terry Porter to discuss these further.

ii. Links that would be helpful to have on natural resource website should be sent to Terry as well as any needed updates.

iii. Herb Valaquez presented the idea of having an art competition or contest in cooperation with the Alpharetta Arts Program. He suggested involving local high school students. The program could be tailored to bring awareness to the NRC's mission.

iv. Jaqueline Jenna presented an idea to reach out to Appen Media about the NRC submitting quarterly articles related to seasonal topics, once again bringing awareness to the NRC. Mike Buchannan reminded the commission the articles should be connected to people and relative to the community engagement.

6. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made to end the NRC work session meeting at 8:06pm by Kate Tunison and seconded by Herb Velazquez. It passed unanimously.