



# NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

## JUNE 19, 2018

2 Park Plaza  
Council Chambers  
7:00 PM

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. ROLL CALL
- III. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES
  - a. May Minutes
- IV. STAFF REPORTS
  - a. Arborist Report
  - b. Environmental Programs
- V. COMMITTEE REPORTS
  - a. Programs
  - b. Communications
- VI. NEXT MEETING DATE
- VII. ADJOURNMENT

# Alpharetta Natural Resources Commission

## Meeting Minutes - May 15, 2018

### Call to Order

A meeting of the Alpharetta Natural Resources Commission was held at City Hall on May 15, 2018. Attendees: Deb Zemlock (Chair), Geri Chapple, Cat Fisher, Sandra Johnson, Ben Manley, Howard Salk, Kate Tunison, Terry Porter (Staff), and David Shostak (Staff).

### Approval of Minutes

April 2018 Meeting Minutes were accepted with changes unanimously. The change made is to a line under Environmental Programs - "The cost was quoted at \$385 for a 1.5 hour talk, with one animal brought for the discussion." The \$385 should be \$285.

### Staff Reports

- **Arborist Report**

- No report
- GC asked about the boarded up gas stations on Old Milton.
  - Old gas station next to the Waffle House will be left as is. The owners are asking too much money for the property. As of date, there are no code violations with the property.
  - Old QuikTrip to be converted into two businesses; an automotive service and restaurant.
  - SJ asked if the underground gas tanks had been removed and if the land was safe from contaminants. Both DS and TP assured her that the tanks had been sealed up, and the ground was not contaminated.

- **Environmental Programs**

- Events
  - No more workshops or events until the fall.
    - Fall events to start in August; Wednesdays are already booked for workshops.
  - Review of recent events
    - The shredding event on 4/28 had issues including the shredding truck being late and then breaking down later in the day.
    - The electronic recycling event on 4/28 was well attended. Collected over 8,000lbs of electronics and had 103 participants.
    - The Household Hazard Waste event on 5/5 went well.
  - DZ asked if Will Eberly is going to reschedule the "Honey I Shrunk the Lawn" workshop. TP said he would be interested in doing so or working with us on other workshops if we asked.
- The City of Alpharetta and the NRC won the 2018 Georgia Rivers Alive government partnership award. KT and TP attended the ceremony.

## Committee Reports

- **Mayoral / City Councilmember Debate**

- DZ attended the debates and was able to submit four of the questions posed by the Commission. Two of the questions were asked to the Mayoral candidates, and the other two were asked to the City Councilmember candidates. If anyone is interested in the answers given by the candidates, the forums were recorded and should be available online.
- Next debate / forum is on May 16 at City Hall.

- **Speaker Events**

- TP let us know that we can hire 1 person and 1 animal from the CNC for \$285
- DZ has not reached out to CNC yet concerning the 'Native Plants for Your Home Landscape'
  - HS suggested that the Georgia Native Plant Society may do it for free.
- KT reported that Dennis Krusac and his wife are able to do a Bat event for us. The event would include a power point presentation, a 25 foot long wall exhibit, and an interactive bat locator session outside. If we would like the outside portion, the event needs to be in the evening since bats are most active at dusk. Also there is no fee.
  - Commission as a whole discussed potential dates finally landing on September or October since school is back in session and people will be in town. This way we won't have to worry as much about attendance and people being on vacation.
  - Friday nights were ruled out during S/O because of football. Saturday was generally agreed upon, but open to whatever day would work.
  - BM suggested that the event would be nice around Halloween time, so that we could leverage Halloween to get more of a draw. Also there were laughs at the idea of kids who were attending dressed up as Batman.
  - November was also suggested if the Educator Farm would be available then. However, Daylight Saving Time ends on November 4.
  - Attendance at past events have been an issue. Dennis Krusac asked about how many people would be attending, KT said maybe 20. However, BM said when he attended an event like this with his family there were over 100 people. TP said if we do the event in the Fall after school is back in session, she will be able to advertise the event through her channels, such as Evergreen Education network. It was also suggested to invite local Boy Scout Troops.
  - Suggested locations for the event include Mansell House, City Hall, Alpharetta Library, Arts Center, and the Educator Farm.
  - KT to follow-up with Dennis Krusac on availability.

- **FY 2018 Budget**

- Bench has been purchased, but a dedication plaque still needs to be purchased. Location of where the bench should be placed to be determined.
- Tried to purchase matching trash and recycling receptacles, but unable to go forward at this time.
- With remaining balance, believed to be around \$700, CF suggested we purchase a pop-up tent with a customized canopy with our name and tagline printed on the valences. Will research and report back. It was suggested if the tent is too much

that the money be spent on table covers or banners. TP has promotional magazines to order from and will help us make purchases if we decide to go that route. BM also suggested the money could be spent on a projector or screen.

- **FY 2019 Budget**
  - Commission agrees that it is important that we know the balance of the account and review it every meeting. BM has volunteered to keep track of the account.
  - HS suggested that we consider using money to provide micro-grants to the public. Ideas from the Commission include
    - providing grants for the elderly to make common spaces green. DS let us know that the community off Vaughn Road has raised beds on the property;
    - funding live Christmas trees;
    - fund green space development;
    - funding workshops for the elderly such as power point nature walks or the Audubon bird talk; and
    - funding green tech or hosting a science fair targeting green tech.
  - GC suggested funding a solar trash can. One unit costs \$4K. The Commission agrees there is a benefit to having them, but questions of who handles what expanded the discussion to the need of having recycling bin next to trash cans in public spaces.
    - DS suggested to focus attention on getting recycling receptacles in public spaces. Focus on working with Parks & Rec, City Council, and Public Works to initiate.
    - Location in need of recycling receptacles are high traffic pedestrian areas like downtown Alpharetta. Commission suggested to form a Public Private Partnership, maybe with ABA, to have recycling receptacles installed in area. Other sites include parks and City Hall.
      - DS suggested that we consider doing a test / pilot in Brook Street Park / City Hall since it is owned and managed by the City and would be easier to work with one organization versus many.
    - DS and TP both offered to provide us guidance if we wish to go forward with this initiative.
    - GC to draft letter addressed to the City outlining our recommendations
- ***Educator Farm / Pollinator Garden***
  - DZ informed the Commission that vision sessions will start in September. In the meantime, an open house will take place on June 16th. The hope for the open house to get public support and form a “Friends of” group.
  - The pollinator garden is currently in a prep state with layers of compostables in the garden beds. Pepper plants, tomato plants, and herbs have all been planted.
  - Richard Lebovitz is rescuing native plants on the land.
  - There are also plans to develop pollinator meadows.
- ***Communications***
  - No updates.

## **Next Meeting**

Tuesday, June 19, 2018 at City Hall.