

Alpharetta Natural Resources Commission

Meeting Minutes – August 23, 2016

Call to Order

A meeting of the Alpharetta Natural Resources Commission was held at City Hall on August 23, 2016. Attendees included Deb Zemlock (Chair), Howard Salk, Geri Chapple, Ben Manley, Sandra Johnson, Cat Fisher, & Barney Crooks. Staff Present: Terry Porter & David Shostak.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the July meeting were not accepted due to incorrect printing. A corrected copy was forwarded via email to all Commission members for review and proxy vote to accept by email. A quorum to approve the corrected July meeting minutes was received, therefore minutes approved.

Staff Reports

1. Arborist Report (David Shostak)
 - 94 permit applications submitted in July and 50 permits were issued in July
 - Tree Ordinance revision update and discussion will be conducted after program updates.
2. Environmental Programs (Terry Porter)
 - Past Programs:
 - o August 16, 2016 Community Cleanup with Clorox volunteers
 - o August 21, 2016 North Park – M. A. Center-Bird house installations
 - Upcoming Programs:
 - o August 24, 2016 Fall Vegetable Gardening
 - o September 7, 2016 Lawn Care for Fall and Winter
 - Fall schedule has been finalized.
 - A Septic Tank Workshop in partnership with Fulton County is scheduled for September 21.

Committee Reports

1. Alpharetta's Wild Side Update
 - Progress towards attaining the NWF Community Wildlife Habitat Certification is as follows: 260 total points have been achieved to date, which includes 164 residential yard certifications, 9 schools and 17 other properties.
 - Roopsha will soon be finishing her Scout project and turning over the garden that she created at New Prospect Elementary School to the school.
 - Suggestion was made that the ANRC communicate with the City Council and other City Commission members to encourage them to register their yards.
 - Upcoming Events:
 - o Sept 24 - Birding Event with the Audubon Society at Wills Park.
 - o Nov 12 - Nature Photography Workshop with Terry Guthrie at City Hall

-Tentative events include information tables at Lowes and the Farmers Market

2. Arbor Day

-Arbor Day 2017 date was tentatively set for March 4, 2017. Event location to be determined.

3. Adopt-a-Mile Program

-Planning group will meet over the next month to continue planning efforts

4. Communications

-Geri and Terry met with a potential volunteer to help with marketing efforts for ANRC programs.

-Suggestions were presented on potential marketing options for events. Potential options included Meetup website, targeted Facebook ads, Nextdoor website, and Appen ad.

-In order to move forward with these marketing efforts, members voted on each option to approve or disapprove. Results are as follows:

- Meetup (with possible \$180 annual fee) – Approved
- Targeted Facebook ad (\$25-\$50) – Approved
- Nextdoor (free) – Approved
- Appen ad (~\$300 per ad) – Denied
 - Suggested to use Appen for articles on events which include promotions

Tree Ordinance Update

-David Shostak reviewed the updates to the most recent draft of the ordinance and explained the reasoning for these updates.

-He also shared with the group one suggested change to the ordinance that has been presented for consideration. This suggested change is to give HOA's the responsibility of approving/denying tree removal permits for their own neighborhoods. This option was discussed within the group.

-David asked that if anyone had any further comments or suggestions on the latest draft of the ordinance to please forward them to him as soon as possible.

Next Meeting

Next meeting set for September 20, 2016 at City Hall

Meeting Adjourned

Alpharetta Natural Resources Commission:

<http://www.alpharetta.ga.us/government/departments/public-works/natural-resources-commission>

Alpharetta's Wild Side

<http://www.alpharetta.ga.us/government/departments/public-works/natural-resources-commission/alpharettas-wild-side>