



## NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION JANUARY 17, 2023

ALPHARETTA CITY HALL  
MULTI PURPOSE ROOM- 121  
2 PARK PLAZA  
6:30 PM

- I. CALL TO ORDER**
- II. ROLL CALL AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**
  - a. Lindsey Ann Burnette - Welcome to our newest member of the NRC.
  - b. Swearing in of all Alpharetta Board and Commission Members
- III. APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER MEETING MINUTES**
  - a. November Minutes
- IV. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR POSITIONS**
- V. ARBORIST REPORT**
- VI. ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS REPORT**
  - a. Environmental Programs Report
- VII. COMMITTEE UPDATE REPORTS**
  - a. Tree Canopy and Preservation
  - b. Recycling and Sustainability
  - c. Clean Waterways
  - d. Wildlife and Habitat
- VIII. OTHER BUSINESS - Q & A**
- IX. NEXT MEETING DATE**
- X. ADJOURNMENT**

# **Natural Resource Commission Meeting Minutes November 20, 2022**

## **I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 pm.

## **II. Roll Call and Announcements**

A meeting of the Alpharetta Natural Resources Commission was held on December 20, 2022. Attendees: Kate Tunison, Beth Ott, Geri Chapple, Ben Manley, Clay Jones, Clifford Martin, Arata Watanabe (volunteer), Mitchell Kamm (volunteer) and David Shostak and Terry Porter (staff).

## **III. Approval of the October 2022 Meeting Minutes**

After a review of the minutes, Beth Ott asked that head of committees be referred to as co-chairs to represent co-responsibilities.

Kate Tunison moved to approve the November minutes. Clifford Martin seconded the motion. The October minutes were approved.

## **IV. Environmental Programs:** Terry Porter gave a report on upcoming events.

Bring One for the Chipper: Alpharetta Rotary and Young Men's Service League will assist the NRC this year on Saturday, January 7, 2023, at The Home Depot parking lot on Windward Parkway. 11 Alive promotes the event. Terry will send a post for each commission member to share with their HOAs. Please notify Terry when you'll be available to attend the event.

The next shredding and electronics recycling event is scheduled for the first Saturday in May. May 6<sup>th</sup>, 8:30 to Noon at Alpharetta Public Works Department.

## **V. Arborist Report:** David Shostak reported he began the application process for the grant that offers money for assistance with tree issues such as a canopy study, street tree inventory, etc. The city may be responsible for matching money or volunteer time. Lauren Shapiro sent the commission a link to a site that provides NRC members with SharePoint.

## **VI. Subcommittee Reports**

**A. Wildlife Habitats/Wild Side**—Clifford Martin presented ideas for community education on wildlife habitats as well as other opportunities to encounter wildlife. (See attached draft report.)

**B. Recycling**—Beth Ott—Glass recycling is going very well in the city. The dumpsters are full. A recycling education effort should loop more students into the recycling efforts in the city. Beth would like her committee to follow-up with business owners to find out who is recycling. She would also like to begin recycling education for citizens. Is there a recycling center in Alpharetta's future?

**C. Tree Canopy**—Kate Tunison and Ben Manley—The committee will meet before the next NRC meeting.

**D. Water Quality**—Clay Jones, Dan Mitnick, Arta Watanabe—The group will meet with Terry Porter to learn more to formulate their plans. The following are the major creeks that run through the city: Foe Killer, Long Indian, and Big Creek. Clay Jones would like to focus on stormwater and clean waterways. Ultimately, the group will focus on public education. Arata Watanabe would like to add more storm drain markers in the city.

- Geri Chapple asked committee chairs to add more details for their January report and for ideas to tie the committees into a proposed Arbor Day celebration.

## **VI. January Meeting Date**

The next meeting will be held on January 17, 2023, in the training room at City Hall at 6:30 pm.

## **VII. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

**Environmental Programs**  
**January 17, 2023**

**Public Offerings**

**Programs since last meeting**

1/7/22 Bring One for the Chipper Holiday Tree Recycling  
The Home Depot  
5300 Windward Parkway

**Spring Programs**

Septic Tank Workshop  
**2/28/2023 Septic Tank Workshop for Homeowners**  
Virtual Workshop  
6:00pm

**February-March**  
**Arbor Day Celebration**

Master Gardener Classes

**3/5/23, Walk in the Woods with Spring Wildflowers - Observing the Beauty of Nature**  
Live Zoom: **2:00 pm**

**3/12/23 Growing Figs at Home: An Introduction to**  
**Growing Figs in the Southeast for the Home Gardener**  
Live Zoom: **2:00 pm**

**3/19/23 Insect Allies: Predators and Parasitoids in the Garden**  
Live Zoom: **2:00 pm**

**3/26/23 Ferns of the Southeast**  
Live Zoom: **2:00 pm**

**4/2/23 Annual and Perennial Plants for Water Gardens**  
Live Zoom: **2:00 pm**

**5/6/23 Electronics Recycling**  
Alpharetta Public Works Department  
1790 Hembree Road  
8:30am to Noon

**5/6/23 Community Shredding Collection**  
Alpharetta Public Works Department

1790 Hembree Road  
8:30am to Noon

## Natural Resources Commission – Wildlife and Habitat Sub Committee

### Preliminary Draft Report and Recommendations for Calendar Year 2023

This report will outline the major programs recommended by the Wildlife and Habitat Sub Committee, that the Natural Resources Commission should propose to City Council for approval and funding.

#### 1) Alpharetta Wild Side

- a. Program Description Synopsis: The Alpharetta Wild Side program is an existing program to promote the preservation of green spaces in Alpharetta to support wildlife. The goal of the program has been to achieve and maintain certification by the National Wildlife Federation as a “Community Wildlife Habitat”. Details of current program available on the Alpharetta City Web Site at <https://www.alpharetta.ga.us/government/departments/public-works/natural-resources-commission/alpharettas-wild-side>
- b. For 2023 the following changes / expansion of the program is proposed
  - i. Community Education – Prepare handouts and educational materials to be used with the meetings listed below. Consider handing out seed packets to grow native plants for pollinators, etc.
    1. Hold two open Public Meetings (one in Spring, one in Fall) to educate the Public on the program and including a workshop on how to create a wildlife habitat.
    2. Do presentations at Home Owner Association meetings to educate the homeowners on the program. First year goal is to do presentations for at least 3 Home Owner Association meetings, with ability to present to all HMOs that accept the offer to speak.
    3. Update the City’s web page to include new information
  - ii. Developer / Builder Education – In conjunction with the City’s Community Development Department, develop an educational presentation to give to Developers and Builders who are seeking permits within the City, on the benefits of creating a Wildlife Habitat within their projects and utilizing appropriate native plants in their landscaping, that will comply with the guidelines of the program. See if there is a way to entice the Developer / Builder to participate in the program with some fee offsets or public recognition of their project’s compliance with the program. Possible signage to recognize participation?
  - iii. Establish Wildlife Habitats within City Owned Properties – Partner with the Parks & Recreation Dept and Public Works to establish 4-5 Wildlife

Habitats on City owned lands. Establish at least 3 wildlife habitats in Public Parks with Wills Park, Old Rucker Farm and Webb Bridge Park being targeted as the first locations. Establish at least 2 wildlife habitats on City owned nonpark properties, such as the Alpharetta Arts Center, Crabapple Government building or along the Alpha Loop.

- iv. Long Term – Lobby the City Council and the Community Development Dept. to incorporate some form of Wildlife Habitat preservation or establishment into City Code for development / Zoning so that it becomes a requirement.
- c. Partner Organizations or City Departments - Partner with outside organizations such as the National Wildlife Federation, Georgia Audubon Society, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Chattahoochee Nature Center, Chattahoochee Riverkeeper, and the Georgia Native Plant Society to provide information for the educational programs and guidance in establishing the Wildlife Habitats. Partner with the City Parks & Recreation Dept. and the Community Development Dept. on various aspects of the programs
- d. Discussion – Possible program name change to better reflect the actual program. Current program name sounds more like a description of Saturday night in City Center bars.
- e. Budget - \$ TBD

## 2) Bird Walks

- a. Program Description Synopsis – Partnering with the Georgia Audubon Society, the NRC would sponsor at least 4 “Bird Walks” per year. One Bird Walk would take place per season, (Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter). During the Bird Walks the attendees would be shown how to locate and identify various bird species that either reside or migrate through the Alpharetta area. Bird walks would take place along the Big Creek Greenway, Alpha Loop or in one of the City’s parks (such as Will’s Park, Webb Bridge Park or North Park). The Bird Walks could take place in conjunction with other NRC events, such as Hike Day or the Great American Camp Out or they could be stand alone events.
  - i. An additional feature of the Bird Walk could include an educational presentation put on by either the Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center (GA DNR) or Chattahoochee Nature Center with their Raptor Birds
- b. Partner Organizations – Chattahoochee Nature Center, Georgia DNR, Wildlife Resources Division
- c. Budget - \$ TBD

## 3) Wildlife Photography Contest

- a. Program Description Synopsis – Establish an annual photo contest for photographs of Wildlife and that were taken within the City Limits of Alpharetta. The purpose of the contest is to highlight the Wildlife found within Alpharetta and to bring awareness to the need to maintain wildlife habitats and safe zones within the City.

b. Basic contest rules

- i. Photos submitted must have been taken within the 24-month period prior to the submission for the contest.
- ii. Photos must be as captured, with only minor adjustments for brightness, contrast, and saturation allowed. Cropping is allowed. Composite images and photo alterations are not allowed.
- iii. Submissions must include information on the location and date the photo was taken.
- iv. As part of the submission process, the photographers agree to allow the City of Alpharetta to feature winning photos on the City's web site and social media at no charge to the City. The photographer will retain all rights to their photographs
- v. The top 25 photos, as selected by the NRC, will be displayed at an exhibition at the Alpharetta Arts Center. The photographer will be responsible for framing their photo per the standards required by the Arts Center for proper display.
- vi. The members of the NRC and City Council will vote for the award of First, Second, and Third Place and Honorable Mention. The awards will be presented by the Mayor at a reception for the Top 25 finalists, the evening before the photo exhibition will open to the public.
- vii. The Photo exhibition will run for a period to be determined by the Arts Center

c. The contest will be publicized through the City's web site and social media. Notices of the contest will be sent to all area schools. Notices of the contest will also be sent to area photography and nature clubs, as well as Partner organizations.

d. Partner City Department – Alpharetta Arts Center

e. Budget - \$ TBD

4) Community Education

- a. Program Description Synopsis - Develop and deliver an educational program about Wildlife in the City of Alpharetta. The program would concentrate on dangerous wildlife, such as Coyotes, Bears, Snakes, and Birds of Prey. It would give information on how to identify and what to do when you encounter. Also, how to protect your pets and landscaping. Also, how to deal with non-dangerous wildlife, such as deer. This program could be presented as a Public Meeting held in the City Hall Community Room or presented to local Home Owner Association meetings upon request.
- b. Partner Organizations – Georgia DNR, Chattahoochee Nature Center
- c. Budget - \$ TBD