

Natural Resources Joint Advisory Group Meeting Minutes 4-3-17

The meeting was called to order at 7:35pm in the auditorium of Long Branch Nature Center.

In attendance were: Elisha Rubin UFC), Gabriel Thoumi, Sarah Meservey, Claire O’Dea (E2C2), Caroline Haynes, David Howell, Nereide Ellis (Park and Rec), Elizabeth Gearin (PC), Louis Harrell, Alexis Dickerson, Marion Jordan, Phil Klingelhofer (Public), and Alonso Abugattas (DPR).

Guest: Stella Tarnay, Co-founder Biophilic DC

Introduction of attendants present.

No public comment

Minutes from March 6, 2017 NRJAG meeting were adopted.

Progress, Lessons Learned and Advice from Biophilic DC

Stella Tarnay, Co-founder Biophilic DC, discussed progress, lessons learned and advice on moving forward with a possible Biophilic Arlington. Ms. Tarnay provided a brief history of the biophilic movement, both globally and locally. The motto for the DC campaign became “equal access to nature and all the benefits it entails.”

Biophilic DC lobbied DC Council member Mary Cheh. The City Council unanimously approved a nonbinding resolution in April of 2015. Under Director of DOEE Tommy Wells, DC joined the Biophilic Cities Network, being among the first to do so. District policies now reflect Biophilic values.

Along those lines, Biophilic DC will be joining the City Nature Challenge from April 14-18. City participants photograph wildlife and flora using the iNaturalist application, using citizen science to help survey their cities. Arlington will be part of the DC project team.

Staff Updates

Alonso Abugattas provided the following updates:

- The individual Natural Resources Management Plan for the Barcroft Natural Resource Conservation Area was formally approved by the Parks Division Chief.
- The Cooperative Weed Management Agreement grant was formally accepted by the Arlington County Board.
- Arlington will be holding its first Bioblitz to conduct biotic inventories on May 20.

- The Natural Resources Unit has started seed propagation operations in both the nursery and in the greenhouse, where repairs have allowed for the use of 8 tables to support the native plant nursery operations.
- The proposed Administrative Regulation to protect known significant natural resource features is undergoing scrutiny by the County lawyer.

Member Reports

- Elisha Rubin that scheduled work on Tributary B of Donaldson were scheduled to take place, but not without some public concern.
- Clair O’dea reported that the Thomas Jefferson plan projected over 50 replacement trees above the replacement policy.
- Gabriel Thoumi announced that the MCOG Green Awards application was out now and due by mid-June.
- Caroline Haynes reported that there were possible land swap involving APS for parcels in Clairmont and Taylor Schools.