

**Natural Resources Joint Advisory Group
Meeting Minutes 10-1-2018**

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

In attendance were: Caroline Haynes, David Howell (Parks & Rec), Phil Klingelhofer, Paul Campanella, Evelio Rubiella (UFC), Claire O'Dea, Sarah Meservey (E2C2), and Alonso Abugattas (DPR).

No Public Comment

Minutes from August 6, 2018 NRJAG meeting were accepted with minor revisions.

Guest: Elizabeth Gearin, member Arlington County Planning Commission and George Washington University faculty.

Review of Biophilic and Urban Planning Graduate Course

Elizabeth Gearin, who is a member of the Arlington County Planning Commission and George Washington University faculty, presented a review of the course she teaches on Biophilia and Urban Planning for the Sustainable Urban Planning Program in the College of Professional Studies, George Washington University.

Ms. Gearin informed the commissioners that her course explored the concept that Biophilia is the intrinsic need for humanity to connect with nature in all its forms and methods. While some people love nature, others fear it, or at least some elements of nature, but research has shown a deep connection with humans and nature. As urban populations increase, more and more people are separated from nature. This affinity to nature goes beyond parks, may differ culturally and is not universal in how it is expressed. Ms. Gearin reviewed the research showing the myriad health, social, environmental and economic benefits of incorporating nature into human environments, as well as resources to help define biophilic communities in practice. The biophilic movement works to incorporate this natural affinity in many ways outside of just parks, including history and building design.

Commission members expressed an interest in defining what Arlington already does that might fit under the biophilic umbrella, before exploring steps that might be recommended on becoming a biophilic community.

Staff Updates:

Alonso Abugattas provided the following updates:

- The grant Arlington was awarded to start the NOVA Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (PRISM) expires at the end of October and final preparations for the last restoration plantings and media releases are being concluded.

- The topic of merging the NOVA PRISM with the NCR (National Capitol Region) PRISM is being discussed as possibility in the future.
- Results of the Arlington 2018 BioBlitz were reported.

Member Reports:

- Phil Klingelhofer (UFC) reported that the UFC presentation on the tools and constraints in what the County can do to protect trees on by0right developments. Unfortunately, the County is restricted by the state in engaging in more stringent tree protection. David Howell (PRC) informed NRJAG that shared mobility devices (including motorized scooters) were undergoing a year-long trial period in Arlington.
- David Howell (PRC) reported that the Bill Thomas award is undergoing revision, returning to its original intent of park service.