

**Natural Resources Joint Advisory Group
Meeting Minutes 11-5-2018**

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), Paul Campanella (UFC), Claire O’Dea, Sarah Meservey (E2C2), and Brian Keightley (DPR).

No Public Comment

Minutes from October 1, 2018 NRJAG meeting were accepted.

Guest: Joan Kelsch, Green Building Program Manager, Office of Sustainability & Environmental Management, Arlington County Department of Environmental Services

Review of Existing Policies and Practices in Arlington

Joan Kelsch provided an overview of Green Building practices in Arlington, which includes water efficiency, energy efficiency, stormwater management and healthy indoor spaces, among many other elements. Discussion focused on areas of opportunities for creating additional green spaces such as roof tops and the sides of buildings. Some success stories were highlighted, focusing on green roofs and community gardens. The issue of limiting the amount of glass on buildings both to increase energy efficiency, but also to reduce bird strikes was raised. Ms. Kelsch noted that there does appear to be an increased interest in elements that might be considered biophilic, but that the markets adopt change very slowly.

Several areas were highlighted for additional work, such as focusing on landscaping through SITES, encouraging bird-friendly glass in buildings, dark skies lighting, and developing more specific biophilic design guidelines. Developing more nature-friendly school grounds, church grounds as well as more nature-based playgrounds was also discussed. Commissioners also discussed the need to ensure that the Community Energy Plan, currently being updated, recognizes the important role that mature trees play in reducing energy costs and the heat island effect and that trees should not be cut down to accommodate solar panels.

Staff Updates:

- PRISM Grant completed 10/31/18
- Last day for Alex Sanders as coordinator.
- NFWF Grant Financial report submitted.

Member Reports:

- Paul Campanella (UFC) reported on the presentation from the Northern Virginia Conservation Trust, and the difficulties and cost of doing land conservation agreements in land-constrained areas like Arlington.
- David Howell and Caroline Haynes (PRC) reported on presentations on the Four Mile Valley Area Plan, the new elementary school at Reed and the proposed “minor” site plan amendment to the Market Common Clarendon Central Park.
- Sarah Meservey and Claire O’Dea (E2C2) reported on presentations on POPSs, Long Bridge Park and the new elementary school at Reed.