

**Natural Resources Joint Advisory Group (NRJAG)**  
**Meeting Minutes 12-3-2018**

The meeting was called to order at 8:05pm at Arlington Mill Community Center.

In attendance were: Evelio Rubiella (UFC), Sarah Meservey, Christine Ng, Claire O’Dea (E2C2), Bill Ross, David Howell, Colt Gregory, Caroline Haynes (Park & Rec), Tom Korn, Leo Sarli, Marion Jordan, Bernie Bern (Citizens) and Alonso Abugattas (DPR).

Introductions made all around.

No public comment. Minutes from November 5, 2018 were adopted.

Guests: Kris Krider and Laura Shaub, Urban Design Team, Department of Community Planning, Housing and Development

**Biophilic Cities Opportunities for Arlington**

Kris Krider and Laura Shaub, from the Urban Design Team, Department of Community Planning, Housing and Development, discussed opportunities and possible next steps that Arlington might take to participate in the Biophilic Cities movement.

Some commissioners discussed that terminology used, from biophilic to open space to casual use were not easy to understand and may not stress their importance or intent clearly. Biophilic is the accepted term and other definitions should be carefully thought out in what they convey and intent.

Krider and Shaub talked about existing programs and potential for others such as green streetscapes, neighborhood conservation programs, and others that are fertile ground for biophilic applications. They talked about branding what Arlington already has in place and what it potentially can do in the future. Krider suggested building coalitions with existing groups and developing a clear elevator speech of biophilic concepts. Commissioners discussed the possibility of developing biophilic design principles, as a next step to the Urban Design Guidelines included in the update of the Public Spaces Master Plan.

**Staff Updates**

Alonso Abugattas provided the following updates:

- Grant – The NOVA PRISM (NOVA Partnership for Invasive Management) grant was completed, with the financial report submitted.
- PRISMS – Both the NOVA PRISM and NCR PRISM (National Capital Region Partnership for Invasive Species Management) are looking for future funding and are exploring partnering, though that is problematic as the agencies involved are already having difficulties in signing agreements with one another.

- Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan – The updates of the Natural Resources Management Plan and Urban Forestry Plans would be combined into one integrated plan. Scope of work is being completed for a contractor to help with certain elements.
- Nursery/Plantings Update – the greenhouse and nursery beds have irrigation systems on timers, and regular work days will be continuing. Planning for propagating plants for Parks’ landscaping uses will be investigated, outside of regular natural land restoration projects.

### **Member Reports**

- UFC meeting had been cancelled, so no Urban Forestry report.
- E2C2 noted that both Meservey and O’Dea would soon be rotating off the commission, though time table and replacements have not been finalized.
- Park & Rec introduced Colt Gregory as their new representative.