

**Natural Resources Joint Advisory Group  
Meeting Minutes 6-5-17**

The meeting was called to order at 7:05pm in the auditorium of Long Branch Nature Center.

In attendance were: Caroline Haynes, Nereide Ellis, David Howell (Park & Rec), Claire O’Dea, Sarah Meservey (E2C2), Phil Klingelhofer (UFC), and Alonso Abugattas (DPR)

Guest: Alonso Abugattas, Natural Resources Manager, DPR

No public comment

May 1, 2017 Minutes approved with no edits

**Arlington Bioblitz**

Alonso Abugattas, Natural Resources Manager, provided an update on the results of the Arlington Bioblitz. Abugattas explained that it was crucial to inventory and know what you have in order to know how to plan most effectively to conserve it. Arlington County therefore conducted an extensive biotic inventory of various major taxa from 2005 to 2008. Periodic additions and updates to the county’s biotic inventories have taken place since then, including participation in the 2017 City Nature Challenge and the National Park Service 2016 Bioblitz. On May 20<sup>th</sup> however was the first comprehensive county-wide Bioblitz, a 24-hour snapshot of the fauna and flora present in Arlington.

This resulted in 92 volunteers, divided into 19 teams, making over 1245 observations. Over 468 different species (more observations and records are expected since experts had to take some vouchers in order to properly identify them) were recorded using a citizen science application called iNaturalist. There are plans to have an even bigger public event in the Fall of 2018.

**Staff Updates:**

Alonso Abugattas provided the following updates:

- Arlington’s Department of Parks and Recreation is opening up recruitment to fill the Assistant Division Chief/Environmental Manager position.
- Green house operations at the county’s native plant nursery have concluded for the season. The green house gets much too hot and all plant stock has been moved outdoors into the regular native plant nursery beds.
- Multiple restoration plantings have taken place using mostly volunteers planting hundreds of both woody and non-woody plants, the vast majority of the stock grown in the county native plant nursery. The last one will take place during National Pollinator Week in June in conjunction with a Pollinator Patch being established through a partnership between Arlington County, Dominion Energy, and NOVA Parks.

## **Member Reports:**

- Phil Klingelhofer reported that Urban Forester Adam Limpera had reported to UFC that he was coordinating tree removal and trimming work with Dominion Energy. Though Dominion has ultimate authority over the work, they are trying to be better stewards.
- Phil Klingelhofer informed NRJAG that Elenor Hodges from Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment and contracted manager of the Tree Canopy Fund planting was concerned over the quality of trees and their follow up care and survival. While a more limited number of trees will be planted, their maintenance will be better.
- Clair O’Dea reported that E2C2 had received a presentation on iTree from Vincent Verweij.
- Sarah Meservey raised concerns about the way the Lubber Run Community center project was intruding into park land. While she’s supportive of incorporating the park into the center, she felt that there were several issues with the way green space was counted for green-type roofs, the amount of trees affected, the need for bird-friendly glass, and meandering of the building intruding into the existing park. A letter is being drafted from NRJAG with those concerns.
- Caroline Haynes expressed concerns felt by some over the design of the George Washington Field Clubhouse being planned at Barcroft Park.