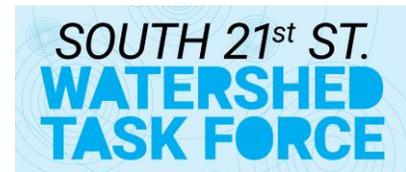


South 21st St. Watershed Task Force

Meeting #1

Thursday March 19, 2020



Facilitator:

Erin Copeland – Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy (PPC) ecopeland@pittsburghparks.org

Attending:

Jeff Bergman – Western PA Conservancy (WPC)

Amy Camp – Cycle Forward

Megan Guy – Pittsburgh Water Collaboratory

Elaine Hinrichs – Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority (PWSA)

Ruth Isaacson – Arlington, Friends of South Side Park (FOSSP)

Anthony Kobak – City Planning

Jeff Neubauer – FOSSP

Bill Palowitch - Bandi Schaum Community Garden

Gia Qin – Environmental Planning and Design

Susan Rademacher – PPC

Greg Scott – Westwood Resident, civil engineer

Janice Serra – FOSSP

Ernie Sota – South Side Chamber of Commerce

Megan Simek- PWSA

John Stephen – Negley Run Watershed Taskforce

Donna Tarkett – South Side Slopes Neighborhood Association, Bandi Schaum Community Garden

Erin Tobin – PPC

Kitty Vagley – FOSSP

Follow-up Actions

- Review 18th Street Greenway background. Ernie Sota mentioned symbiosis from 18th street to the River with Phase 3.
- Ask PWSA about how is performance communicated to the public?
- Erin Copeland map the stream and wetlands in Jurassic Valley.
- PWSA check in on construction of dedicated pipe from Carson Street to the River.
- Is there a contact at St. Michael's cemetery that should be included in the Watershed Task Force?
- Goat Fest date? Should we piggyback on this and have a walk for the Watershed Task Force as an option?

Presentation

Erin C gave an overview of the One Water concept, local partners, and priority Pittsburgh watersheds. See presentation.

Notes

Erin Copeland asked for PWSA, WPC, and City Planning to give updates about relevant projects.

PWSA and the Department of Public Works (DPW) are working together in South Side Park, Megan Simek update: They are in the design phase, just finishing up Schematic Design. Project

construction is scheduled to start May 2021, wrap up in 2022. DPW has hired Landscape Architecture Firm Pashek/MTR; they are working with PWSA's Water Engineering firm Ethos Collaborative. PWSA has set and is meeting water capture goals of the South 21st St Watershed (M16). Studio Bryan Hanes developed a concept during the last phase that this team is following through on. It includes underground storage, pipes, swales, an open channel, step pools, boardwalks, and wetlands. The next public event about the project will Goat Fest in July.

South 21st Street Complete Green Street Project, Jeff Bergman update: The project site is the four blocks from Josephine to Carson. WPC started this project 4-5 years ago working closely with PWSA, DOMI, City Planning, DPW. Design and engineering are done; WPC is wrapping up the fundraising for construction. There were two public meetings. Project is slated to receive the water that is captured in the park. This site will manage 4 million gallons of stormwater annually and increase permeability from 5 to 38%. It will beautify the space, tie into the park, and control a lot of stormwater. Jeff is working closely with the City grants office for fundraising. PWSA is very active. We will keep raising money and get started on construction as soon as possible. The estimated budget is 5.8 million, as of December, WPC has raised 3.8 million.

City Planning's Comprehensive Plan, Anthony Kobak's update: The City's Comprehensive Plan is on hold due to Covid19. The culmination of the Comp Plan will outline what future land use should be for the City of Pittsburgh. There are three main components: housing, mobility and economic development. The previous chapters that had been completed Preserve PGH, OPEN Space PGH will be included. Two additional topics / chapters will be environment (energy, sustainability, resilience) and equity. All these topics work together. When the comp plan starts City Planning will engage community members and stakeholders in public meetings or working groups; a website will also be developed.

Comments and Discussion

Within this watershed is the opportunity to better connect the neighborhoods to the river and bike path.

Phase III of **Riverside Mews** will begin soon. Ernie Sota is considering a buffer zone between the homes and the railroad tracks, insisting that it should be a greenspace. The green space can include easily maintained native landscaping that would infiltrate water for the homeowner's association. Along 18th before you hit the river, 12 homes will be built as part of Phase III of Riverside Mews. Given that there is an eventual plan to create a greenway down 18th street to the River there might be some symbiosis with Phase 3.

South Side Park – Water runs over the road and into the entrance of the Bandi Schaum parking lot near Greeley Street. Some of this originates in Jurassic Valley and the associated streams and wetlands. This stream was not included in the master plan and it is also outside of the PWSA work that is happening on 21st street. It's not being considered at all.

How will the GI projects perform?

Will the project pieces be able to handle the big surge of water?

What volume will overflow from the GI back to the combined sewer system?

What level of reduction will we see?

To answer these questions PWSA needs to consider climate change and its impacts.

PWSA knows via a computer model that with detention in SS park through 21st street and the flats, 8.8 million gallons will be detained in the park. Those 8.8 mg will be held back through the

storm events and released slowly over time. PWSA can't give an answer tonight, but as Park GI design is further refined, they will have a better idea of what the reductions will be.

Water capture - Friends of South Side Park are planting trees in the park. Is there a way to capture water and deliver to water trees? Could the Arlington Rec Center roof be disconnected so that the roof water could be used to water trees?

Can a way be found to water the Quarry Football Field in South Side Park with the water that is flowing down from springs above the field? Currently, they are captured into drain pipes and sent to the combined sewer system.

St. Michael's Cemetery – There is potential to capture rainwater here. Has anyone engaged with them?

Neighborhood conditions – There are wet basements that are known in the neighborhoods. The pipe infrastructure is old here too. There is localized flooding / water issues at 18th, 20th and 22nd and the RR overpass.

There is excitement about the new GI in South Side Park and its connection to the S. 21st St Flats project, how and when will it be separated all the way to the Monongahela River? The plan is to develop a separated sewer pipe from Carson to the river; it will be about 3 years until construction is completed.