

NRWTF Quarterly Meeting July 30, 2020

Attendees:

Carroll Adams
Amy Babay
Erin Copeland
Maureen Copeland
Christopher Corbett
Holly Douglas
Matt Erb
Alyson Fearon
Jordan Fischbach
Dana Fowler
Megan Guy
Michael Hiller
Elijah Hughes
Brian Jensen
Rebecca Kiernan
Ajay Kochhar
Paul Martinchich
Malik Morris
Annie Quinn
Ryan Quinn
Susan Rademacher
Vivian Shaffer
Brenda Smith
John Stephen
Lauren Terpak
Abhishek Vishwanathan
Damon Weiss
Gavin White
Phillip Wu
Shaman Pomaj Yajalaji
Rebecca Zito

Susan will monitor comments and questions

Paul Martinchich – URA

- Project coming along great – 2/3, 3/4 complete
 - Concrete perimeter sidewalk in
 - Play structures up, surfaces going in
 - Largest playground in the City of Pittsburgh when complete
 - Should be done through mid-September
 - Had to halt on plantings till fall (end of September, early October)
 - River roots gabion wall going in (filled with brick rubble)
 - Water creatures going in
 - Nice pedestrian bridge

- Village Green and Larimer Playground also underway
 - Playground – sidewalks and entrance enhancement – Larimer School rehab also started
 - Village green – sits on Larimer Ave. and Mayflower
- Any discussion about ribbon cutting, opening celebration?
 - October, once plantings are done?
 - Hedging given COVID
- Malik Morris – trying to get an idea of what else is going on at the playground?
 - Patio stones at entrance, not a whole lot else right now
 - Tabled the idea of naming or having a memento their for Moon Howard?
 - Have to talk with the City – not under URA's control
- Paul for Morris – how's the community garden going?
 - Moving back to Renfrew st.
 - Dealing with some dumping issues
 - Working with DOMI to try and eliminate dumping access to site
 - Focused on Orchard this year, but want to get the garden going again next year
- Erin – Could the City mention the naming process?
 - Christopher Corbett – there is a planning commission that we can bring that suggestion to – we'll work with you Malik
 - Came from the court renaming – we didn't know about it, just want to make sure it's followed through on

Larimer Park Zone B – update to concept plan

- Connecting to Little Negley Run – people and water
 - Link to Meadow St. Microshed
- Would like to have a Water Walk
 - Maybe there's a virtual or independent aspect, tbd
 - Next 6 weeks
 - Additional analysis
- Stewardship – pulling together stakeholders to discuss ownership, maintenance, etc.
- Make sure to reach out to Dana Fowler and Harriet Tubman Guild

Urban Ag

- Larimer Orchard – developing microshed idea throughout this process, would be good to incorporate ag in this discussion
 - Chadwick might be a good way to look at microshed that surrounds urban ag project
 - Developing rain catchers
 - Will be able to start putting those out on site in early September
 - More fruit trees, early October

- APA had a planning grant for Urban Ag – we applied with Grounded strategies
 - Won't know till the fall
 - Incorporated into larger City Farms project
- Long shot, but rewarding to pull together this concept
- Chadwick Farms – Shaman Pomaj
 - Focusing on a water catchment system
 - Some funds for permaculture project
 - Creating a small catchment system on site
 - Hoping to create a larger system to redirect water to the farm
 - Recently obtained some more City property to create an orchard
 - Done analysis, several walkthroughs
 - Water coming down from Penn Hills, Homewood – we can benefit from this water – will be able to stop the flooding that happens in the field
 - Hoping to work with your folks, our own landscape architect, planting fruit trees – can absorb rainwater, purposefully
 - A lot of great opportunity to replant fruit trees (that used to be there!)
 - Using “Aircrete” – traditional method. We like that it breathes
 - Mayan material
 - Very important to look at agriculture and environmental justice

Viv – Westinghouse

- PBNDP and WP2CC formed a partnership to do advanced planning for Westinghouse Park – will culminate in a report to aid City Planning in creating an RFP
 - Want to focus on Environmental Stewardship, bring people together (both sides of the tracks), uncover the site's history, and recreation ideas
- Just made contact with folks working on Homewood Field
- Meeting - This Monday August 3rd at 7pm
 - <https://zoom.us/j/96333637110>