



**Woods Run community leaders meeting  
Monday May 11, 2020**

**Ed Brandt** – Lives in the Mexican War Streets but been involved in Marshall Shadeland/Brightwood since 2002, been involved in tree planting in the neighborhood, also follow the Woods Run waterway for the last couple years.

**Mary Beth Favorite** – live on Riverview Avenue, retired from Pitt, member of FORP.

**Joseph Glassbrenner** – President of Brighton Heights Citizens Federation, usually have Alex Carrera here as the committee chair who holds the land use committee meetings which is between 8-12 people, McClure avenue site – we plan to work with URA – they decided to not put homes on the parcel so now the process has been decided that the URA is going to be selling or transferring the title for an unsaid amount to the Allegheny Land Trust and they will maintain/manage the property. On August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019 PWSA had developed a 30% design for two rain gardens, an upper and a lower to retain water.

**Mark Masterson** – Chair of Friends of Riverview Park, live in Observatory Hill and use the park at least once a week. Avid bike rider and probably ride through Woods Run once or twice a week.

**Anna Brewer** – member of the Brightwood Civic Group and Friends of Riverview Park. She lives on Grand Avenue

**Sally Stadelman** – Chief of Staff Councilperson Bobby Wilson

Erin Copeland mentioned her work with the long-term stewards in RP. I love the Northern section of the park; its forested with some Eastern Hemlocks that grow in that section of the park.

PPC in collaboration with Pittsburgh United we were funded to do watershed taskforces in the 5 additional sewer sheds (watersheds) across the City of Pittsburgh. This is based on the Green First Plan by PWSA that looks at the top 6 watersheds that provides the most CSO. Negley Run Watershed Taskforce has existed for 5 years and we have seen great successes there. PPC has been involved in that taskforce; the idea is to duplicate that process/taskforce in the other priority watersheds. Task forces provide a table for agency reps and community leaders to come together to make sure we are sharing information and to find synergies there. It is also supposed to be at the scale of the entire watershed. In Riverview there is a PWSA Project happening along the road and updates should be brought to the taskforce. In addition to that there was a broader conversation about other issues in Riverview like landslides, or the opportunities at the penitentiary for having a connection to the river and daylighting the stream all the way down to the Ohio River. This taskforce is not about one project it will be more broadly based. PPC has found at the NRT there are community leader meetings which are a smaller group of people. They bring their ideas forward, take notes and share that information, but it's that time to be more deliberate about what community leaders want because sometimes it's hard in a big meeting with lots of different people to provide the equity of space for everyone and what is needed. We are open to having community leader meetings in addition to the Watershed Task Force meetings.

Erin C reviewed the initial watershed taskforce meeting. Please see notes for a full review.

**Joe** - Tax delinquent properties – what is the intent to do for them? What do you mean by daylighting? Erin explained that the idea would be to capture water and develop a channel for water flow. It could be a stream or could look more person made but have that storm water run above ground as much as possible. That is a very big and lovely idea; it's a long-term project and goal.

Lecky Ave goes from Brighton Ave and it becomes Eckert and McClure and goes under the RR tracks. The area from Brighton Road to Eckert is a very depressed area. Many houses have been knocked down. Right now, there are probably 7-10 houses that are vacant. Not sure if they are tax delinquent or not. If you are looking for how to create a greenspace/walkway/greenway that this space might provide a good opportunity.

Do we know where the culvert is that handles the stream? Is it right under Lecky or is it running through other properties? EC - it's probably under Woods Run or Lucky. EC will find out.

Ed Brandt – related to the penitentiary – we had a ZOOM call with Rep Wheatley and Senator Wayne Fontana to talk about the future of the penitentiary. This is a very hard project to deal with.

Charrette – it is possible it could happen to if it fits into this Allentown model. It's something that the watershed taskforce can support if that is of interest to the committee.

Ed – Jamie Younger is the chair of that committee – if you are interested in linking, he would be good to connect with. Jake and Wayne Fontana said they won't do anything that the neighborhood group does not support.

Mark Masterson – there are also some other pressures out there from the City for that land. They are looking for another place for where to put the trash trucks. There are a lot of other competing uses that would not be good that we need to be cognizant of. Its flat land in an industrial zone and people don't see the potential to make it a park and do other things with it. The planning charrette is important if we are going to change the trajectory of that that we start to take control of that agenda as much as we can and not just be reacting to those uses.

Joe – McClure Ave – the last time we met with PWSA was August where they presented a design to our land use committee. From what I understand is that a lot of this has been several years of development and different ideas on this property, but I think we are going to start and go with a project breaking ground in my term as president. Before the watershed taskforce how did you initiate with PWSA and work your designs with them, so everyone benefitted. Mark – we were very persistent to start out with and really insisted that FORP be a part of the conversation. It's important that the mayor, council and community organizations are in support PLUS ALCOSAN PWSA. Mark – did PWSA commit to doing specific community meetings?

Beth Dutton – PWSA would come and meet with whatever community organizations to present the design and feedback to hear what community members want and incorporate that into the design. EC is happy to connect BHCF and Joe as the stormwater lead at PWSA.

Discussion on the other watershed associations. Some information about watersheds and a coalition can do/accomplish might be helpful to share – Mark Masterson.

Mary Beth – in walking the park regularly I notice that in a lot of the work where the PWSA has completed – there seems to be a lot of standing water where there shouldn't be it gets stagnant. It's going to be a real breeding ground for mosquitos. In relationship to that what is the follow up to these projects? That part of the project is completed – who is checking to see if its working and if it's not working why is it not? What else needs to be done?

Erin C response – there is an MOU that hasn't been finalized between PWSA and the City of Pittsburgh for maintenance of GI. It is an important.

The 100-year floodplain and its impact are with us now (Ed Brandt) when they built the dollar store on Brighton road a block or two from Woods Run, they had to raise that site three feet because it was in the floodplain.