

## Woods Run Watershed Task Force Meeting Notes

March 24, 2021

- Attendees
  - Erin Copeland, Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy (PPC)
  - Erin Tobin, Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy (PPC)
  - Beth King, Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy (PPC)
  - Beth Dutton, Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority (PWSA)
  - Elaine Hinrichs, Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority (PWSA)
  - Tim Nuttle, Mexican Wars Streets resident, Woods Run Project Team
  - Stephanie Joy Everett, Department of City Planning
  - Alyson Fearon, Allegheny Land Trust (ALT)
  - Faith Mudd, Councilman Bobby Wilson's Office
  - Annie Quinn, 3 Rivers Wet Weather (3RWW)
  - John Stephen, Negley Run Watershed Task Force
  - Madeline Weiss, Pittsburgh United and Our Water
  - Ed Brant, Marshall-Shadeland resident
  - Matt Gatto, Marshall-Shadeland resident and Brightwood Civic Group members
  - Anna Brewer, Marshall-Shadeland resident and Brightwood Civic Group members
  - Joseph Glassbrenner, Brighton Heights Citizens Federation
  - Mitch Hall, Observatory Hill resident, Director of Landcare Services for Fourth River Workers Guild
  - Christopher (sp?) Holt, resident
  - Alison Keating
  - Elizabeth Monk
- Anna Brewer: Do we ever have a meeting with all the watershed taskforces?
  - Erin Copeland: Yes, we had a meeting with all the taskforces in December 2020, and after these individual meetings with the specific watersheds, we will have another meeting with all the watersheds.
- Erin Copeland (PPC) provided update about the National Park Service award application
  - PPC and City Planning applied to the National Park Service for technical assistance for the Woods Run Corridor
  - Expect to hear back about the award later in the spring.
    - **ACTION:** Erin Copeland will check the exact award notification date and provide to meeting participants.
  - Questions:
    - Ed Brant: Is there a list of specific projects in the Woods Run Corridor?
      - Erin Copeland: Not yet, but we are considering creating a map or list of projects and problem areas to help gather feedback and inform residents of progress.
      - Ed Brant: Have these projects been advanced beyond just talking?
        - Erin Copeland: Yes, and we will talk about those projects tonight.
      - John Stephen: The livingwaterspgh.org website is a platform we hope to use for sharing information about problem areas and projects.

- Stephanie Joy Everett (Department of City Planning) provided update about the neighborhood planning process.
  - Not sure when neighborhood plan is going to get underway, likely late in the year.
  - Some funding, but underfunded.
  - Lot of background work needed to really engage the residents and stakeholder and get good data.
  - The City is re-opening the budget process, so there might be some more funding put aside for this process.
  - In neighborhood planning process, one of the phases is to visualize.
    - The National Park Service technical assistance could help with that, if awarded.
- Alyson Fearon (ALT) presented about the St. John's Project
  - PWSA had a major status change in June 2020, and in ALT became the project lead.
  - ALT is fundraising in 2021, so applying to state grants this spring to hear back in the fall, then fill in with local foundations.
  - If all goes well, ALT hopes to do the site rehab in 2022.
  - URA owns the site, so ALT wouldn't gain site ownership until 2023.
  - ALT has come up with a primary design.
    - Rain garden is planned on the lower half of the site as the main stormwater management component.
    - ALT will be sending out mailer for community input about the design and amenities.
  - Questions:
    - Ed Brant: What is number 2 and what is number 3 on the map?
      - Alyson Fearon: Neither are determined yet. For number 2, we are considering a meadow. Number 3 and number 1 are completely undecided.
    - Beth Dutton: Will ALT maintain the green infrastructure?
      - Alyson Fearon: ALT will be the site owner, not the city. ALT is planning to partner with the community on maintenance, but ultimately the responsibility will be with ALT. We are planning to plant no-mow grass to reduce maintenance pressure.
    - Christopher Holt: Where does Woods Run Ave intersect with McClure in the map?
      - Alyson Fearon: It is just below the site, by Young Brothers Bar.
    - Joseph Glassbrenner: Brighton Heights Citizen Federation is updating and surveying residents through our bi-monthly newsletter. We also presented this information to community in our general membership meeting in early March. On top of the mailer that will be going out, we are considering sharing a Google Doc to ask for input on social media. About 5 years ago, we surveyed the residents with GTech and from that feedback, and the designs were unrealistic for maintenance and capital funding. So, for this next round of feedback about the St. John's project, we encourage community to keep expectations realistic based on our resources.
    - Anna Brewer: Has ALT ever considered buying the prison site?
      - Alyson Fearon: We have not, and we have not been asked. We have traditionally not taken on projects with structures, though that has changed in the last year or so.

- Anna Brewer: What if we took the structure off? Could you provide more information about the ALT land conservation process?
    - Alyson Fearon: Up until recently, ALT hasn't owned any property in the city. We have received some funding to start looking at projects. One of the things we have been tasked with is that the land be multi-function. We would be willing to join the conversation about the prison site if the building were demolished, but we can't make any promises beyond that.
  - Ed Brant: URA declined to take the prison site because they were worried about liability pollution. Community group also declined because site was too big. We are asking state to convene committee with political representatives and City of Pittsburgh to determine what to do with that site. It would be very expensive to demolish the structure, but there are floors missing in the building, so fixing it up would also be expensive. ALCOSAN would be the logical partner because more likely to be able to take on liability, plus they need a property for the digging of a sewer tunnel under Ohio river.
- Beth Dutton (PWSA) presented about the PWSA Stormwater Program
  - Mitch Hall: What size storm is the Mairdale project being designed to handle?
    - Beth Dutton: I believe it might be the 100-year storm, but I will check and get back to everyone.
    - **ACTION:** Beth Dutton will check on the design storm size for the Woods Run Phase Two project and provide to meeting participants.
  - Matt Gatto: How can I give additional feedback about the survey? We live in Marshall-Shadeland so may not have gotten the survey to Brighton Heights, would have input to provide.
    - Beth Dutton: Yes, is there someone we could share the survey with so that they could distribute to community?
      - Matt Gatto: I can facilitate that through the Brightwood Civic Group and distribute the survey.
      - **ACTION:** Beth Dutton will send the stormwater feedback survey to Matt Gatto at [mgatto22@gmail.com](mailto:mgatto22@gmail.com) to distribute to the Brightwood Civic Group.
  - Joseph Glassbrenner: Next time Brighton Heights Citizens Federation engages with the community is in May or September. Would it be possible for PWSA to present more in depth about the stormwater fee, and how and why it is happening?
    - Beth Dutton: Yes, we can try to present in May.
    - **ACTION:** Beth Dutton will email Joseph Glassbrenner at [joseph.glassbrenner@gmail.com](mailto:joseph.glassbrenner@gmail.com) to coordinate PWSA presentation about stormwater fee at Brighton Heights Citizens Federation meeting in May.
- Joseph Glassbrenner: ALCOSAN is doing this huge tunnel project, and wanted a quarter of the prison site, but not the entire site. Is there any way we could bargain and talk with ALCOSAN about what amount of the site they could demolish?

- Matt Gatto: When we talked to ALCOSAN, they said they weren't interested in owning the site permanently, but they want to use part of the site temporarily for their tunnel work. Their plans included a partial demolition of the prison structure.
- Ed Brant: ALCOSAN wants 6 acres temporarily by the river to build the tunnel, then they want 1 acre permanently for tunnel maintenance.
- Joseph Glassbrenner: So, it would be great if we could talk to them about how much they could demolish.
- Erin Copeland: ALCOSAN may be willing to meet directly with you all.
- Ed Brant: Joseph, you could ask ALCOSAN to present to Brighton Heights Citizens Federation.
- Faith Mudd: Please contact me at Councilman Wilson's office at [faith.mudd@pittsburghpa.gov](mailto:faith.mudd@pittsburghpa.gov) and (412)523-9193. If these presentations could be emailed to me that would be great as well!
  - **ACTION:** Erin Copeland (PPC), Alyson Fearon (ALT), and Beth Dutton (PWSA) will email their presentations to Faith Mudd at Councilman Wilson's office at [faith.mudd@pittsburghpa.gov](mailto:faith.mudd@pittsburghpa.gov).