

## Heth's Run Watershed Task Force Meeting Notes

March 10, 2021

- Attendees
  - Erin Copeland, Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy
  - Beth Dutton, Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority (PWSA)
  - Rebecca Zito, Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority (PWSA)
  - Elaine Hinrichs, Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority (PWSA)
  - Phillip Wu, Planner, Department of City Planning
  - Brian Jensen, Allegheny Conference on Community Development
  - Megan Guy, Pittsburgh Water Collaboratory
  - Annie Quinn, 3 Rivers Wet Weather (3RWW)
  - Monica Watt, Highland Park Community Council (HPCC)
  - David Hance, President, Highland Park Community Dev Corp
  - Yasmeen, Morningside resident / participant in Morningside Area Community Council
  - Viv Shaffer, Negley Run Watershed Taskforce, North Point Breeze community org
  - Elizabeth Urbaitis, Negley Run Watershed Taskforce, East Liberty resident
  - Sara Thompson
- Heth's Run Watershed Task Force Priorities:
  - Erin's interpretation of main desires from the Heth's Run Watershed Task Force last year:
    - Progressing Heth's Run valley project
    - Greening projects within the neighborhoods within the Heth's Run watershed
  - Interest in nature-based projects (inspired by Douglas W. Tallamy's Nature's Best Hope book <https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/natures-best-hope-douglas-w-tallamy/1130026380> and webinar <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8u4eKHjx7Fs&t=691s>)
  - Community members restated interest in progressing Heth's Run valley project
    - David Hance is planning to write letter to Councilmember Deb Gross
    - At last year's meeting, Deb Gross asked community members to testify in front of city council to encourage \$70,000 funding to finish design of project
    - Erin said new DPW Director did not know status of valley project
    - Pittsburgh Zoo received gaming funds from the County to do parking lot improvements
    - Sewer re-lining work going on at the bottom of Heth's Run right now
- PWSA Stormwater Program Update Presentation
  - PWSA upcoming master planning process will look into previous research from PWSA's Green First Plan and ALCOSAN's Controlling the Source
    - Heth's Run watershed has a lot of steep slopes, which make stormwater detention difficult
    - PWSA is also prioritizing stormwater management work that reduces basement sewage backups
    - PWSA will be setting up community meetings with community groups
      - Beth agreed to give a presentation to the Morningside Area Community Council
      - Yasmeen will contact MACC President Ryan Smith to set up the meeting

- Rebecca agreed to submit a short summary of this presentation update to Yasmeen to include in MACC newsletter and to Monica Watt, Highland Park Community Council (HPCC)
    - Rebecca will incorporate Update Your Contact Info into the summary as well
  - Rebecca gave approval to post this presentation on the Living Waters of Pittsburgh website
- City of Pittsburgh Planning Update
  - Two projects going on in the Heth's Run watershed
    - Trail connection project being planned in northeast corner of Garfield
      - Goal is to reduce severity of grade changes in a green way
      - Beginning stages, conceptual plan
    - Environmental Charter School Middle School looking to improve fields
      - Add outdoor education recreational area
      - Looking to plant trees
      - Reduce the size of the parking lot and convert to permeable pavement
      - Opportunity to connect educators to watershed education
        - Allegheny College Creek Connections teaches teachers how to teach watershed education
- Next Steps
  - Meetings with individual community groups
  - Meetings with rest of task forces