

S. 21st Street Watershed Task Force Meeting Notes

March 17, 2021

- Attendees
 - Erin Copeland, Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy (PPC)
 - Brandon Riley, Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy (PPC)
 - Rebecca Zito, Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority (PWSA)
 - Elaine Hinrichs, Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority (PWSA)
 - Anthony Kobak, Department of City Planning
 - Gia Qin, Environmental Planning & Design (S. 21st Street Project Design)
 - Annie Quinn, 3 Rivers Wet Weather (3RWW)
 - Tom Batrone, AKRF Engineer
 - Janice Serra, Friends of South Side Park (FOSSP)
 - Kitty Vagley, Friends of South Side Park (FOSSP)
 - Jeff Neubauer, Friends of South Side Park (FOSSP)
 - Jamie Balsler, Friends of South Side Park (FOSSP)
 - Megan Guy, Pittsburgh Water Collaboratory
- S. 21st Street Project Update from Gia Qin at Environmental Planning & Design
 - Jeffrey from WPC gave DOMI an update about fundraising recently
 - Close to funded
- Illustrative Concept Plan - Lower Jurassic Valley
 - Funding for watershed task forces included funding to advance some project priorities
 - FOSSP asked PPC to do a restoration plan for Jurassic Valley
 - Restoration of Jurassic Valley is an ongoing part of the South Side Park Master Plan,
 - Erin Copeland had knowledge for Upper Jurassic Valley, but Lower Jurassic Valley by community garden parking lot also needs improvements
 - PPC is creating illustrated rendering of improvements and asking for input
 - Kitty reminded PPC to make sure the planned ADA trail is included in this Lower Jurassic Valley plan
 - PPC said that they are coordinating with ADA trail designers
 - Jamie asked if Lower Jurassic Valley is a contributor to the M-16 overflow
 - Erin said yes, it is a contributor, but it is a small tributary to the overall watershed
 - Janice noted that there is a lot of gravel and mud that flows into the parking lot from stormwater, and that the little gully in the trail continues to grow
 - PPC will be in touch with next steps
- PWSA Stormwater Program Update Presentation
 - Erin asked if the Stormwater Code & Ordinances Update will mostly apply to developers
 - Rebecca answered yes, it is for developers and redevelopers, over a certain square footage of disturbance. The purpose of the update is encourage better stormwater management on private properties, because PWSA and other public agencies cannot solve stormwater problems on public property alone.
 - Jamie asked how long the South Side Park Phase 1A construction may be delayed.

- Rebecca said that the project may be delayed by 3 months because of potential additional permitting requirements from the Department of Environmental Protection
- Erin asked how people can get involved in the Stormwater Fee input process
 - Rebecca said that PWSA will be putting out a press release when they file the Stormwater Fee with the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PA PUC), and a flyer will be included in bills when the fee is filed. Those materials will have information about how to participate in the PA PUC public hearings about the stormwater fee.
- Jamie asked what the stormwater fee for impervious surface will go towards
 - Rebecca said the fee will be used to manage stormwater runoff and fund stormwater projects. Right now, PWSA's stormwater work is funded through sewage charges, which are based on metered water use. Metered water use is not correlated with stormwater runoff, instead the amount of impervious surface is correlated with the amount of stormwater runoff. By charging a stormwater fee for impervious surface on properties, PWSA will make stormwater funding more equitable.
- Kitty asked what is an MS4
 - Tom explained that a MS4 is a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System and that stormwater runoff carries pollution through an MS4 directly to the river. Reducing stormwater pollution from an MS4 is important like how reducing combined sewer overflows from a Combined Sewer System is important.
- City of Pittsburgh Planning Update
 - Stay tuned for the next phases of the South Side Park Master Plan