

AGENDA & Notes

Negley Run Watershed Task Force

Thursday, October 28, 2021

4:00 pm @ Liberty Green

I. Welcome and Introductions

Attendees: John Stephen, Kathryn Hunninen (Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy), Elaine Hinrichs (PWSA), Kate Angell (Scenic Pittsburgh), Jordan Fischbach (The Water Institute), Ryan Quinn (PWSA), Melissa Finucane (RAND), Kara Whitfield (Harriet Tubman Guild), Blyden Terry (Point Breeze North Development Corporation), JoAnne Tippet (Lincoln-Lemington Community Consensus Group), Nazin Bagherynejad (URA), Elizabeth W., Paul Martinich (URA), Malik Bankston, Tara Pinnix (City DPW), Claudia Saladin (evolveEA), Dolci Davies, Paul Alessio, Ian Lipsky (eDesign Dynamics), Shaman Pomaj (The Iroquois Confederacy of Aborigine American People), Michael Kelly (Forestry)

II. Policy Landscape Scan:

- a. City Stormwater Code Update
 - i. The code update has been enacted; implementation manual in process
- b. PWSA stormwater fee
 - i. Outreach and education around new stormwater fee has begun. PWSA will be presenting to Larimer Consensus Group on Thursday Nov. 4, 6 p.m.
- c. PWSA Strategic Stormwater Plan Update
 - i. The stormwater plan process is underway
 - ii. Information about PWSA projects and plans can be found on PWSA stormwater website www.pgh2o.com/stormwater

III. Projects and Communities in Negley Run Watershed

- a. Mellon Park Action Plan
 - i. Public survey on proposed concepts is open now through Nov 30. Please fill out the survey and share this link:
 - ii. <https://engage.pittsburghpa.gov/mellon-park-action-plan>
- b. Thomas Avenue stormwater basins
 - i. PWSA oversees the contract; Professional engineering firm is hired as direct contract manager, overseeing day-to-day with construction contractor
- c. Mouth of Negley Run/Land adjacent to Negley Run Blvd: PWSA is leading design, working with Army Corps and Penn DOT
- d. Fleury Avenue
- e. Lincoln Lemington Belmar Vision Plan
 - i. Vision plan was presented at community meeting in Sept
 - ii. Open space concepts include:

1. Reopening pathways/trails; remediate and restore soils; restore indigenous plant communities; consider water catchment for use in agricultural landscapes—e.g. food forest, use of permaculture techniques
 - iii.
 - f. Homewood
 - i. Homewood Field project is still in design/engineering phase
- IV. MARISA stormwater modelling/decision-making tools
 - a. Jordan-the Water Institute: five-year grant from NOAA, partially focusing on Negley Run, to look at localized flooding in neighborhoods; build on previous analysis in Homewood and Larimer, examine street/neighborhood scale to analyze current and potential flooding considering climate change effects; working with CMU graduate student.
 - b. Melissa-RAND: Study community health/community resilience to flooding; seek to understand community's experience with stormwater, basement flooding, etc. To figure out what key healthy issues are in relation to climate change & severe weather events.
 - i. Consider how task force/community members can be involved in data collection, ground truthing
- V. Innovative Financing Workshop
 - a. John presented with partners in September 2021
- VI. **Little Negley Run walk-through**
 - a. Toured the Liberty Green @Larimer Park and River Roots sites
 - b. Paul from URA spoke about the components of the sites
 - c. Discussions about programming are under way; desire to program Liberty Green and River Roots
 - d. Malik: evolution of the design of both sites is reflection of the community vision, the community's concerns, history, vision, work that community had been doing long before the current project managers implemented the project. Need to keep telling this history, emphasize community role and leadership
 - i. Liberty at Larimer Park—this greenspace is part of a larger greenspace plan that neighborhood residents wanted and envisioned, this visioning work laid the groundwork for this project to be possible.
 - e. Who is responsible for care of the rain gardens in Liberty Green and Riverroots?
 - i. Maintenance plan/specifications were documented when project was designed. Who is following that maintenance plan?
 - ii. DPW maintains Liberty Green but has not done maintenance on the rain gardens.
 - iii. It would be helpful to have more contractors who are trained in GSI/NGICP-certified; Have installer be the contracted maintainer for first 3-5 years, so that contractors who install are invested in long-term successful establishment of these natural features (which take time-years-

to properly establish and first 1-2 years of maintenance are critical for success)

- f.** River Roots:
 - i.** Not yet open, delay due to plant/seed establishment
 - ii.** Plan for opening in spring; desire to have a plan to properly dedicate the space, honor the space and the community vision that made it possible.
- g.** Little Negley Run at Larimer Park draft report
 - i.** Shared draft matrix for implementation roles of the various agencies and partners.

VII. Next Meeting Date(s) – Thursday, Jan. 27