AGENDA

Negley Run Watershed Task Force
Thursday, January 27, 2022
6:00 pm

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. LNR@Larimer Park Next Steps -- River Roots Programming
    a. LNR@Larimer Park Implementation Plan
3. Data and Mapping Work Group
    a. One Water Infrastructure Story Map
    b. Grate Keepers
4. Water Infrastructure Projects around the Watershed
5. PWSA Stormwater Strategic Plan – Watershed Ambassadors
6. Stormwater Fee Implementation
7. Mid-Atlantic Regional Integrated Sciences and Assessments (MARISA) update
8. Water Justice Event (Feb. 15)
9. Additional Announcements/Events
10. Next Quarterly Task Force Meeting: (Thu. April 28)

Notes:

Attendees:

- Kathryn Hunninen- PPC
- Caitlin Steve- PPC
- Erin Tobin- PPC
- John Stephen- NRWTF
- Rebecca Zito- PWSA
- Beth Dutton- PWSA
- Ryan Quinn- PWSA
- Elaine Hindrich- PWSA
- Becca Simon- Grounded
- Matt Briley- Sharpsburg Neighborhood Organization
- Jo Anne Tippett- LLCCG
- Brian Jensen- Allegheny Conference on Community Development
- Maxine Engram- Harriet Tubman
- Jordan Fischbach- Water Institute and Mid-Atlantic Rising (MARISA)
- Thomas Guentner- Landforce Director of Land Stewardship
- Dani Kramer- Allegheny Cleanways
- Mike Hiller- Upstream PGH
- Jan Raether, Upstream PGH
- Aaron Birdy- Upstream PGH
- Sandra Glass- Lincoln Lemington Collaborative
- Marissa Webber- CMU
- Claudia Saladin- Evolve EA
- Justin Kerns, MS Consultants
- David Rounce, CMU and Mid-Atlantic RISA
- Casey Markle- ALT
- Alyson Fearon- ALT
- Paul Martinchich- URA
- Malik G Bankston- Unaffiliated
- Viv Shaffer- Point Breeze North Development Corporation
- Anna Coleman- Pgh United
- Lauren Terpak
- Kara Whitfield
- Elizabeth Urbaitus
- Gabby DeMarchi- Operation Better Block

LNR at Larimer Next Steps

- Looked at Little Negley Run report as a benchmarking process for the taskforce to stay on track with deliverables
- Reminder that the taskforce can continually engage the community and other organizations about the Little Negley Run conveyance

River Roots Programming

- The fence coming down is critical to use of that space
- Paul Martinchich- plantings around basins and bioswales and planted which has delayed opening of that section of the park. That part of the park will open once the new plants begin growing- late spring/early summer
- Malik Bankston- discussed general timeline with John Stephen about when River Roots site will be reopening- based on conversation with Paul.
    - Envisioning 2 events at River Roots site in 2022
        - Ribbon cutting program- introduction of River Roots site in completed state, plan for early summer
            - Be sure to include all contributing partners in this program (public sector, philanthropy, etc.)
        - First installation of annual programming focusing on bolstering and reinforcing public understanding of River Roots project/site. Want to capitalize on the amphitheater setup in lower River Roots site to do a water-themed program, plan for late summer
            - Budget exists to support several years of programming for this group
    - Late February- convene a planning group for these events; John and Malik to coordinate the group
        - Let John Stephen know if you are interested in joining this planning committee

Water Infrastructure Projects around the Watershed

- Negley Run Army Corps partnership in Washington Blvd Corridor
    - Schedule is being extended to account for PWSA planning project
    - Specific focus on known stormwater problem areas
        - Flow meters will be installed; several areas in A-42 included in the plan
            - Being installed this spring
            - Data will be used to improve sewer system modeling and understand the level of service in the sewer system throughout the city
- Thomas and McPherson Project
    - Currently in construction
    - Community meeting to occur on Thursday Feb 17, 6:30-8pm on zoom- project website for updates: www.pgh2o.com/thomas-mcpherson
        - Sending out post cards, social media, emails
- Alley in poor condition, needed green infrastructure improvements
    - Construction to begin again in the spring
- Mellon Park Action Plan
    - Upcoming public presentations to share preferred plan for the park
        - Feb 22

        - Feb 26
- Westinghouse park
    - PBNDC meeting with City Planning next week to discuss this project
    - Major interest of new committee in PBNDC- green team for the neighborhood; working on Westinghouse park master plan
- Lincoln Lemington Belmar plan
    - Completed draft in December 2021
    - Implementation of new GI
    - How can the task force help move some recommendations forward for that plan
- Walnut Capital Bakery Square street project
    - Links Mellon Park, Westinghouse Park, and surrounding communities
    - Help mitigate runoff behind Chatham project
    - Concerns about Walnut Capital's engagement process with surrounding communities or lack there of for this project

PWSA Stormwater Strategic Plan

- The purpose of the stormwater strategic plan is to help address climate change and prioritize future projects over the next 5 years and into the future
    - Planning process anticipated to conclude in June 2022
    - Next steps: identify priority area where design work will take place; projects will help to illustrate 4P's: People, Planet, Place, and Performance

Stormwater Ambassadors

- Work to transform passionate residents into well-equipped knowledgeable champions of stormwater concerns in their communities
- Negley Run/Heth's Run Ambassadors:
    - Dana Fowler, Jo Anne Tippet, Shaman Pomaj chakmam yajalaji
    - Outreach plan: developed watershed survey- going from door to door throughout communities, tabling, etc.
        - Ask to share survey out to different groups and individuals

Stormwater Fee

- Change to rate structure
    - Cost will be allocated between 3 utilities: water, sewer, stormwater
    - Some are straightforward: water only/sewer only/stormwater only
    - Some are more challenging and must be allocated among the utilities (shared services (I.e. customer service, engineering, etc.)
- Starting in 2022, stormwater will be billed differently
    - As of January 12, stormwater fee has been implemented
    - Every parcel in Pittsburgh has been mapped and even if there is not water meter, it will still be eligible to pay a stormwater bill- fairer and more equitable way of billing
    - Stormwater rate table can be found here
    - The stormwater fee will fund capital costs, direct costs, and indirect costs

        - Capital costs- design and construction of stormwater projects identified in PWSA's capital program
        - Direct costs- day to day Maintenace: cleaning catch basins, weeding and maintenance of raingardens and infrastructure
        - Indirect costs- shared functions that support stormwater and wastewater infrastructure
- Communication activities
    - Hosted/attended about 50 stakeholder and community meetings to explain this process to individuals
    - Engaged stormwater advisory group (2018)- developed series of recommendations that stormwater fee was based on
    - Issued press releases throughout rate setting process
    - Notified stormwater only customers (5,400 individuals)
    - Utilized bill insert to provide updates to all customers
    - Developed social media, web, and digital content
    - Continuing building out ongoing communications through community meetings with community members, organizations, and stakeholders and uploading Engage PGH website, watershed walks
- Stormwater fee credits
    - Credits available for both residential and non-residential customers
    - Incentivizes property owners to help reduce the impact of stormwater runoff from a property on PWSA's stormwater management system and our rivers and streams
    - Non-residential customers must meet the City of Pittsburgh 2019 or 2016 stormwater standards
    - Residential customers must control at least ¾ inch of runoff from their property
    - More info can be found on website; customer assistance programs exist
- Fee finder website
    - Stormwater Fee Finder (arcgis.com)

Data and Mapping Work Group

- One Water Infrastructure Story Map
    - Walk through of story map on upstream pgh website- still working it out
    - Layer different pipes and sewer lines over one another to see how it relates to stormwater issues
- Grate Keepers- Allegheny Cleanways
    - Program started in 2020- first individually led volunteer project
    - Adopt a stormdrain- pick catch basin, visit it weekly or so, keep trash out of it, report it back and it gets added to the story map
    - Hopefully we can have more group neighborhood focused grate keeper events within the next 2 years
- Mid-Atlantic Regional Integrated Sciences and Assessments update
    - Doing work to build on modeling effort across watershed to focus in and ask questions about flooding on the neighborhood scale
    - Working to develop a more detailed flood model for portion of the area- likely to be a particular focus on Homewood- better understand the flood issues in more detail

    - Work with Flow monitoring with PWSA- working with big pipes to understand level of service but can be built upon to figure out block scale to see flooding issues on individual streets
    - Connect with data and mapping group soon to determine specific locations

Water Justice Event

- Homewood; Feb 15
- Clean Water Action with help from One Water Table
- Event is focused on regional EJ policy issues- legislation introduced in Harrisburg about EJ advisory board and policies from Governor Wolf
- Raising awareness for the need of water infrastructure investment particularly in low-income neighborhoods

Landforce

- Currently recruiting; applications closing on Feb 13
- Link here: https://www.landforcepgh.org/join-our-crew/apply-crew-member/