

# Parks With Purpose Community Task Force Newsletter: Meeting 2 Summary and Update

June 11, 2018 | St. Ambrose Episcopal Church

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**Participants:** *Community Task Force members:* Dr. Norman Camp and Betty Camp, Frances Carmichael, Amin Davis, Yasmin Fozard, Wayne Shore, Rev. Jemonde Taylor  
*Staff and Technical Advisors:* Eric Butler, Claire Cooney, Bill Flournoy, David Proper, Louie Rivers, Christy Perrin, Jazmin Varela, Kevin Boyer, Theo Jass, Roberta Fox, Stacia Turner, Peter Raabe, Shannon Lee

## Actions and decisions:

- A second asset mapping workshop was held July 19 with Neighborhood Ecology Corps students. The workshop is summarized within this document.
- The next meeting will be held August 27, 2018 at the Walnut Creek Wetland Center. Jazmin will share results of the asset mapping activity, and the group will discuss those and the results of the goal prioritization activity.

## June 11 meeting summary

On June 11, we had our second meeting to discuss priorities for the Parks With Purpose grant from the Conservation Fund. Louie began the meeting with introductions – there were some new faces in this meeting, particularly because it was the first meeting with community members and technical advisors together. Then, Christy gave some background for the project, explaining the intended use of the grant funds: to create a park or greenway that benefits the community, add onto an existing structure or park, or create multiple smaller projects throughout the community.

## Group charter and roles

Christy shared a draft group charter for consideration. The charter included roles of project contributors:

- Task force members: review meeting summaries for decision making, provide feedback, help create learning opportunities, attend meetings
- Technical advisors: provide up-to-date information, raise issues, encouraged to attend meetings, won't be part of final decision-making
- Project staff: coordinate the decision-making and implementation process, send agendas and summaries, bring in technical advisors, administer grant, coordinate with funders

The guidelines in the charter define what we will consider group consensus in this project. She explained a five-finger scale that can be used in meetings to express levels of satisfaction with an idea or to block a proposal. She reiterated the need to communicate reasons why someone has an objection to an idea. No one present had any suggested changes to the charter. Task

force members and technical advisors are invited to provide feedback by email or phone before the charter is finalized at the next meeting.

### Asset mapping activity

Next, Jazmin led an activity. She began by introducing the Chatham House Rule and how it should apply to these meetings: **if you share what happened in a meeting with someone who didn't attend, attribute ideas and suggestions to the general group instead of singling out individuals.** Then, she led us through a mapping activity that she created for the meeting. She brought large printed maps of the neighborhoods of interest and asked community and task force members to mark on the map areas of interest to them including cultural, historical, and/or natural areas where there may be opportunities for improvement. Participants wrote notes on worksheets to accompany the sites they marked on the map. She will take these maps and accompanying worksheets and incorporate the group contributions into digital maps for this project.

### Goal-prioritizing activity

Christy then introduced the final activity of the meeting. Community and task force members were presented with a large chart created from ideas shared in the first meeting in which different ideas/preferences were organized by their potential community/environmental benefits. Participants provided additional ideas and suggested some changes to how ideas were organized. Some additional ideas included:

- collaboration with other municipalities
- increasing cultural/historical awareness
- adding community science activities, (could be grouped with k-12 activities)
- capacity-building for grassroots community organizations (i.e. grant writing workshops, social media training, excel training)
- boosting community stability as opposed to creating a space for displacement (gentrification)
- changing “avoid flood devastation” to “minimize flood devastation”
- addressing/incorporating food security issues
- connecting with Shaw or St. Aug
- adding child's play as a priority. (As a post-meeting note – Christy didn't see child's play added in before the ranking, the group will need to consider that idea later in discussion).

Participants were then asked to each put 4 sticky dots on the ideas/issues raised that were the most important to them on the chart. After the meeting, Sarah created an online version of the exercise to send to task force members and technical advisors who could not attend the meeting, and members who attended the July 19 workshop were also provided an opportunity to fill it out. As a result, all task force members and most technical advisors completed the activity, providing an informative picture of priorities among the group. The final rankings are provided at the end of this summary for discussion at the August meeting.

Overall, it was a very productive meeting! Soon we hope to put relevant documents such as meeting summaries and charts on the website for the [Walnut Creek Wetland Community](#)

Partnership. The next meeting will be held August 27 (this time with a dinner healthier than pizza!)

## July 19 Asset-mapping workshop

Participants: Randy Senzig, NEC students Nick, Jaydn, Jaylen, John, Konswayla, Elijah, Claudia Graham,, Bettie Thompson, Stacie Hagwood, Louie Rivers, Christy Perrin

After introductions around the circle and a brief overview of the project, Louie provided instructions on how to participate in the asset-mapping activity. After splitting into two groups, participants placed sticky dots on maps to identify these locations. We reconvened afterwards to share what the group thought about the activity and what ideas came up.

Some but not all of the ideas included:

- The lot between Hoke and Garner Rd is a likely a brownfield with opportunity
- A creek festival to raise awareness
- Outdoor gathering space for elder citizens is needed (perhaps at Biltmore Park
  - Accessible, safe, conducive to socializing
  - Something like outdoor checker boards
- Community arboretum – educational, reflective, quiet spaces to pause and sit
  - On Peterson St. is a possibility
- Bailey Drive – a good opportunity for safe gathering, gazebo or performance space
- Marked walking trails through the neighborhood leading to the Park
  - Rochester Heights, Biltmore Hills, and North of Walnut Creek
- Meditation garden at/near St. Ambrose Church that welcomes all types of faith
- Garner St. Bridge is an asset in the rough. Clean it up, highlight it, provide a walking path to it.
- A Friends of Walnut Creek Wetland Park group would be helpful



### Next Steps

The maps and forms, along with similar information collected at the June Parks With Purpose Community Task Force meeting, will be digitized by Jasmin Varela from The Conservation Fund. The resulting maps will be presented at the Task Force's August 27 meeting. NEC students are invited to join the meeting, and Christy and Louie can also present the results at a fall NEC meeting.

## Related news and opportunities

A few of us attended the peer exchange meeting hosted by The Conservation Fund in Atlanta on July 17-18 with other communities receiving Parks With Purpose grants . Community Task Members were invited to attend. Community Task Force members were also invited to attend the national One Water Summit in Minneapolis in early July. Wayne Shore, Amin Davis, and Christy Perrin went as part of a larger group from the Triangle.

The first public showing of the Partners for Environmental Justice documentary is at the Walnut Creek Wetland Center on 9/22 around 1pm after the Big Sweep Clean-Up. If you can't make it, the film will be available afterward online and we can share a link to it.

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### Appendix: Results of rankings for potential project goals

POTENTIAL GOALS FOR PARKS WITH PURPOSE PROJECT			
Project Goals	Community task force member top preference	Technical advisor top preference	Total
Minimize future flood devastation	✓	✓✓✓✓	5
Environmental enhancement through ongoing community programs/festivals	✓✓✓✓	✓✓	7
Use education as a tool to control flooding	✓✓✓	✓	4
Intergenerational aspect to the project	✓✓✓✓	✓✓	6
Use art to show environmental problems and solutions	✓✓	✓	3
Create projects to showcase existing businesses			
Provides opportunity for job training	✓	✓✓✓✓	6

<b>Project Goals</b>	<b>Community task force member top preference</b>	<b>Technical advisor top preference</b>	<b>Total</b>
Walnut Creek bank restoration/cleanup (Garner – State)	✓✓✓✓		5
Prevent runoff into Little Rock and Walnut Creeks	✓	✓	3
Integration of green stormwater infrastructure at Fuller or Carnage Schools	✓✓	✓✓	6
Creation of pollinator habitats and preservation of soil		✓✓	2
Access to Walnut Creek, community events there	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	8
Informative Tree Trail			0
A local park engages local minorities in environmental activities	✓✓	✓	4
K-12 research opportunities	✓		1
Site attracts visitors	✓		1
Collaboration upstream/with other municipalities	✓		1
Increase cultural and historic awareness	✓✓	✓✓	5
Community science activities	✓✓✓	✓✓	6
Build capacity of local groups	✓✓	✓✓	5
Create community stability (anti-gentrification)	✓✓✓✓	✓✓✓	9
Incorporate food security/address food deserts	✓	✓✓✓	5