

Parks with Purpose Community Task Force Newsletter and Meeting Summary

October 7, 2019 Meeting | Norman and Betty Camp Education Center

August meeting participants: Kathleen Armstrong; Kevin Boyer, Raleigh Stormwater; Eric Butler, Shaw University; Betty Camp, Norman Camp Jr.; Ana Carrell, NCSU College of Natural Resources (CNR); Frances Carmichael, Biltmore Hills; Heather Dutra, Raleigh Stormwater; Bill Flournoy, Triangle Greenways Council Claudia Graham, Biltmore Hills; Shannon Lee, The Conservation Fund (TCF); Stacie Hagwood, Walnut Creek Wetland Park; Kelly McChesney, City of Raleigh; Mikiya McClain; NEC; Kyle Pearson, Rochester Heights; Christy Perrin, WRR; Louie Rivers, NCSU CNR; Randy Senzig, Center for Human and Earth Restoration; Jaydin Taylor, Alyssa Taylor, Neighborhood Ecology Corps; Stacia Turner, TCF

Task Force Actions and Decisions

- **Next Task Force meeting is December 2, 2019 at the Walnut Creek Wetland Park**

Parks with Purpose Team Updates

- **A Bailey Drive Greenspace design workshop is planned for Nov. 9 from 10:00 am- 1:00 pm at St. Ambrose Church**
- "I Support Bailey Drive Greenspace" yard signs are available for anyone who wants one at the Norman and Betty Camp Education Center. It includes a new project phone # 919-689-1991
- The Conservation Fund received a \$60,000 Duke Energy Foundation grant to remove invasive vegetation on the site. They will hire ACES, a group out of Asheville, to work with City of Raleigh PRCR to plan for and remove woody vegetation in February 2020.

Meeting Summary

Meeting the design team

One main objective of the meeting was to meet and talk with the design team hired to create a design for the Bailey Drive Green space. Design Workshop is the lead consulting firm on the team. The design team includes Emily McCoy, Adeline Lerner, and Lindsey Naylor (Design Workshop), Jackie Turner (J.Turner Consulting), Jason Wright (Tetra Tech), Kris Bass (KB Engineering), Michael Allen (NV5-CALYX), Auburn Hall (SEPI) and Erin Sterling Lewis (In Situ Studio). Their team includes the expertise necessary for designing the site, including landscape architecture, stormwater engineering, civil engineering, community engagement, surveying, and architecture if needed.

Jackie Turner, who will be leading public engagement for the design effort, led an ice-breaker exercise to kick off the meeting. Participants chose from photos provided at their tables, then explained what the photo represented for them in the endeavor to create the Bailey Drive greenspace.

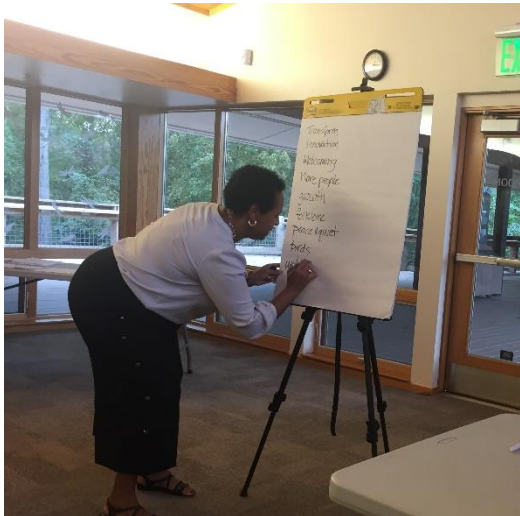
Emily McCoy presented on the Design Workshop Team, the types of projects they have done and their approach to parks design. Basically that includes:

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1. Leverage the work already done
2. Strengthen partnerships
3. Foster resiliency and ecosystem health
4. Connect to what is happening upstream in the watershed
5. Catalyze an action-oriented plan
6. Integrate management (balance between an innovative site that is manageable)
7. Respond to community needs
8. Activate the space- show it's a place that people care about.

Emily shared some similar projects conducted by Design Works, including Storymill Park, and the Houston Arboretum. The team is used to working with people to help identify priorities, phase projects, and secure additional funds.

Jackie discussed her community engagement approach as making room at the table, and adjusting the process as they learn more from people. She often asks people what they need, then asks what they want. She discussed possible engagement techniques, such as open house workshops, attending other groups' events such as church meetings, and hosting



Jackie Taylor from the design team

community chats at peoples' houses or other places. She could provide a "community toolkit" to provide brief engagement/feedback opportunities at events or neighborhood meetings. She suggested that it is important for us to talk about demographics, culture, race, ethnicity, and religion throughout the design process.

They do want to host a community workshop and invite everyone from Rochester Heights and Biltmore Hills to attend. Based on past experience, the best way to reach people would be through a door to door effort. (Post meeting note- the team planned/held the workshop Nov. 9 from 10:00 am- 1:00 PM at St. Ambrose Church. Results of the workshop will be shared at the Dec. 2 PWP Task Force Meeting)

After becoming familiar with materials from the Parks with Purpose Task Force meetings so far, surveying the property, and getting feedback and ideas from the broader community, the Design Team will create two concept alternatives. The graphics they create will have bubbles of programming at different locations on the Bailey Drive site. After seeking feedback on these alternatives, they will develop a consensus plan with the desired elements, costs, and a timeline for execution.

Schedule- Phase 1 includes surveying trees, utilities. Phase 2 includes a community workshop, working with the Task Force on honing 2 alternative concepts. They are aiming to have illustrative designs for a consensus concept plan before the holidays (optimistically), and create engineering drawings in early 2020.

Comments from/discussion with Task Force participants:

- **Participants referenced the good work conducted by Kofi Boone's design students.** The Design team will start with the designs. Emily talked with Kofi and learned that what was missing was the telling of the community's story, and also the students had minimal time for site analysis before creating their designs. The team will review

what the Task Force liked about the students' designs, and look at the designs with professional eyes.

- **The Task Force has spent much time discussing goals and potential park elements already.** The design team will not start from scratch, but also recognize that it's important to reach out to the broader Rochester Heights and Biltmore Hills community to try to bring them into the design process. If neighbors do not love it, it won't be a successful park project.
- **Opportunities for gathering input for design.** Going door to door has worked for raising awareness and talking directly with residents. At Fuller Elementary, the principal can send information to parents from the nearby neighborhoods. We'll expand our social media beyond Facebook and Nextdoor to also include Instagram (Mikiya McClain, NEC student, will do Instagram posts). Other ideas include reaching churches- Deliverance Evangelistic Tabernacle on Waller Pl; The Poe Ctr for Health Education (via Kathleen Armstrong).

Walnut Creek Wetland Park updates

Big Sweep was a success on Oct. 5, with the removal of 40 tires plus much trash. Frances coordinated, with much help from Claudia.

Stacie shared that several trees were taken down on the corner of Garner Road and Peterson St as part of a development project that will include 154 affordable housing units. Another project further up Garner Rd. will tear down old housing and build 200 affordable housing units. Stacie was able to acquire large pieces of the trees for use in the park.

Animal Diversity in the Park

Taelor Gray-Arnold, a Shaw University student, conducted wildlife studies in the wetland park during summer 2019. NCSU students have studied wildlife in the park, but not during the summer. She and Dr. Eric Butler presented results of the studies, and discussed findings. Taelor installed motion-detection cameras with infrared to record in the dark, and took photos with a camera. She looked for arthropods (insects), reptiles and amphibians, mammals (saw fox, raccoons, deer, coyotes), and birds. Some reptiles and amphibians observed include squirrel tree frog, green frog, ringnecked snake, narrow mouth toad, and earth snake. She used eBird to record birds, and Eric analyzed eBird data. eBird is a crowd-sourced app for reporting bird sightings.

They were able to compile data that informed how many minutes it took to find a species, which represents species rarity, and when people saw various bird species. So if somebody wanted to see a certain warbler species, the data can tell them. They will explore how they can analyze the data, for example to possibly estimate frequency of animals using certain places in the park. Some highlights of the studies:

- Most unusual species Taelor saw- groundhog and muskrats were not expected.
- Aquatic species were seen and photographed, but she did not have the materials needed to capture and identify them.
- Marbled salamanders have also been seen in the park.
- Beavers are around- Stacie has found 5 lodges. They dammed Little Rock Creek last year. Park cameras have caught otters and mink, too.



A gray fox captured on video

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- Most interesting video- an owl on the ground, possibly using claws to catch crayfish.

American Rivers/ Rochester Heights Tributary project

The small grant from American Rivers allowed Christy and Louie to advertise for a part-time intern. This project's goals are to investigate and identify opportunities to reduce stormwater runoff from entering the Rochester Heights Tributary by using GIS, field surveys, and to work with adjoining residents to explore whether small yard-level solutions like streamside plantings could help reduce yard erosion. The new intern will work on this project and help coordinate with the Parks with Purpose project from Oct 2019- March 2020.

(Update – Grace Fullmer has been hired as the intern, and will be joining us at the Nov. 9 workshop and Dec. 2 PWP meeting.)

The next meeting will be held Monday, December 2 at 5:30PM
at the Norman and Betty Camp Education Center
950 Peterson st, Raleigh, NC 27610

For information about the Urban Park with Purpose Community Task Force or Walnut Creek Wetland Community Partnership, contact Christy Perrin at Christy_perrin@ncsu.edu or Louie Rivers at livers@ncsu.edu

Below left photo-Taelor Arnold Gray and Eric Butler talk about wildlife; Below right- Task Force discussion

