

# Parks with Purpose Community Task Force Newsletter and Meeting Summary

August 19, 2019 Meeting | Norman and Betty Camp Education Center

**August meeting participants:** Amin Davis, Heather Dutra, Kevin Boyer, Bill Flournoy, Eric Butler, Claire Cooney, Frances Carmichael, Shannon Lee, Ana Carrell, Claudia Graham, Stacie Hagwood, Yazmin Fozard, Betty Camp, Norman Camp Jr., Christy Perrin, Louie Rivers, Sarah Shefte

## Task Force Actions and Decisions

- **Next Task Force meeting is October 7, 2019 at the Walnut Creek Wetland Park**
- Interviews held Tuesday, September 10 around 1-3pm, with prep call September 9

## Parks with Purpose Team Updates

- The Bailey Drive Greenspace Event will be held September 7
- "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 project phone # 919-689-1991

## Meeting Summary

### Discussing design firm proposals and next steps

Although five design firms said they would submit proposals for our project, only two did -- Timmons Group and Design Workshop. The next step is to interview both design firms. Then, the selection committee will review the RFP and other current documentation and create any additional documentation that is needed to create engineer plans. The firm selected will go through the creative placemaking phase, in which the group goes through a community visioning process with the designer. Next, the design team will create construction documents that will go through the city permitting process.

The design firm selection committee is open to anyone who would like to be involved and is willing to read several pages of proposals and other documentation to support the decision-making process.

Another upcoming task is to create a budget sheet for the project. RFP gave a range of - \$500,000 to a million dollars which we could expect to spend pretty quickly in the construction and design process.

Shannon recommended that even if we lack the funds to accomplish everything we have in mind for this park, it is useful to develop concept plans during this phase of the process that can be shown to potential funders in the future.

The City of Raleigh plans to do work on the north side of the creek next year. Our project could be incorporated in one of two ways:

- If the phase I component of our project is engineered and permitted by next spring (when the city plans to start work), it can be incorporated into their contract, which would save us time and money, or
- We could create a memorandum of understanding with the city so that they would manage the construction, making them responsible for construction costs and fees.

Hopefully the City of Raleigh project will begin later than currently scheduled so that we have more time to fundraise for additional park features. We've asked the designers for broken-down cost structures (what does a gazebo cost, what does a trail cost, etc) so that we can break it down into phases and fundraise accordingly.

Task Force members briefly reviewed hard copies of the proposals, then came up with some things to consider and questions to ask during interviews.

### Design Firm Interviews

The group decided to plan interviews for Tuesday, September 10 around 1-3pm at the Wetland Center. A preliminary conversation is scheduled for the morning of September 9 for group members to discuss what kinds of questions we should ask applicants. So far, the committee includes Christy, Louie, Shannon, Yazmin, Amin, Claudia, Frances, and Bill.

### Bailey Drive Green Space Event

Claudia is spearheading the planning for the Bailey Drive Greenspace event. Some promotion activities include:

- Putting out signs in the community
- Posting on community bulletin boards
- Sending a "save the date" via Nextdoor

Planners were trying to find someone to lead a group fitness class at the event, such as a yoga instructor. Some sort of catering will also be necessary – the interfaith food shuttle was discussed. The Kona Ice truck will come to the event.



*Residents learn about watersheds from NEC*

### New Rochester Heights Tributary project

American Rivers has provided another small grant (\$10,000) to extend the work of the Walnut Creek Wetland Community Partnership from Sept 2019- March 2020. This project will investigate if there are opportunities to reduce stormwater runoff from entering the Rochester Heights Tributary by using GIS and field surveys, and to work with adjoining residents to explore whether small yard-level solutions like tree planting could help reduce yard erosion. A part-time intern will be hired to conduct the technical work and spend some time helping coordinate between the Parks with Purpose project. The work will be overseen by Christy, Louie, Amin, Mitch Woodward with Wake Cooperative Extension and Cam McNutt with NC Division of Water Resources. Cam is developing an online Walnut Creek Watershed Tool and will help coordinate our activities with the larger watershed effort.

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**The next meeting will be held **Monday, October 7 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](mailto:Christy_perrin@ncsu.edu) or Louie Rivers at [livers@ncsu.edu](mailto:livers@ncsu.edu)*