Beargrass Creek Alliance

Minutes for Regular Meeting held on June 22, 2020

The Beargrass Creek Alliance held its monthly meeting via Zoom.

Plugged-in attendees:

Colette Easter, Louisville MSD

Suzanne Hoehne

Mark Long, reporter

Martha Carlson Mazur

David Rummler

David Spenard

Ward Wilson, Executive Director, Kentucky Waterways Alliance

Due to technical difficulties, the following were unable to plug in:

Ed Allgeier

Linda Gugin

Jim St. Clair

Discussions

Ward has been in contact with Laura Matthews, project manager for the Army Corps of Engineers $3 million initiative to restore the entire Beargrass Creek ecosystem. At present, the Corps is doing field work. Concerning the Every Drop program, Ward noted that two interns in his office will be contacting those who have had rain barrels, rain gardens and/or pollinators installed to learn about their experiences with the program.

David Spenard reported on a hearing he attended about a proposed 504-unit, four-story apartment building for 9.4 acres of land on Hikes Lane by LDG Development of Louisville. The complex would also include a four-story parking garage with 800 spaces. The complex would be near to homes and on the east side of Saint Michael Church propery. Neighbors are naturally concerned about flooding, increased traffic and drainage into Beargrass Creek. The developer is seeking a zoning change, which probably will be filed in July. David said he wanted BCA to be aware of this project because of the significant loss of green space and the potential adverse effect on the South Fork of Beargrass Creek from wastewater. Another hearing on the project is scheduled for Monday, June 29.

David Rummler asked about setting a date for his presentation at Bellarmine in the fall. Martha Mazur noted she would be on sabbatical in the fall but could put him in contact with the faculty adviser for the Green Knights, the university’s environmental club.

Collette Easter, project manager for MSD’s watershed project for Beargrass Creek’s Middle Fork, noted the two-year study is currently in its initial phase, which consists of collecting samples for stream flow, turbidity, ph. levels, diversified oxygen levels, e-coli, segmentation, and temperature. Despite the Covid19 outbreak, crews have been collecting samples monthly, which will be used to characterize the watershed and to identify ways to improve water quality. The study will also assess habitat and riparian zones. This is the first watershed plan in an urban area in Kentucky.

Ward said he is pleased this study is under way and that it will provide a needed road map for making improvements, though he noted it will take time to get the creek restored.

Ward also raised the question of whether the group wanted to have its annual Potluck supper in July, noting it could have to be held according to established guidelines for events during the Covid outbreak. Suzanne said she would send out a poll to members to determine the level of interest.