

Minutes for Regular Meeting of Beargrass Creek Alliance on March 15, 2021, held via Zoom

Attending: Ward Wilson, executive director, Kentucky Waterways Alliance, Linda Gugin, BCA president, Jim St. Clair, BCA secretary, David Rummeler, Rick Harned, Sarah Wolff, Martha Carlson Mazur, David Wicks, Deany Collard, Jackie Green, and Perry Thomas.

Linda Gugin, president, presiding.

Topics of discussion

Trash collection:

Ward said KWA is trying to up its game on trash collection and has applied for a grant from the Louisville Water Foundation to hire an intern to coordinate trash collection; a decision on the application is expected in May. Also, KWA is expected to hear in April about its application to the Clif Bar Family Foundation to support hiring a part-time staff person to help organize clean-ups.

Butchertown/NuLu/Phoenix Hill Master Plan:

A draft version of this plan, which includes four goals for Beargrass Creek, is expected to be released later in March. Ward said BCA will publicize the report and will be ready to help implement it. Linda noted that the BNP plan used the Beargrass Creek Legacy Project done by the Center for New Urbanism as a resource. David Wicks added that proposal also contains a good history of BCA.

Earth Day, April 22:

Linda said there are three options for Earth Day: joining with Brightside, which is doing projects working with members of Metro Council; David Bell is supposed to advise us of which districts are involved; Sarah Wolff, of Olmsted Parks Conservancy, says they are participating in the mayor's Month of Service. Groups can form pods or join other pods. Linda said BCA can form a pod of its own or we can join the pod organized by Olmsted Parks. Another option is cleaning up the loop in Cherokee Park. Sarah said clean-ups in Cherokee Park need to go through her office with Olmsted Parks Conservancy. Martha said she could get students to help with posting signs and putting out trash bins. Rick said he's interested in helping with the clean-ups. Sarah noted that a major issue with trash in Beargrass Creek is upstream properties, apartment complexes in particular.

In addition, David Wicks is working with Perry Thomas of the Kentucky Division of Water on a photography contest for K through 12 students focused on water. Their photos will be exhibited at the Louisville Free Public Library in conjunction with the library's Ohio River exhibit, the University of Louisville, Louisville Water Company, African-American Heritage Center, and River City Paddle Sports. Ward suggested BCA could give out an award for the best photo of Beargrass Creek.

Deany Collard, a photographer who was joining her first meeting of BCA, isn't waiting for Earth Day to help clean up Beargrass Creek. On her own initiative, she has been removing trash from a portion of the creek near the Nightingale Pumping Station. BCA might explore helping Deany as an Earth Day project.

Trash tracker

Perry Thomas discussed an app called Debris Tracker, which is supported by National Geographic, documents where trash is and where it goes. Individuals and groups can use the app to monitor trash and then upload their images. Linda noted this could help BCA where it wants to conduct clean-ups of the creek. Rick said he can recruit St. Xavier students to participate such projects.