Beargrass Creek Alliance

Minutes for Regular Meeting held on September 14, 2020

The Beargrass Creek Alliance held at home of Ann and Dan Siebert, president

Others present:

Linda Gugin

David Rummler

David Spenard

Jim St. Clair, Secretary

Ward Wilson, Executive Director, Kentucky Waterway Alliance

Discussions

David Spenard provided an update to the proposed 507-unit, four-story apartment building with adjacent four-story parking garage to be built on 9 ½ acres on Hikes Lane by LDG Development of Louisville. The land on the former Saint Barnabas property is currently owned by the Catholic Church and is adjacent to Saint Michael Church property. Beargrass Creek borders part of the Saint Barnabas property.

In addition to the loss of greenspace, LDG has proposed a detention basin as a means of addressing adverse consequences to the creek. David said the LDG proposal will impact drainage into the creek both in terms of quality (nonpoint source pollution) and volume. He said there is concern that MSD may not be as aggressive on drainage issues because rather than draining stormwater through infrastructure pipes, the stormwater will drain directly into the creek.

MSD reviewed the request for “downstream” sewer capacity for the project and would only confirm the availability of 80 percent of the capacity requested by LDG, perhaps meaning that improvements necessary for additional sewer capacity would be cost-prohibitive to LDG. It might mean the number of units will be significantly reduced.

The formal application has not been filed yet. When it is David recommends that BCA review it and comment on the impact to the creek. Dan said BCA is willing to weigh in and comment on the project.

After the developer’s application is filed, the proposed zoning change will move through the office of planning and zoning and then the Metro Council will review and vote on an amendment to the zoning map. Any change in zoning is subject to judicial review.

Ward reported that after receiving grants from Newman’s Own Foundation and the Owsley Brown II Foundation for COVID-19 monitoring and public information, KWA was able to hire Cullen Hunter, a U of L student, who will conduct COVID testing of waterways and wastewater. KWA has also created a simple do-it-yourself guide so individuals can do their own clean-up projects. It’s on the web at <https://kwalliance.org/wpcontent/uploads/2020/08/KWA-CLEANUP-GUIDE-2020.pdf>

Also, in conjunction with the Louisville MSD/KY Division of Water Middle Fork Watershed Planning Project, BCA members can participate in some clean-ups. Ward would also like to schedule another showing of the Beargrass Creek film, but noted that would have to wait until the COVID crisis is over; the same is true for bike tour of the Middle Fork.

Ward also reported that the widening of I-71 from Spaghetti Junction to Watterson is scheduled and will have an effect on the creek. More information on how to comment is on the web at <https://i-moveky.com/>