

## Open Space & Brownfields

August 11, 2021

1:00pm-2:00pm

Zoom



### Notes

#### I. Welcome and Introductions

- 11 attendees; 2 Camden residents/businesses

#### II. Special Presentations

- a. Discussion on Discover the Delaware – Don Baugh, President of [Upstream Alliance](#)
  - History: William Penn Foundation linked the existing conservation/ outdoor groups with the mantra “two rivers, one city” and this group became discover the Delaware
  - (Public/private) partnership between: NJ Conservation Foundation, Camden County, Urban Promise, Center for Aquatic Sciences, Independence Seaport Museum, Upstream Alliance, CCP, NJ Natural Lands Trust, CCMUA
    1. An outgrowth of Alliance for Watershed Education
  - Discover the Delaware aims to highlight and preserve the natural greenway along the waterways
    1. This is a regional and local opportunity
    2. Priority is for local community access, though; decades of water pollution and injustice hampered local community access
  - Aspiration to make new greenways in the yellow shading (see map below)
    1. Created a greenway committee with this vision to talk about the status of certain properties
    2. Working together in partnership want to pull together the money, find the sellers, remediate, etc.
  - Adding to the greenway: Sadler’s point park to open 2022, plus Cramer Hill Park and Nature Preserve
    1. Petty’s Island is a matter of remediation
  - Methods for connecting people to the Delaware:
    1. Got public figures on the water like the mayor, congressman Norcross, senator Perez
    2. [Floatopia](#)-like events; floating docks, floating camping
  - Center for Aquatic Sciences: first year doing a lot of Camden resident specific outreach
    1. Getting diverse groups out there; people who are averse to water
    2. Recently in conversations to have swimming/ paddling lessons
  - The biggest challenge is funding to get staff to do this (don’t want to charge people for these events)
  - 3 goals: 8-mile greenway, a 13-mile water trail, and serve the community
    1. Need to have the community involved on all aspects
  - Pyne Poynt issue of larger boats trying to get in: solution would be the signage part of the greenway plan and diverting those boats to the larger launch to be constructed at Sadler’s Poynt
  - Issue of backchannel area preservation: trying to dovetail with Cramer Hill Plan to try to keep development all grounded in equity

### III. Hot Topics

- a. Takeaways, questions, and comments from “Camden Police-City Parks Initiative”-- Michelle Bassetti, Strategic Analysis Unit—Planning Team (CCPD)
  - Need to have a follow up conversation with them
    1. Have they started acting on their plans?
    2. Is there anything specific we (CCI) can do to assist?
    3. How can the city get an actual parks department?
  - Separate initiative: resident led
    1. [“Not in my parks”](#): did a clean-up last week... same idea but no police
- b. Lot 1, Block 1
  - Got a request from AG office on the status of the site; waiting to hear back about updated photos and information for the status of the site
  - Ultimate goal of the developer’s project is still being determined
    1. Issue is that the owner of the site noted that the fill brought on would be used in the remediation... but the amount of soil brought on is an issue (damage to wetlands and runoff in flood events)
- c. Yaffa site at 7<sup>th</sup> & Chestnut St.
  - Waiting for the court response that is due; previous date extended for responses
  - Come September, DEP should have a formal response for current and former property owners

### IV. Park Planning

- a. Current Issues
  - [Whitman Park groundbreaking](#)
    1. Exemplar project showing how to tackle one of the state’s largest illegal dumping sites (Camden lab): Demolition of building, remediation of the site, working with city/ county/ all levels to renovate and expand the park, addressed flooding on site
- b. Key Next Steps
  - Park in Cooper Plaza being resurfaced

### V. Park Security & Maintenance

- a. Current Issues
  - ATVs: renewed interest in an ATV park in [Philadelphia](#)
    1. City Council leading the effort; discussing the possibility of allocating money and where to locate it
    2. Fire fueled by activists and riders asking for it and of course the complaints from non-users
    3. Police conduct
    4. periodic sweeps to confiscate them
- b. Key Next Steps
  - Find out: exactly what information have they received to see if it works, what are their next steps, and if it will move forward?

### VI. Brownfields

- a. Current Issues
  - N. Camden Brownfields Assessment Project underway with PS&S

1. Talk to Discover the Delaware to discuss priority sites for development of waterfront parks
  - b. Key Next Steps
    - Find/ make list of brownfields for public knowledge
      1. CRA and has a list... will double check that it's publicly available
- VII. Programming**
  - a. Current Issues
    - Kayak programs to all interested groups. Email [trails@aquaticsciences.org](mailto:trails@aquaticsciences.org)
  - b. Key Next Steps
- VIII. Additional Information/Resources**
  - a. Environmental Summit 2021 keynote speaker suggestions email to [mfrankil@camdencpinc.com](mailto:mfrankil@camdencpinc.com)
    - November 23<sup>rd</sup>... Tuesday before Thanksgiving
    - Soon will be asking for nominations for environmental heroes

DISCLAIMER: This is a summary of the meeting and is based upon the written notes and memory of individuals from Cooper's Ferry Partnership and members of the CCI Core Team. The notes are intended to capture only the main points made in the meeting, and they reflect comments on work-in-progress. The notes do not imply a specific opinion or commitment on the part of any individual or organization represented at the meeting. Report any corrections to [camdencollaborative@camdencpinc.com](mailto:camdencollaborative@camdencpinc.com)

*Next Meeting: CCI All Working Groups Meeting, September 14<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm*