

**Mt. Penn Preserve Executive Committee Meeting**

**Monday, December 5, 2016**

**Penn Room, City Hall**

**4 pm**

**Attending:** K. Barnhardt (County), L. Olsen (Pagoda Foundation), J. Waltman (City), M. Goodman-Hinnershitz (City), P. Kline (Alsace), M. Dudash (Mt. Penn), C. Crupi (Lower Alsace & Pagoda Skyline), L. Kelleher (City and CHCC), S. Rossmann (County Planning), W. Stefanik (RBAR), M. Reinert (Pagoda Skyline & Pagoda Foundation, G. Creary (Simone Collins consultant)

Mr. Olsen called the meeting to order at 4 pm.

Mr. Barnhardt explained that this group is the Mt. Penn Preserve Executive Committee. The Steering Committee is a broader group composed of various interested individuals and organizations who will provide various suggestions and input that will assist the Executive Committee in their decision making.

Mr. Waltman noted that although he and Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz are present at this initial meeting, in the future they will share the work to ensure the City has representation on the group.

After introductions, Mr. Olsen explained that Mr. Creary is representing Simone Collins, a consulting firm that has the experience to conduct a charrette to prepare an implementation plan to ensure the future of the Mt. Penn Preserve. He stated that originally the charrette was planned for October/November but after discussions with Peter Simone the sessions were delayed until February/March 2017. He explained that the charrette will be a combination of Executive Committee meetings and public meetings with the Steering Committee and other interested parties. The public meetings will be held at Stokesay, the Leiderkrantz and possibly Mt. Springs/Captains Cove. He noted that the initiative was developed when the Pagoda Foundation conducted a strategic planning session.

Mr. Olsen thanked Mr. Stefanik and RBAR (Reading-Berks Assoc. of Realtors) for funding the initiative. Ms. Rossman stated that additional funding will be provided by a DCNR Peer-to-Peer grant and that Reading, Alsace, Lower Alsace, Mt. Penn and the County have made contributions to cover the required matching funds.

Mr. Creary explained that the implementation plan will be developed using data collected during all the charrette sessions and the last meeting will unveil the final plan. The Executive Committee sessions will act as the nucleus to sift through the data collected by interested individuals and organizations at the public meetings.

The charrette schedule defined to date is as follows:

- Friday, Feb. 24<sup>th</sup> 9 am-noon project area tour w/ Executive & Steering Committee and 1-4 pm brainstorming session w/ Exec & Steering Committee
- Saturday, Feb 25<sup>th</sup> 10 am-4 pm open house Charrette formal presentations at 11 am and 2 pm - public meeting
- Thursday, Mar. 9<sup>th</sup> 4-6 pm and 7-9 pm two identical meetings to present initial design concepts - public meetings
- Saturday, Mar. 25<sup>th</sup> 10 am – 4 pm open house Charrette formal presentations of Draft Master Plan at 11 am and 2 pm - public meeting
- Two week open public comment period on Draft Master Plan
- Monday, Apr. 10<sup>th</sup> 2-4 pm w/ Executive & Steering Committee re changes to Draft Master Plan
- Thursday, Apr. 20<sup>th</sup> 7-9 pm public meeting for presentation of final Master Plan

Mr. Waltman suggested that the Executive Committee meet again prior to the start of the charrette sessions to define a scope of objectives and the geographic area for the plan. He noted that the area could include Neversink to the south, City Park to the west and Bernhart's Park to the north. Those present agreed to meet to define the objectives and geographic area.

Mr. Barnhardt will contact the Leiderkrantz, Ms. Crupi will contact Mt. Springs/Captains Cove and Mr. Olen will contact Stokesay to make reservations for the public sessions.

The group also decided to invite the media to all charrette sessions to help achieve greater transparency.

The meeting concluded at 4:55 pm. Mr. Olsen will arrange the next meeting for early January in the Penn Room on a Monday at 3:30 pm.

*Respectfully submitted by Linda A. Kelleher CMC, City Clerk*