

Sherwood Tannery Community Meeting #1

Meeting Summary

July 28, 2015

This was the first of three planned community meetings discussion focused on the site assessment and clean-up planning at the Tannery site.

The meeting started with a brief overview by Julia Hajduk regarding what a brownfield site is, providing a brief background on the Tannery site and discussing why the City is interested in the site.

Rose Sherwood with Washington County Public Health spoke about redevelopment and public health. She noted that there are opportunities, through redevelopment of brownfield sites to improve public health.

After the brief introduction to the topic, two questions were asked of the group:

- What are your concerns about the current tannery site?
- How can redevelopment of the tannery site and/or public works yard address these concerns?

Intentionally open-ended, the project team wanted to hear from the public regarding what their concerns were and what they saw as real opportunities.

Other issues that were not directly related to the Tannery site were brought up, including discussion of the Ken Foster Farm Site. The Ken Foster Farm (KFF) site is located off Murdock Road and consists of 40 acres of land which had wastes from the Tannery site placed on the soil as a "soil amendment" in the past. Since that time, it became known that this waste management practice was actually placing contaminants on the site. DEQ is working with the property owners to assess and clean-up the affected properties. While related, the EPA grant will not fund activities on the KFF site. However, it is understood that many of the comments and concerns are interrelated.

What are your concerns about the current tannery site?

KFF

- Increase money (revenue) from Tannery site to help clean up KFF site
- Remediation should consider both this site and KFF
- City going through this just to park City trucks; should focus on KFF

Safety

- Community well water contamination
- Shallow ground water contamination
- Contamination extent; how deep does it go? Does it extend off-site? What are the health impacts? What is the cost to clean up?
- Need to know what is on-site before any action is taken
- Safety – dry fire hazard, no fence allows people to access the property (rebuild fence?)

- Concern about accurate information from DEQ and potential that standards will change requiring different levels of clean up
- Concern that digging up ground for redevelopment may cause more contamination problems
- Health in general; Appearance of lots, both on this site and the adjacent privately owned sites
- Structures without parking
- Don't want to see new housing subdivisions built on the site
- Increased traffic on Oregon Street with redevelopment
- How would City vehicles access the public works yard if it moves to the Tannery site?
- Concern that if Sherwood does all this work, will the County actually transfer the property to the City or could they change their minds?
- What other grant money is possible and/or likely if City moves forward? Are there other funding opportunities if grants don't cover the costs?
- What is done with the contaminated waste that is removed from the site?

How can redevelopment of the tannery site and/or public works yard address these concerns?

- Opportunity to lease additional property not occupied by new public works yard
- Opportunity for entry from Langer Farms Parkway or Baler to cut down on traffic from Oregon Street
- Employment
- Moving public works out of Old Town will spur additional redevelopment there
- Attractive face (if done well) along Oregon Street
- Trails along wetlands for dogs and bikes

Other comments

- State should help clean up KFF sites too
- Public needs to have a say in the process

Next Steps/Follow-up action

- Coordinate with DEQ to share and discussing feedback regarding the KFF site
- Provide more information on the Sherwood webpage regarding the KFF site and DEQ action
- Prepare a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document to address questions raised
- Update website with meeting summary and FAQ
- Coordinate with County to get signage on the property
- Next Community Meeting will be held in Spring 2016; however updates will be emailed to the interested parties list at relevant project milestones