

July 22, 2014

To: Brandon Goldman and each individual member of the working group

Re: Normal Neighborhood Working Group

Growing up in Arizona, I had a chance to experience the terrifying power of a flash flood pouring down a desert wash after a storm in nearby mountains. I would never have imagined that I could have that same experience here in Ashland, but I did. I live at 322 Meadow Drive on the lot that is twice as wide as other lots in the neighborhood and which backs on Cemetery Creek.

One morning after a thunderstorm and heavy rainfall in the hills to the south, I heard water rushing out back and went out to face a torrent that was 60 to 80 feet across and almost to the top of the retaining wall that protects the houses on that side of our development. The water was rushing past with enough power to carry large pieces of debris from properties to the south.

The flood began to drop and slow down after only a short period of time, so I went to the end of Creek drive to find out where all of the water had gone. The entire stretch of land to the east was a wide, shallow lake.

This type of flood will occur again, and without adequate planning on the part of the city, future buildings and roads will not allow the water to spread out and evaporate as it did this time. I have serious concerns about my house being flooded next time along with the houses of my current neighbors and those in the new neighborhoods.

My second concern involves the type of homes to be built on the land directly across from my house. I have always known that there would be development on this property and feel that it is the owner's right to do so. But this is the most scenic part of the wetlands in this area, and densely packed housing here, particularly multi-family housing of more than two stories, could destroy the current recreational and scenic value of this riparian area. Originally cluster housing was being considered, and I feel that would be a much better use of the creekside area along with hiking and biking trails for the enjoyment of the entire neighborhood.

Thank you for considering my concerns.

Carry Breon
322 Meadow Drive