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# Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
February 11, 2011

## **FRIENDS OF THE RIVERFRONT TO PURCHASE ASPINWALL MARINA**

**Pittsburgh, Pa.** – Friends of the Riverfront (FOR), a leader in the advancement of activities throughout the Pittsburgh region’s three rivers, has announced that it has entered into an agreement to purchase the Aspinwall Marina.

The marina is located at 285 River Avenue in Aspinwall and includes approximately eight acres of land, a year-round boat storage facility, docks, a marina store, and related facilities. The sale of the marina was valued at \$2.3 million and is part of \$5.0 million riverfront development project.

“A fundamental part of our mission is to connect people to the riverfronts,” said Friends of the Riverfront Executive Director Thomas Baxter. “Communities should have access to the region’s rivers, they are important destinations for recreation, economic and community development. We are thrilled to be at this point, but it’s the first step in a process to raise the money to complete the transaction. FOR plans to develop the Aspinwall Marina into an exciting and important community asset.”

Thus far, the Fox Chapel District Association has committed \$50,000 toward the purchase, which is currently in escrow pending the completion of the sale. A “visioning” process has already been conducted to begin the development of a conceptual plan for the property which will be the basis for future development.

Susan Crookston, an Aspinwall resident and active supporter of the project, said “Our public spaces, and especially our waterfronts, are community treasures. We would never have been able to get to this point without the support of Aspinwall council, community groups, and volunteers. We’re going to need their support even more going forward as we work to complete this sale.”

The marina will maintain normal operations through the sale process and under its new ownership and all existing contracts with boat owners remain in effect.

### **About Friends of the Riverfront**

Friends of the Riverfront is a twenty year old membership based organization charged to increase awareness and engagement with the Pittsburgh region’s rivers and riverfronts through activities, stewardship and expansion of water and land trails. The organization has been instrumental in the development and stewardship in numerous miles of the Three Rivers Heritage Trail and works tirelessly throughout Allegheny County to reconnect communities with their rivers and riverfronts.