

FOJRP Board meeting minutes: May 5, 2015

Attendance

1. Phil Dawson
2. PJ Fanning
3. Karen E. Thomas
4. Vicky Shivy
5. Betsy Slade
6. Greg Velzy
7. Myrna Hartley
8. Nathan Burrell
9. Adrienne Cox
10. Mary-Helen Sullivan
11. Warren Foster
12. Penelope Davenport
13. Katherine Godin
14. Larry Socha
15. Ralph White
16. Kelly Gotschalk

April Meeting Minutes were approved.

Nathan report: Invasive Plant Effort

Nathan went to meeting with many groups with an interest in the river. They had decided that in order to put together a five-year plan to reduce and control natives and restore some plants, we need to hire a company to put together the plan. The group resoundingly liked VHB. Nathan recommended that Friends be the one that owns the plan. He felt that it is an opportunity for Friends to take a leadership role in a major initiative moving the park forward. The Board approved a motion to approve the allocation of \$8500 to pay for the plan and accept the contract contingent upon positive feedback from the Nature Conservancy and others who have worked with VHB. Larry is going to report back to the Board by May 15 if there is any negative feedback. The board would also like for the company to understand that we plan to get at least two additional competitive bids for the implementation stage once the plan is finished.

Finance—Myrna

- The budget amendment was approved which included River Heroes funding.
- Board did not approve moving forward with the Kroger fundraising project.
- Nancy is taking on the charitable giving Deep Run RoadHouse fundraising project.

Events—Adrienne

- The map and map activity Karen put together for Explore the Outdoors was great for the older kids and adults to learn more about the park while younger kids colored and did tattoos. Seems like we have something for everyone now.
- Karen passed out an event check list to help with any future miscommunications about what goes at each event as there were several materials not used for the Earth Day event.
- Adrienne expressed general concern about increasing sign ups for volunteers for events beyond the Board.

- The 9-noon monthly volunteer event is at Pony Pasture this coming Saturday
- Adrienne will have one board member per shift for Riverrock and send the sign up genius out to the membership and Dennis B. with James River Hikers with two slots each for volunteers.
- She will find a date for the Riverside Drive clean up
- Picnic is June 13th at 6 pm (?) at the Pumphouse

PJ--Communications

Met with web bones re: park calendar. Going well. Every org will have their own color. Single source of what's going on in the park. PJ passed out the guidelines for posting. Web bones purchased jamesriverpark.com. Need to designate person to oversee our calendar posts.

Fundraising--Nancy

- We are re-registered for the CVC. The campaign starts at the end of September after the Amazing Raise. Myrna has thanked all those that gave through the CVC.
- Next fundraising meeting is TBA in the next few weeks.
- Talked about the idea of increasing membership levels. Find out how many brochures we have.
- One idea: Major donor river rafting trip with Nathan.
- Next mtg, we will brainstorm ideas with Nathan about named giving opportunities in the park.

MISC ITEMS

- **Ralph White** will present for 15 minutes at next meeting. There is agreement to capture Ralph's knowledge of the park on video or audio. Need to discuss the best way to do that.
- KG will send **Board meeting notes** after meeting and before next meeting
- **Update on Tyvek Maps:** They are available for \$2. We are not buying at the moment.
- **Master Plan Update**—we did not receive the grant. We are going to have to regroup.
- **Warren** suggested having an interpretive sign and bench on Williams Island. We decided no bench, but there was agreement about the interpretive sign, so Warren will continue coordinating that.
- **River Heroes:** Event was sold out and went well. Can accommodate 50-60 guests next year.
- **City Budget info:** Budget amendment for additional park staff was trimmed from \$150K to \$100K. \$450K for capital projects is in approval process. This includes trail equipment, rehab of North bank tower, suspension bridge to Belle Isle, etc.