

Friends of James River Park Board Meeting -- 3 January 2012, 6 PM
Visitors Center, Park Headquarters

Attendance: Elaine, Betsy, Myrna, Anne, Molly, Ralph, Maureen, Mary Helen, Mary, Phil, Phil, Ben, Larry, Gay

Guests: John (a citizen paddler)

- I. Minutes approved pending minor revision.
- II. Treasurer's Report – (Myrna) Previously, we voted on an allocation of \$500 for cash gifts, and \$300 of this went to park workers. The total for gifts was \$379.99 because (2) \$50 restaurant gift certificates also were purchased to recognize professionals who provide *pro bono* work to FoJRP (i.e., legal services). Myrna reported that a member requested an *Annual Treasurer's Report*, so a discussion ensued regarding how best to address this. The State now holds our IRS Form 990 (all certifications were completed and a year of 'being' a 501 c3 has elapsed -- so now this documentation is available) . Fiscal year starts July 1. Elaine will call the member, Myrna will send report; the same information will be posted on the website for any future inquiries and public transparency of FoJRP financial transactions.
- III. Communications (Maureen) – Spanish translation page is up on the website. Constant Contact (web service) schedule is once per month, following the Board meeting. New license plate pic will be an item on this months CC. Art event at the Crossroads also will be posted. Anne, Maureen and Gay will meet with *Webbones* to promote the *Altria* grant. An enhanced tabletop display is in the works, with photos from Warren and others. Maureen is finalizing work on a pop-up banner. Slideshow on website: the actual Sample license plate will be up.
- IV. Mary Helen (Events) – On the 20th of January need table set up at 5:30, *Crossroads Art Center* on Staples Mill Road, it's a Friday... staff table with the pop-up banner, pictures, digital picture frame, actual license plate, etc. A discussion ensued on how to ready Board members for staffing events / manning such tables with updated materials, etc.
- V. Phil, speaking in Warren's stead received a message from Larry Miller. Williams Island can use the same template as 14th Street (so MOU template can be used). Phil will be creating a story on the history of the Park Rangers... using the photos and information from Larry Miller of Parks and Recreation.
- VI. Larry – nothing on the docket this month.
- VII. Michael – Membership the December renewal drive generated \$2500 (63 members renewed). Renewals drives for members will now be sent quarterly. Next renewal drive would be in January; try to get people before their membership expires (Jan, Feb, March renewals).
- VIII. Old Business – Conversation with the Boathouse... do we want to do River Heroes again? Maureen will feel out the people at the Boathouse Restaurant.
- IX. Anne's Grant: Science to the Park – Two foci are rock pools and geology. Rock pool research prof is on board with possible idea. This will ramp up at the end of the Spring / early summer. A Powhatan schools science teacher expressed interest in the geology idea, which will be coordinated with SOL's. Materials will be up on the web for science teachers to use statewide. Also, a grad student wants to do an independent study on this. This teacher has

- connections to local professional geologist. Meeting with webbones to layout timeline, with material for posting during summer /fall. Fish migration focus will be in year two. Roles for FoJRP Board members are TBD. Lecture series could become associated with Boathouse contact / River Heroes, etc.
- X. Transparency for 501 c 3 stuff – VA Department of Consumer Affairs form arrived, so this completes all requirements for certification. Jaime (attorney) will talk with the Board. Conflict of Interest policy was sent to all Board Members and Committee Members, and the form was distributed and signed during tonight's meeting. Minutes also were added to website, as was the easement info, articles of incorporation and by-laws also will be posted.
 - XI. Gay talked about the Easement – annual Park inspections must take place. John Zugner needs volunteers for visual inspections. The whole Board volunteered. Recommendation was made for dates outside of workweek hours.
 - XII. New Business -- Patrick J. Fanning is the U of R law student who attended meetings last year. Unanimous decision for Patrick to be on FoJRP Board.
 - XIII. *HandsOn Greater Richmond* on January 27th for possibly increasing Park volunteers.
 - XIV. Mary Helen addressed issue of closing of Saunders Post Office Box (where FoJRP P.O. box physically is located)
 - XV. Ralph's report. Thank you(s) were extended for Christmas gifts to Park staff. No progress on interactive maps yet, but Anne will check. Site maps are ready to put up but not yet mounted. There will be no hockey rink at 22nd Street. The Reedy Creek ramp still is in progress. Land by Southern States could be made into Park on Earth Day – behind floodwall, City land heading East – 6 acres abuts 15 that also could be put into Park, but may better be used for other activities (it's a grassy field, not wild land). Need volunteer help for Warren's idea to redo entrance to Park at Pony Pasture. Not all bluebells were planted. Planting should be completed during warm weekends in January and February... around ramp at Reedy Creek and along Slave Trail. First planting was scheduled for this coming Saturday the 7th at 12-3 PM. Lastly, Ralph's focus for the next two months is to finish up publications and interpretive signs. Geology guide: there were 2 versions two years ago. Ralph will work with Anne and Dave Walls. Ralph has about two dozen interpretive signs to be reviewed by this committee. Money will be needed from FoJRP, but other sources also are ponying up funds: Southampton, Bass Foundation. Ralph noted difficulty in addressing the broken sign regarding Indian Fishing on Belle Island, as company cannot locate sign information -- hence sign must be recreated. A local company will be engaged for this work in the future. Cost for signs are \$250, predicated on volunteers making sign frames. With labor and set-up final cost is about \$350-\$400 in the ground, printed on both sides, protected with graffiti-proof laminate sunk in ground with concrete.

Respectfully submitted,
V. Shivy