

Friends of the James River Park
Board Meeting Minutes
January 3, 2017

Attendance:

Nancy Fowler	Scott Silvester
Kevin Tobin	Shawna Shade
Nathan Burrell	Greg Velzy
Katherine Mitchell	Justin Doyle
Cat Anthony	Larry Socha
Mary Kay Martin	Karen Thomas

1. Treasurer's Report (Myrna):
 - a. Income for January \$10,860.13
Expenses \$3,215.70
Bank balance \$105,020.26
P&P Total balance \$103,186.81
 - b. Shawna and Myrna discussed PayPal donations and discussed getting email addresses so "thank you's" can be emailed
 - c. Greg asked if P & P Fund donations were still coming in and why are we still funding the P & P Fund since the goal has been met.

2. Nathan's Report:
 - a. Wetlands: Rocks and gravel have been put down at the Wetlands, \$25,000 has already been put into it: will probably need to rent a compactor within another 2 months; cost will be \$30,000 by the end of this project;
 - b. Belle Isle: Working with JROC/REI grant to improve access for top of Belles Isle; this was supposed to be done in December but it was rescheduled;
 - c. Manchester Climbing Wall (?) - \$1,500 grant from the Richmond Chapter of the American Alpine Club which will pay for rebolting and gravel path from belay area to the eastern side of the project
 - d. Climbing Wall – submitted a capital request for \$250,000 to replace wooden steps for climbing access; have installed gates and signs, which stop some people
 - e. Park Master Plan: still in discussion with Hargraves and VHB, separately; VHB has provided a preliminary proposal which was passed out to Board members; also working with Timmons, but some folks say they might not be the best "fit" for the project; a fourth vendor discussed - Abbot and Co. has closed; speculated that we could go RFP route and get a full blown Master Plan
 - f. Economic Impact Study: still waiting on VCU vetting process; the survey part should not take long
 - g. Trails: continuing to rebuild "rollers;" Ancarrow's – grant from REI/Richmond More will take out wet spots; rebuilding the bridge at Larus Park, this is not part of the James River Park but it is city land under Park care; Gilly's Creek Jump Park – professional; is designing some jumps
 - h. Thank you for the Park Employees' Christmas gifts

3. Discussed Forestry Grant: fully expended and closed now.

4. New Business:
 - a. Conservation Easement Inspections : the reports from last year disappeared; Nancy and Erin are working together; EnRichmond wants to do it digitally; there will be a demonstration at the February meeting; there are 10 sections; various Board members offering to be the leads on different sections;
 - b. Reedy Creek: could Friends pay for a 2nd port-a-john? Nathan is looking for a different vendor to service the existing port-a-john; currently, S.B. Cox bills for twice weekly cleanings; S.B. Cox says they do not have any more handicap accessible units
 - c. T. Potterfield Bridge – dog nails ripping off; Greg was interviewed for a news broadcast on the subject; a private citizen out a sign up that says “no dogs allowed”; Nathan advised that Planning does not operate the Bridge, the Park does.
5. Finance Report - Paypal donations over the past month have been significant given year end
 - a. Discussed bank signature cards – need to go in-person to the bank. Suggested deadline is the end of February.
6. Communications: meeting set up about Webbones about website; Nathan asked if we could put an EVENT TAB under events for Park Programs (Penelope)
7. Events: Banff Film Festival March 9, 10 and 11; tickets are selling briskly: FOJRB will have a table on Friday and Saturday. Myrna and Cat volunteered to staff the table.
8. Membership – (Nancy) nothing new
9. Advocacy – (Mary Kay) we need a meeting
10. Giving (Katherine)
 - a. discussed restricted giving opportunities in Park; we are getting potential contributors who want their name on a kiosk; discussed unrestricted gifts, major giving and master plan
 - b. working with EnRichmond for Impact \$100,000 grant – they’ve never funded an environmental grant; we need a \$250,000 lead organization to attach to on this; Nathan has sent in a brief synopsis; grant application is due in February; if we received a \$100,000 grant for the master plan we would need to fundraise additional \$70,000
11. Clean-up day: 1/14/17 Manchester side of T-Pot Bridge. Parking at 7th and Semmes.

Meeting Adjourned

Minutes submitted by Mary Kay Martin