

**Friends of James River Park**

Board Meeting Agenda

January 5, 2016

6:30 PM

**Attendance**

Mary Helen Sullivan

Adrienne Cox

Karen Thomas

Kelly Gotschalk

Larry Socha

Myrna Hartley

Greg Velzy

P.J. Fanning

Nancy Fowler

Katherine Godin Mitchell

Nathan Burrell

Chris Senfield-VHB (csenfield@vhb.com)

Stephanie Crawford-Guest

Shawna Shade-Guest

Mary Kay Martin-Guest

Scott Sylvester – Guest

## **Minutes of last meeting**

Accept December minutes as amended; removing paying for goats with the Forestry grant fund.

## **Welcome and introductions**

Welcomed new guests

**Treasurer's Report**-Myrna gave the current status. Received \$15,624 in new monies in December.

**Guest presentation**-Invasive species management plan update by Chris Senfield of VHB.

- VHB Baseline study has been completed within the 18 park sections, and respective sub units during this past summer. The study determined which plants were present and their respective density. In all 50 types of invasives were identified. Per Chris the state has identified 87 different types. Invasive shrubs like Chinese privet, bush honeysuckle, and vines were the worst offenders.
- This is the beginning of a 5 year plan.
- The real goal is to restore native plant dominance. Chris feels that this would occur when the invasive percentage falls below 20%.
- Currently efforts are being focused on Belle Isle.

## **Park Director Report – Nathan**

- Nathan gave us the final numbers for 2015:

Volunteer hours total 8444 from 2433 volunteers. Additionally over \$31,000 in accompanying donations were received.

Anticipates over 1.3 million people visited the James River Park system in 2015.

- Dredging of the Ancarrows boat slip estimated cost is \$26000.
- Secured a 16 passenger van for park programs.

## **Committee Reports (new leadership)**

**Finance**- Myrna-no new news.

## **Communications**-PJ

Most highly viewed post had 25,000 visits

4100 people visited the web site news sessions

## **Fundraising- Katherine**

Nothing new to report

## **Events-Adrienne & Larry**

- Banff coverage commitments:

Friday: Myrna/Katherine G Mitchell/Greg. Saturday: PJ/Karen Thomas/Stephanie.

- Upcoming events and dates—Invasive clean up at Reedy Creek 9am-12pm on Saturday 1/9/16.
- Mary Helen & Adrienne will attend the meeting of all the river groups on Wednesday the 13<sup>th</sup> at the Reedy Creek park office.

## **Membership-Nancy**

No new business

Board Retreat/Strategic Plan-Board meeting date discussed again.

Discussed changing the monthly meeting date but the board decided to keep the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday.

## **Old Business**

Because we missed a variety of deadlines we will not be presenting the movie “This Changes Everything”.

Nancy asked for contributions for the annual report from Nathan, Phil, Matt, and the board on topics ranging from volunteer efforts & River Heroes to finance.

Greg Velzy said that the release of the water from the coal ash ponds is going to happen. No change by the DEQ regarding the limits or permit.

January Forestry Grant- We are in the planning stage and will probably begin funding projects in the spring.

## **New Business**

Park Inspections-Adrienne will head up the conservation easement inspections. The inspections will likely begin in February or March.

River Heroes – Kelly is checking to see if the Boat House is an option for the event.