

**FRIENDS of JAMES RIVER PARK
MONTHLY MEETING
February 4
6:30 PM
Park Center - Riverside Drive**

Present: Adrienne, PJ, Elaine, Mary Helen, Molly, Warren, Nathan (Interim Park Manager), Phil D., Phil R., Vicky, Anne, Myrna, Larry, Guest, John Zeugner (City of Richmond)

New JRPS Conservancy Sign:

- Graphic artist paid
- Signs in production
- Elaine Consulted with John Zeugner (of Richmond City)

Update on Ralph's Replacement:

- Warren is on the Selection Committee
- Nathan is interested in obtaining the position.
- Phil met with other stakeholders (Greg Velzy, Greg Rollins of JROC and MORE, respectively) to form a plan to have input with hiring.
- Number of applicants is not known. John Z. is a member of the selection committee, and he noted that the pool is larger than 6-8.
- John will ask about timeframe and who will be on the committee.

Protection and Preservation Fund:

- Combined Virginia Campaign (Deadline March 1-April 30): Myra reported that a listing of P&P Fund donors could go into the Newsletter / on the website.
- Myrna will get list to Susan Martin. Vicky noted the possibility of creating a day sponsorship with WCVE to advertise FoJRP's P&P fund.
- The Board opted to go forward with CVC request.

Park Survey Update / Community Engagement Grant from VCU:

- Vicky is working on the grant with the help of Anne, Nathan, and the ideas generated by the larger group including Adrienne, Phil, and Elaine.

Banff Film Festival:

- March 8-9 -- Myrna, Adrienne, and Betsy have this covered. Betsy noted that there also is Environmental Film festival this coming weekend (Betsy had sent around an e-mail)

SALAMANDERS:

- The pipe was blocked off with sandbags.
- City moving towards a permanent fixes this summer.

Conservation Inspection Process:

- **John Zeugner (guest)**
- Timeline: February until early March (begin in 2 to 2 1/2 weeks).
- Walk through portion of the park looking for changes.
- Goal is to catalog potential easement 'concerns.'

- Jane Meyers with Capital Region Land Conservancy wants to tag along.
- Online soon and data can be uploaded via smartphone.

Anonymous Gift of \$5000 to honor Ralph:

- Mary Helen (last month we Okayed binoculars and a \$600 travel gift certificate for Ralph) – not discussed.
- Need to form committee

Warren’s requested floor time to cover his discussion points:

- Pony Pasture granite boulders
- Damaged / vandalized signs – namely at the 42nd and 22nd Street entrances. [Signs reordered]
- We have motorcycle signs now – signs banning motorized vehicles from the FoJRP – the absolute count is unclear – we need 1000.
- With regard to Park kiosk signs, Warren requests that we color the Williams Island are green to denote it’s absorption into FoJRP. He also noted that FoJRP is missing a great opportunity to add information regarding joining FoJRP and the availability of license plates to all kiosks. With \$537 still in the sign budget – 8 ½ x 11, signs were ok’d for this initiative.
- Regarding Huguenot Flatwater – “what happens after the bridge construction?” Install takeout?
- Questions about the 43nd and 22nd sections. - Why aren’t the parking lots open? Nathan responded that these are high car break in areas – so, they are closed off in the ‘low season.’ These areas typically reopen on weekends from Memorial Day to Labor Day.
- A Kayak/canoe landing on Williams Island by the North Dam (Williams Dam) was considered. Apparently this is a JROC project.
- Warren recommended (again) a classy, color, FoJRP brochure -- \$164 for 1000 trifold brochures
- Warren noted that his goal is to gain budget approval for the granite stone project at the Pony Pasture and to solicit help on what will happen to the Flatwater after the construction and the FoJRP brochure.

Anne will resume Progress on Belle Isle tours: After the floodwaters recede.

Phil asked just who is Updating Website: may need to identify a collective to keep on top of this.

Betsy’s Concerns: T-Shirts and pamphlets need to be moved out of her storage area.

Assorted Discussion Points / Announcements:

- Due to City Budget concerns, Officer Stacy was pulled from Park duty. Supposedly he is returning May 1. He is the only dedicated officer to the park.
- Nathan moves to set aside \$3K for pumphouse to pay for lighting on rails.
- Discussed cutting Pumphouse budget line item from \$10K to \$5K. That means there is \$5K additional available for contract labor (Only need \$3500 for boulders) Lewis collier and company would move the boulders – motion approved to do this.
- Other notes: we have 4K in budget for repairs, supplies and only spent \$492

Respectfully Submitted,

V. Shivy