



February 2010 Board Minutes

Monday, February 22, 2010, 6:00 pm
Reedy Creek Visitor Center

Attendees: Mary Helen, Betsy, Pete, Charles, Myrna, Anne, Maureen, Winnie, Marguerite, Nathan (for Ralph), Warren, Phil

Guests: Jodi Costi, VCU Libraries; Brian Muchler, JROC; Chris Hull, JROC; Mary Anne Swann; Dr. John Kneebone, Oral History VCU, John Zeugner, enrighthouse (formerly Richmond Recreation & Parks Foundation); Anne Preston, Sierra Club

A. VOTES

1. Oral History Project: motion passed to agree to work with VCU. See more below.
2. Fundraising Committee: motion passed to accept new policy:
"Retroactive to the beginning of the FOJRP Protection & Preservation Fund Campaign, donors who contribute/d \$500 or more to the Fund shall be given a Lifetime Membership in the Friends of the James River Park. Donors who contribute/d \$15 to \$499 shall be given an annual FOJRP membership, effective until June 14, 2010."
3. Keith/Shaefer Memorial: motion passed to order and pay for a new plaque reflecting the following corrections: add "Jr." to Mr. Keith's name; add the FOJRP to the text; correct the background material.

B. UPCOMING EVENTS

1. Riverside Drive Clean-Up: rescheduled to 2/27.
2. Banff Mountain Film Festival: March 12 and 13, James River High School.
3. Earth Day and Fish Festival: Sunday, April 25, noon to 5pm; Manchester.
4. FOJRP Annual Meeting & Picnic: Saturday, June 12.

C. THE HOT LIST

1. **501c3 application:** No word yet from the IRS.
2. **License plates:** During this meeting, a plan was revealed to send thank you notes to the approximately 80 applicants and return their checks. Post meeting, board members and other interested parties emailed that they disagreed with this strategy. A number of online discussions took place. As a result, all checks will be held in an escrow account and applications will continue to be collected until the 2011 General Assembly.

D. DISCUSSIONS & FOLLOW-UPS

1. Treasurer's Report: Mary Helen

The Fund has \$38,502, including 4 donations totaling \$255. The operating account has approximately \$23,000. This includes \$97 in membership dues reflecting 1 new and 2 renewals. Four hundred dollars was moved to the License Plate/First Market account as a placeholder.

2. Fundraising Committee: Molly, Winnie, Charles, Gay, Warren

New policy passed. See above.

3. Guides/Speakers/Inspection Committee: Myrna, Charles, John, Betsy, Molly, Winnie

Guest John Zeugner, representing the enrichmond Foundation (a co-easement holder), outlined the inspection process for the 8 parcels of the James River Park Systems. Two or three volunteers, completing a form, should be able to annually inspect one parcel. Inspections generally take place January/February; write-ups are submitted in April. The number of acres in the easement is in contention. John Z. says his figures show 353 acres under the Easement; the City shows approximately 280 acres. Guests from JROC and a number of FOJRP Board members signed up to become volunteer park inspectors.

4. Database Update: Molly, Myrna, Mary Helen

No new action

5. Website Committee: Gay, Pete, Warren, Maureen, George

A draft outline for a new site was circulated via email among the board, post meeting.

6. Oral History Project: Guests Dr. John Kneebone, VCU History; Ms. Jodi Costi, VCU Libraries

In short, VCU appears to be very responsive and well equipped to partner with us on a James River Park oral history project. Dr. Kneebone's students are eager for interviewing experience. The VCU library, according to Ms. Costi, is willing to archive original paper documents, as well as audio and video records. They could also lend equipment. In exchange, information rights would be shared. Costs would be small, except for transcribing or indexing video, which takes time and can be costly. Time, however, is a factor. Interview subjects such as Louise Burke and Charlie Schaefer are in frail health. Maureen would begin work on this project through the summer.

7. Possible Ride & Run Race: Marguerite

Marguerite would like to explore the possibility of sponsoring an 8K race as a fundraiser. She would study the issue and report back to the Board.

8. Greenway Committee: Phil

Phil would like to find a way to connect the west end of the Buttermilk Trail to the Chippenham Parkway, to encourage biking and hiking commuters. Approaching property owners, including Willow Oakes Country Club, could be a challenge. Maureen offered to help.

9. Committee System Oversight: Charles

Charles encouraged committee heads to open recruitment to all members, ideally those with area expertise. Please submit those names to Charles. Also, Charles offered to explore an alliance with Hands On Richmond in order to boost volunteer participation.

10. Nathan Report Highlights

- Because of the weather, staff spent most of their time shoveling snow so the park remained fully accessible. A question arose if shoveling park trails was a good idea.
- Pony Pasture and Huguenot Flatwater were closed because of flooding. They should reopen by the weekend (in time for the Riverside Cleanup).
- The Mayor is facing budgetary cutbacks and the Park could lose some staff. Two of the seven seasonal workers have left.

Respectfully submitted, Gay Leahy, Secretary, March 17, 2010