

Friends of James River Park

Board Meeting Minutes

March 6, 2012

Attendance at the meeting: Mary Wickham, Warren Foster, Ben Lyman, Elaine M. Betsy Slade, Maureen Egan, Myrna Hartley, Anne Wright, Ralph White.

Guests included Bob Steidel, Stacey Rogers, Gay Leahy, and Paul Keefer.

Co presidents Betsy and Elaine called the meeting to order promptly at 6:00 PM.

Bob Steidel of Richmond's Department of Public Works presented a power point about the state of Richmond's waterworks. After the presentation, the memorandum of understanding between the City of Richmond and the Department of Public Utilities that will designate Williams Island as a wildlife preserve was discussed. Mr. Stidel also announced that in the Riverfront Masterplan, the pipeline walkway is designated to be disability accessible.

I. Business Meeting:

- a. Ralph welcomed Stacey Rogers, the police officer who has been patrolling the park.
- b. The minutes from the February meeting were approved.
- c. Treasurer's Report
 - i. Income of \$200
 - ii. Spent \$1,649.99 in February
 - iii. Balance of \$48,684.57
 - iv. A member offered to donate \$10/month using electronic debit system
 - v. The board voted on a change to the budget: Contract Labor was estimated at only \$800, but we have already spent \$750, therefore, Myrna made a motion to increase the budget to \$1,250. It was unanimously approved by the board. In another budget item, tax exempt fees were budgeted at only \$125, but the fees cost \$200, therefore, Myrna made a motion to increase that budget to by \$75 so that we can pay the tax exempt fees.
 - vi. Betsy Slade found approximately \$30 in coins in the park over the past 3 months that were added to our treasury.
 - vii. Elaine and Betsy now have approval to sign checks if needed.

II. Committee Reports

- a. Communication: Maureen and Gay will send out a constant contact with a news update to all members. It will include:
 - i. Ralph White received 21 nominations for a Lifetime Achievement Award from Wild South.
 - ii. Information on slave trail tours

- iii. Banff Film Festival information
- b. Events
 - i. Mary Helen reported that Vicky and Betsy, Myrna and Elaine will staff the table at the Banff Film Festival being held March 9-10.
 - ii. We need volunteers for Dominion Riverrock on May 18,19, 20
 - iii. We need volunteers for Earth Day – April 21.
 - iv. Elaine will send out an email to recruit volunteers.
- c. Fundraising
 - i. Warren had no report
 - ii. Prepaid license plates will be available by the end of this month
- d. Park Improvements
 - i. Larry reported about the North Bank Park graffiti and homeless camp clean up which happened last weekend. It was decided that there should be NO designated spot for graffiti.
 - ii. There will be a Saturday clean up at Manchester. Meet behind Legend's Brewery at 9:30 Saturday, March 10 to clean up under Manchester bridge.
- e. Membership
 - i. Ben reported that he had received all of the membership information from Michael. He is evaluating Groupspace.com for online membership management. It was recommended by Webbones.
 - ii. Another membership letter should be sent out this month. Myrna mentioned that the blurb from the State of Virginia with information about disclosure about FoJRP's financial information needs to be included in the letter.

III. Old Business

- a. River Heros : Maureen reported that the deadline is March 14. Hurry up and turn them in!
- b. Park Maintenance: Peter Bruce, chief of Maintenance of JRP enjoyed the fruit basket and is recovering slowly. Michael and Matt are filling in for him.
- c. Trail Signage: Phil will stick with committee and remind parties involved about conservation easement.
- d. City Council Communication: Betsy, Elaine and Molly met with Kathy Graziano and discussed the search for Ralph's replacement. A meeting has been requested by Dr. Merrifield.
- e. Conservation Easement Inspections have occurred at Pony Pasture, Wetlands, Reedy Creek, North Bank, Pumphouse and Belle Island.

IV. New Business

- a. Jaime Canup will be at our next meeting to discuss rules surrounding 501 (c) (3)
- b. Ralph report: \$2,150 has been donated to dedicate the new kiosk at the Pony Pasture in memory of Amy and John Cushing. We need a bench there in their memory also.
- c. Bluebells planted by volunteers are starting to bloom
- d. Volunteers have started to plant mushrooms.

- e. Graffiti has been especially bad this year since December. Under the boulevard bridge is particularly bad.
- f. Electric wiring is almost complete for the Pumphouse. Composting toilet should be in there by the FoJRP Picnic.
- g. Painting project for Pumphouse will cost \$300. Ralph will submit a bill.
- h. Stacy Rogers: encouraged us to let law enforcement know if we see a graffiti tag repeated so that they can follow up. Photograph it. Stacy's number is 804/218-2134 or email stacy.rogers@richmondgov.com . A city wide park patrol unit is being proposed to the police chief. Since Stacy's presence on bike patrol, there has been a 98% reduction in Reedy Creek parking lot theft.
- i. Paul Keefer, a Richmond cyclist, sportsbackers volunteer, rower, and camera club enthusiast would like to organize monthly trips from Rockett's Landing to downtown Richmond on the third Sunday of each month. First walk will be Sunday, March 18. Meet at 10:00 AM at the Boat Club and end at Shiplock Park. For more information, contact Paul at prsgkeefe@aol.com or 804/909-2302.

Respectfully Submitted by Molly Dellinger-Wray