

Meeting of the FoJRP Board
March 11th, 6:30PM

Attending: Greg V., Mike Gee(park employee), Mary Helen, Myrna, Connie, Karen, Betsy, Warren, Phil, Anne Wright, Jane Hotchkiss, Greg Velzy
Presenters etc: Christina Woodson with Bluebird Society, Justin Doyle and Mr Potterfield to discuss "Geostories", Dennis Bussey with James River Hikers, Leslie

1. Justin Doyle with JRA (not juvenile rheumatoid arthritis) and Tyler Potterfield with City of Richmond came to present the concept of "Geostories", a National Geographic project to help promote points of interest nationally. They were asking us to design a "Geostory" about an aspect of the park. We will strongly consider this and start determining subjects next month.

See: <http://www.envisionthejames.org/geoplayer/james-river-geostories-collection/evj5DB461F0F690CD37A><<http://www.envisionthejames.org/geoplayer/james-river-geostories-collection/evj5DB461F0F690CD37A>>

2. Christina Woodson with the Bluebird Society came to discuss the creation of a Bluebird trail within James River Park. Ancarrow's Landing seemed the best option since the habitat there is very good for bluebirds. We need to make a decision about this by next October when planned implementation would occur.

3. The March Volunteer event will launch from Huguenot Flats and include invasive species removal, bluebell planting, and general all round raucous behavior involving sharp instruments. Mike Gee brought up the concept of getting together with "Hands On Richmond" and thus letting us piggy-back on their on-line volunteer sign-up capabilities. This would not replace FoJRP's volunteer sign-up process, just augment it.

4. Much of the Conservation Easement assessment is done with only a couple of walks still needed. Betsy is spearheading this project

5. The Riverfront Plan Meeting Feb 18th was attended by a couple of board members and was very cool. The main issue was the completion of the Vepco levee by August of 2015 complete with fancy new access near the Manchester wall. The board oohed and aaahed at the pretty pictures and agreed it was an excellent idea.

6. Karen has plenty of ideas for this month's Constant Contact newsletter

7. "River Heroes" annual award is moving forward. The plan is to present the prize at our annual picnic on June 7th. Many goodies have been garnered from various businesses essentially in and around Forest Hill Ave and Stratford Hills Shopping Center.

8. The Banff Film Festival went well and we got some new members out of our attendance. Karen commented that we need better signage and better information on how to obtain the coveted James River Park license plate.

9. Combined Virginia Campaign: Myrna and Nancy will meet before our next meeting so we can be updated...their latest meeting was snowed out.

10. The full on-line store selling T-Shirts and brochures is up and functioning on the website.

11. The Board decided not to attend this year's "Explore the Outdoors" program sponsored by WCVE et al. Nathan will let that organization know of our decision.

12. Myrna pointed out the need for plaques to be made to acknowledge FoJRP's contribution and funding of the two new kiosks and K9 Adventures sponsoring of the new recycling bins near the park center. Mike Gee will work on that this month with Nathan's assistance. Myrna also noted that all present projects sponsored by FoJRP have been given their monies.

13. Mike Gee said that the park will go ahead and purchase trail monitors with the present \$4000 they have been given, \$2000 from FoJRP and \$2000 from JROC. As a follow-up, the park management has decided to relocate some of the granite boulders at Pony Pasture rather than moving boulders from Ancarrows to Pony Pasture. This will save many dollars and man hours.

Submitted by Philip Dawson, President and "Secretary for a Day", March 13, 2014