



July 2010 Board Minutes

Monday, 19 July 2010, 6:00 pm
Pump House

Attendees: Charles, Warren, Maureen, Myrna, Marguerite, Richard, Pete, Winnie, George, Ralph

A. VOTES

1. **Bench, Designated Gift:** Motion passed to approve the donation of \$200 for a bench in honor friends of Mary Argentina. This will establish a precedent for these types of gifts.

B. UPCOMING EVENTS

1. **Riverside Drive Cleanup:** August 2, 8AM
2. **Board Retreat,** Sunday Sept. 19, 1834 Monument Avenue, 4pm
3. **Hands On Richmond Volunteer Day,** October 16, 10:30 – 2:30 Pumphouse.

C. THE HOT LIST

1. **501c3 application:** Still pending. Delay because of additional scrutiny due to the change in our articles of incorporation.
2. **New Board Members:** Charles offered to follow up with two fellows who checked “interested in a board position” on their membership forms.
3. **Old Board Members:** Please let Charles know ASAP if you plan to resign. The nominating committee is working on a new slate of officers for the September 19 retreat.

D. DISCUSSIONS & FOLLOW-UPS

1. **Treasurer’s Report: Mary Helen** (in absentia)

A . Protection Fund

- a . Although the Davenport account was unchanged as of 6/30, I found an erroneous \$250 deposit, and Trish Fields, bookkeeper, confirmed the error. This lowers our balance to \$4254.58.
- b . The \$35,000 CD is accruing 1.5 % interest at First Capital. Remember this is currently in the name of Enrichmond Foundation, the only legal way to open it.

B . License Plates escrow account at Union First Market has \$3863.75. Some of this is place-holder money from our operating funds.

C . Regular operating account: Enrichmond Foundation is in the process of moving these funds from a Davenport account to a Wachovia Bank account--hence my earlier e-mail about Wachovia’s strictness about the “payable to” name. (Note that our online membership form has specified the “payable to” name for 2-3 years now!) Our current balance is approx. \$28,310.09. (Enrichmond and Trish and I are exchanging e-mails about some discrepancies.) Since my 5/17 report, we have added 50 memberships, totaling \$2260; donations, including \$1181.60 from SportsBackers (for River Rocks), for \$1295.60; and \$20 in candy sales. Expenses since 5/17 total \$3504.91.

Some expenses:

- 1 . Ralph’s invoices: \$2023.72
- 2 . Picnic: \$492.17 (Costs will go up next summer, as we’ll need more paper products, etc.)

3 . Re-made plaque and its installation: \$745.60.

Other notes:

1. I've sent an e-mail to the board about the new Paypal option through the Enrichmond website, and I'm hoping we'll send out an e-mail blast about it. There are associated fees, of course.
2. I've had to return a number of checks for memberships (one for the protection fund) with SASEs, asking for checks payable to Enrichmond, not FOJRP.

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

- **License Plates:** new signs were posted on kiosks found at Forest Hill and at Byrd Street/Oregon Hill. Warren plans to make a list of neighborhood associations that border the park to market the plates.
- **Boat House Restaurant:** Planning another fundraiser, donating a percentage of appetizer sales to FOJRP. Molly will follow-up.

3. Events Committee: Richard, Marguerite, Mary-Helen

- Hands on Richmond, October 16, provides a stipend for volunteers to work at the Pumphouse, 10:30 to 2:30, and cover costs for gloves. Ralph applied for 35-75 volunteers.
- Marguerite worked on a flyer for 9/13 fundraiser at Balliceaux sponsored by The River Network/Wild Rivers Program and Sierra Nevada Beer to raise funds for area river and park groups, including FOJRP, James River Assn., Old Dominion Appalachian Trail Club.
- A VCU Program, SoVo, Student Organization and Volunteer Opportunity Fair for new students will take place in August. There's a \$40 registration fee. Richard will follow-up. Ralph sounded dubious that the kids would be organized and ready to work.

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

No new action.

5. Database Update: Molly, Myrna, Mary Helen

- Myrna reports that she's updated the membership rolls and added 173 new member totals in the system.

6. Website Committee: Gay, Pete, Warren, Maureen, George, Phil, Winnie

The project is advancing toward the goal of going live in September.

7. Greenway Project: Phil

No new Action

8. Oral History Project: Maureen

John Kneebone met with Louise Burke for over an hour as part of an initial interview. Dr. Kneebone would like to interview Ralph this fall. Falls of the James would like to help with this project. Mr. Schaeffer's health is not very good.

9. Boost JRPS Pubs Sales: Maureen, Mary-Helen, Elaine, Ralph

Maureen will contact local outdoor-outfitter businesses to feature Ralph's brochures. She will also contact Sportsbackers and Metro Richmond to see if they can lend us support.

10. Ralph Report

1. **Visitation and parking problems have topped at Pony Pasture.** The lot now fills but cars do not line up out on the street. This is as it has been in the past. In the future, effort should be made to control parking for the 4 weeks of June ... and maybe one weekend before and after.
2. **Glass is a smaller part of the trash stream...** and liter in general is a slightly smaller problem than in the past. There are far fewer cut feet. The amount of aluminum cans, however, is up. (June generated over 1350 pounds --- up from 1000 last year.)
3. **Parking remains out of control at the Belle Isle lot on Tredgar St..** An effort should be made to find some alternative sites --- like the lot owned by Dominion Power adjacent to entrance to the Belle Isle footbridge, the grassy area just above the existing parking lot owned by Ethyl Corp, and the only-partly-used lot owned by the Civil War Center.
4. **The dock at Mid-water Terminal should be incorporated into the JRPS.** Popularly known as the Anna Belle Lee Dock, it is heavily used by fishermen who drink and play cards at night along the water's edge. It is also the hub on an increasing number of races and festivals --- there is a Triathlon on July 24-25 for example. The JRPS currently does some minor upkeep of the area --- mowing down weeds, picking up litter, hauling out debris piles and putting out trashcans. It is recommended that the park construct a narrow "deck-and railing" along the water's edge to facilitate safe public use of the currently compromised concrete dock that is nonetheless heavily used. The torn and bent chain-link fencing that theoretically prevents access is an eyesore ... and clearly serves no purpose in keeping people away from the area. (Note: it has been in this state for so many years that it could not even be used as a legal fig leaf if there were some problem to occur). Such a deck could be constructed by park staff in 2 weeks for \$3000 - \$4000
5. **The park should consider relinquishing its clean up and maintenance of the Lumpkins Jail / Negro Burial Ground historic sites.** The Slave Trail Commission has adequate power and influence to secure routine management by the Public Works Dept.
6. **The Southside Storm Water Control Basin should be considered for a temporary bike-in campground** until a Biker's Hostel is constructed. A grassy area, one part is totally enclosed in fencing so security would not be a major problem. It's not scenic, but it would be functional.
7. **A new footbridge and access ramp has been built at the Pump House by volunteers.** Railings and ramps at the front door (south door) make it easier to bring large groups into the building and to have them go over to the south side of the canal to view the building.
8. **Plans are underway to add LED lighting to the new and existing ramps at the Pump House** to improve evening safety and encourage spring and summer use later into the evening. Initial cost estimates seem quite reasonable --- \$2000 to \$3000.
9. **Reprinting of the *slightly revised Belle Isle Guide* is complete.** (\$964 for 1500 copies)

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