

**Draft of FoJRP Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday August 2, 2011**

**Board Members Present:** Maureen Egan, Myrna Hartley, Mary Helen Sullivan, Phil Dawson, Warren Foster, Gay Leahy, Ben Lyman, Betsy Slade, Michael White, Anne Wright, Ralph White, Larry Socha, Vicky Shivy.

**Guests:** Nathan Burrell (JRP), Sarah Stewart and Barbara Jacocks (Richmond Planning Commission), Greg Rowlands (Richmond MORE), Laura Taylor.

Items Discussed:

1. Nathan introduced the PDC Competitive Grant process which was presented by Sarah Stewart of the Richmond Planning Commission. The Virginia Coastal Zone management program, with funding by NOAA -- the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration -- will fund several proposals addressing topics including public access (small construction projects on public lands). The Richmond Planning Commission would like FoJRP to serve as one of several partners in a grant application to enhance access to Chapel Island, owned by The City's Department of Utilities, but managed by the Park system. Interpretive signage and cleanup would be focal areas for grant dollars, if the grant were awarded to the City. Proposal by City is due 8/12 with notification by 10/1. RPC is asking for a letter of support from FoJRP that includes a promise of staff and volunteer hours, and monetary support.
2. Minutes were approved pending revision of entry regarding signage.
3. Nathan and Greg Rowlands elaborated on previous discussions regarding the proposed bicycle training park on Belle Island. Board members had many questions, and several key concerns were raised, including parking, whether this development is consistent with vision for the JRP / island (why not another area?), signage, liability, maintenance issues, cost, etc. The Board learned that the CAO (City Administrative Officer) has signed off on this plan, and the City will provide necessary equipment, fuel, materials, equipment operators and space to complete this project. A discussion continued for much of the night's meeting. A vote ultimately was taken and Members voted 1 opposed, remainder in favor of offering a letter of FoJRP support to the City with a caveat regarding the need for resolving the parking issue.
4. Assorted Other Issues:
  - License plate applications were handed off on 7/15 with much relief, but little fanfare.
  - t-shirts are here: get yours after the meeting or by other arrangement.
  - Signs were made and delivered.
  - Kiosks were built, but are not yet completed (devoid of info, signs, etc.)
  - The 2 the Bottom and Back busses sponsored by FoJRP were not seen as a good investment, and Maureen discussed FoJRP concerns with Jim Foster.

- Leadership issues will be addressed during the September retreat, with Maureen and Molly stepping down at that time. Maureen will do the e-news, but a communications overhaul is needed.

- Michael distributed a renewal letter draft; needs comments by tomorrow. He suggested a "give the gift of FoJRP membership" idea, which was well-received.

5. Items from the Treasurer's Report included the following:

- Ralph's account was moved over to FoJRP on 30 June with a \$21,671 balance (\$2K will go to RA More for trails).

- Because of license plate applications going out there is less money in the general fund than appears on the balance sheet.

- Luck Stone gave FoJRP \$900+ from their raffle that will go to the Bike Park.

6. Report from Ralph White:

- Park programs have been successful (Dive & Draw; Firefly Foray) and a nighttime River launch will be held on Friday 8/12 from 7-10 PM for Vets from McGuire VA who have disabilities, and others at Huguenot Flatwater.

- One car was towed after Memorial Day and a few tickets were given.

- There were 2 deaths in the Park: an individual fell from the tower around 22nd St., and a more publicized shooting occurred outside of the Park, but the body was dropped by the Flatwater area. This was believed to be gang-related.

- River is not polluted, but algae growth is high along with goose-powered nutrients. This results in a good time to spot catfish and carp in the holes above the PP rapids.

- FoJRP Park HQ now has furniture; needs a key code and the Grand Opening may be in September.

- JRP received publicity in both the *NY Times* and *USA Today* this summer; also noted in Richmond Magazine.