

**Draft of FoJRP Retreat Minutes
September 29, 2011**

Board Members Present: Betsy, PJ, Myrna, Gay, Warren, Ann, Vicky, Mary Helen, Maureen, Phil D, Ralph, Mary W., Madge

Items Discussed:

1. Big thanks were offered to Maureen Egan and Molly Dellinger-Wray for -- their fine Leadership, a long list of things well done, hosting events, arranging events, increasing the size of the Board, making the FoJRP license plates a reality, attending all manner of meetings and being 'the Face' of the FoJRP. Happily there will be even more on accomplishments detailed later in the minutes.
2. Maureen noted that terms will end, but individuals need not rotate off the Board.
3. There may be drop ins (and early exits) from this Retreat.
4. Ann noted that she and Ralph are close to receipt of a Grant, from Altria Foundation, that was solicited to fund activities in the Park. Dissemination of information will occur via the Web. Monies are anticipated in Spring 2012.
5. Molly began formal facilitation of the Retreat. After Board members completed the icebreaker task of pairing off, learning, and presenting information about a partner, the Retreat agenda commenced. First on the list was a group brainstorming activity regarding (a) What the Board tried to accomplish; (b) What the Board was pleased about, and (c) What concerns remain.

Things the FoJRP Board tried to Accomplish (most of which seemed successful)

- Conservation Easement
- Website Revamped
- 501 (c) 3 status of FoJRP
- Management Style of Pony Pasture has improved
- License Plates
- Bus Tours; Park Tours and Events
- Quarterly Cleanups
- Buttermilk and general invasive / ivy removal
- 2 Bottom & Back
- Pescados, the Movie at JRHS, the Boathouse; Social Outreach has increased
- River Heroes
- Management of JRP Fund for purchases
- FB (Facebook, according to my Google) is active; Constant Contact; PayPal
- Kiosks
- Database for Membership
- Memorial Benches installed

- Bronze Plaque for the Shafers
- Oral History of the Park
- Create-a-thon Signage
- FOJRP t-shirts (how cool are those?)
- FOJRP Picnic
- Added Board Members
- Chapel Island Grant -- may hear as early as 10/1/11

Things the Board Learned from and was Pleased about

- Thank goodness for our Treasurer
- Thank goodness for our Volunteer Committee
- Great to have folks responding via e-mail; FB
- Shorter-term projects may work better, sustain interest, have punchy impact
- Standing in a dusty PP Parking Lot in Summer doesn't work very well
- License Plate Success!
- Web Presence / Contact/ Logistics

Concerns and Challenges for the Future

- Many people love the JRP, how many visitors (~ 1M?) and how that can be managed
- Communicating with City Government

What's Next?

- Develop relationship with Dr. Merrifield
- Respond to EnRichmond Foundation
- Better turnaround for restricted donations and gifts: Signs, maps, dedications, etc. are complex processes
- Plan for Parking Issues
- Do hikes at more temperate times
- Public-private partnerships
- Partnerships with U of Richmond, VCU, J. Sargeant Reynolds, etc...

Other News and Updates Discussed

- License plates are being sent to 3M; will be available for review in about a month's time, with a few cleanup tasks remaining
- Taxes must be filed by 11/15; sales tax exemption
- Officers and Committees were discussed; Elaine and ___ will be President; Betsy will serve as VP; Treasurer Myrna and Mary Helen; Laura Taylor will serve as Events Coordinator; Vicky as Recording Secretary
- JRP Fund was increased by ~\$500 -- \$300 b/c fireworks did not happen; \$200 donation was received
- The Board unanimously approved monies to purchase the Composting Toilet; a Portable Water Tank for the Pumphouse Area; Ropelights replacement
- We need a Committee dedicated to ideas for disbursing assets

- Ralph requested funding for an elevator at the Pumphouse (~\$75); About 15 interpretive signs @ \$250 @; possibility of increasing Parking at Huguenot Flatwater -- if approved that could cost about \$2K.
- Discussion ensued regarding formalizing / enhancing signage throughout JRPS; Developing a template; Particular information associated with each area; Park Maps at all introductory signs; Costs and lifespans of various sign forms was reviewed (e.g., Z-dam signage which is plastic with wood frame runs about \$250 and has a lifespan of about 10-15 years).
- Ralph presented some details regarding his interactions with Park superiors and concerns regarding documentation of same.