

Friends of The James River Park
Board Meeting
Tuesday, October 4, 6 p.m.
TaZa Coffee

Present: Betsy, Elaine, Phil D., Warren, Myrna, Phil R. PJ Larry Molly, Maureen, Ralph, Vicky

- 1) Betsy Slade, new Co-President welcomed Board members and introduced the new officers:
Betsy - Co-President, Elaine - Co-President, Myrna – Treasurer, Vicky – Secretary
- 2) Minutes of previous meeting were accepted pending some minor revisions.
- 3) Myrna reviewed the Treasurer’s Report
- 4) Using the existing Committee structure, committee reports were presented:
 - a) Membership – Michael’s e-mail renewal letter should go out monthly (during time when renewal is needed from each particular member). This task is in progress. Molly will get with Michael (who could not attend tonight’s meeting) and Gaye and determine the status of the letter, which had been under revision.
 - b) Fundraising Committee – This committee, which was focused around issues including acquiring new lands, education, catastrophic events, possible challenges to conservation easement, no longer will be chaired by Molly. The endowment fund has assets of around \$40,000 with goal of about \$100,000. Last year, in lieu of fundraising, the Board focused on the FoJRP license plates. So, this committee can resume its activities, and perhaps a good time would be shortly after FoJRP members and others actually receive their license plates (get them in hand); though, it’s not clear when that will occur. It also is possible to take monies from ‘cash’ and reallocate them into endowment fund. Warren volunteered to spearhead this committee. An additional task related to this committee concerns the FoJRP brochure, on which the words “trust” and “trustees” need to be marked out and replaced with “endowment” and “Advisory Board,” in order to meet conditions of our 501c (3) status. Warren will take over the reigns from Molly, who had spearheaded this committee previously.
 - c) Maureen updated the group on the status of the License Plates.
 - d) With regard to the Events and Volunteers Committee (previously coordinated by Elaine), Laura Taylor will step in on this committee, also filling in for Marguerite, who is rotating off the Board. Elaine reported that we have 150 volunteers in our database, which includes individuals who may or may not be members of the FOJRP. These individuals either filled out volunteer form or spoke with someone on the Board and expressed a wish to help. Elaine noted that in later Fall and Spring there tends to be an influx of people needing community service hours, and Elaine refers people via e-mail to Ralph, Nathan, etc., which places a big burden on the volunteer coordinator. Ralph said we never

can have too many people to take out English ivy or poison ivy, vinca, bush honeysuckle. Also important are ongoing tasks of painting bridges and kiosks, etc. Finally, there always is trash to pick up somewhere. Ralph tends to wait for people to call. He will provide a listing of top 10 things you can do to help the park, including things individuals can do on their own or with your friends. A decision was made to set up a series of work days... an FoJRP representative or two should staff these events, and Ralph will be on hand at the beginning to orient volunteers. People need to bring their own tools, work gloves, and dress appropriately. Community service forms need a sign-off from someone 'official.' An agreement will be made between FoJRP and Ralph so FoJRP Board Members can provide the sign-off on community service hours. (See item regarding liability form, below).

- e) Regarding the 501c (3) transition – Betsy Had a meeting with Jaime (attorney) and matters are ongoing regarding what we can and cannot do; once matters are settled, info will be shared with everyone.

5) Old Business

- a) **Richmond's riverfront plan** – The City has hired Hargreaves Associates to come up with a plan for Richmond's downtown riverfront. Elaine and Betsy encourage you to check this out on FaceBook and look at the maps. The documentation makes clear the area of interest in the Eastern part of the Park. There is an increase in residential population in that area, but no playgrounds. There will be three public meetings, the first of which is on 10/18. www.rvanews.com
- b) Liability forms – Elaine: Volunteers need to sign a liability waiver like Richmond MORE's. We all need copies of that so if you are running an event you can cover yourself and the organization. Please begin using forms at next event – the November 19th cleanup of Riverside Drive, or other events if they occur before this one.
- c) Who will help mark out the word “Trust” – Betsy: Need to make a time with black magic markers, wine, and snacks.
- d) Have not heard back regarding the 10/1 deadline on the Chapel Island grant. We planned to set aside money and volunteer hours. We will spring into action if needed. Ralph noted that he had staked a claim to the island.
- e) Bike facility in Belle Island. The 2015 bike race in the City is a big deal; though, nothing yet has been heard of the Belle Island bike park. Ralph wants to recognize the limits of growth – is this a good time to push on the parking? Many questions remain, including how will the road that comes off of 2nd street impact usage? Ethyl Corp will give NW property that matches the loss on the Eastern side. Planned changes may allow buses to turn around and therefore be used. An alternative plan is no parking, just an amphitheater, which means bike in, come in by bus, walk in, or use NPS parking. Upshot is that the parking issue(s) and questions remain.

6) New Business

a) Warren had few thoughts for this year – he distributed a detailed and beautifully illustrated handout, with many thoughts for the future. Here are those thoughts, presented in a stream-of-consciousness sort of way, which may or may not be appropriate for FoJRP Board Meeting minutes: Committees need to be revamped, updated, and restaffed as these committees are our key to success, and their members really get the job done... so we need to follow up on this. Timeline for license plates suggests we may be ahead of schedule, or not... DMV completed the first two steps. Metal prototype should be coming our way from now to mid-November. We need to meet Dr. Merrifield (maybe an after-work at the Pumphouse). City/Bob Seidel owns the land and we need to become his good friend. We need to paint the Kiosk – Ralph says painting will be done this week and maps will be mounted next week. Gillis media will install as soon as they arrive. Chris Booker plaque is already up. How about a press release for some of our accomplishments? Look at and update Kiosk signage. Update event materials. We need a volunteer to work on this task. “What do the Friends do?” Hence, the elevator speech. Replace damaged signs. Benches. Website is best communication tool. Gay has been working on a Spanish page (with Stephanie and Susan) that links to the Spanish radio spot, and include safety rules and info on Belle Island and PP – maps, etc. Granite boulders – can stones from Ancarrow’s be transported to other places? A backhoe and a truck could be funded for a weekend, and much could be done. Need more happy signs. Keep on top of the Richmond Riverfront Concept Plan. Ninety-five acres of park – the Williams island -- remains untouched; owned by public utilities. Water off the dams goes into the settling basins and, ultimately, serve as a backup to the RVA water system. Island looks like JRP – make it a boat in only park? It can be JRP for as long as utilities doesn’t need it. Phew.

7) CD rates - Mary Helen: Will look up CD rates and handle by e-mail.

8) D & O insurance – Myrna: Directors and Officers’ insurance. We already have liability insurance via State Farm. Paperwork filled out and sent Sunday for D&O quote. Vote was unanimous to allot for up to \$1K for D&O insurance.

9) Committee assignments – Elaine introduced ideas for restructuring our menu of Committees. Ideas were discussed. Look for opportunities to review and discuss via e-mail.

a) Ralph’s Report: Upcoming expenses include \$10K for the composting toilet, BAM architects will manage the project and all in Ralph’s department are on board. Weight load is heavier than first anticipated. Needs signoff by architect / structural engineer. Probably won’t be in place by Thanksgiving, but by Spring (May 1) an opening time for the Pumphouse w/ electric lights inside and outside, toilets, and drinking water available. The next need is for an elevator, for which it is hoped a grant will be written (approximate cost is \$75-\$100K). Then, people who once danced in the Pumphouse can come back and an Oral History of their times at the Pumphouse will be created. FoJRP gave \$500 towards Pumphouse lighting, but another \$1500 is needed. Ralph has goal for

signage Pipeline rapids and (**?? Vicky Spaced**) and Worthington Steampump. Ralph has planned about 19 signs at \$250 each. Could ask for \$1K from Fund. Geology textbook guide needs to be completed and ready for the Springtime, which will cost about \$1K to \$1200. Ecology of floodplain / disaster zone needs to be rewritten. They all are gone, and this is a good time to improve the brochure which is the basic nature guide for the Park. Ralph wants \$1500 for flowers -- \$1k for bluebells, also dutchman's breeches, ferns, fungi. Retention basin Park – highly desired by locals for farmers / antiques markets, by folks on Southside. Money will be needed for that. Manchester area around ArtWorks by the Fish Festival. Land is on the Eastern side of Hull St. behind Ag tower. Problem raised at Huguenot Flatwater – request to expand parking. User composition is said to be correct (boaters and no apparent party scene). But, users are getting ticketed and park neighbors would like some relief from parkers. Parking lot design could be completed this winter and then the parking lot could be made in Springtime. Lot census is 35, but Ralph said 'we can jam in about double.' The creation of the parking lot is in congruence with the JRP Conservation Easement. Expansion would head east towards the bridge. New things coming up – request to put in civil war garden on Belle Island: 20 X 20 feet for Northern/ Union soldiers. Loop of footpath through current meadow leading to kitchen, line of tents, etc... ultimately the garden would tell the story of where things happened. Finally, a landowner up on the hill again destroyed the waterflow from the salamander pool. This neighbor believes the salamander pool is a nuisance as it breeds mosquitoes that transmit West Nile virus. A gate control system must be established in order to protect the Spotted Salamanders.

Respectfully submitted,

Vicky Shivy