

Friends of James River Park Meeting – November 11, 2012
6:30 PM JRPS Headquarters

Attending: Elaine, Ralph, Nathan, Phil, Betsy, Larry, Adrian, Molly, Myrna, Jane (visitor), Phil R., Warren, Thomas (park neighbor).

1. Approval of Minutes – Retreat and October minutes were approved.
2. New Conservation Easement Sign
 - Elaine on a committee with John Zeugner, Tara Smith, among other for a sign that could go in the kiosks. Ralph will make recommendations to Larry Miller.
 - There was some discussion regarding the graphical specifications of the map -- the sign does not explicitly say "Conservation Easement." Also, the logos seem large, relative to the size of the map.
3. Trail Marking
 - Warren and Nathan attended a meeting with the City and Sports Backers and Richmond MORE. Markings primarily are for EMS / Official use and, secondarily, for way finding by visitors. Trail Head Kiosks will have maps, etc. The focus for this meeting was the Trail Markers themselves, which are thin posts with names, location markings, trail difficulty (perhaps more informative for bicyclists). There will not be distance / mileage markers (i.e., many signs placed at specific intervals on trails). This had been a point of contention – as it effectively would 'pull back the curtain' on the limited size of the wilderness spaces. Sports Backers will provide up \$3k.
4. Updated E-mail list for Board – completed during the meeting.
5. Results of Survey and Committee Formation – With regard to top two FoJRP concerns, as obtained from survey, (Ralph's Retirement and the Salamander Problem) we need to specify the problem area, identify strategies and possible solutions.

Salamander Committee: Not needed unless the Official Response (promised) does not occur.
Spotted salamanders (February / March) – critters of interest
Marble salamanders (November / December) – another species now sharing the vernal pool

Ralph's Successor Committee: Molly, Elaine, met in the spring with City Officials
Molly will ask Larry Miller (Deputy Director on the Parks side of things vis-à-vis Rec) to attend the next FoJRP meeting (December 3rd) to fill us in on progress; City can begin advertising for the position on January 3rd; The search committee will include 2 reps from the City and major stakeholders (e.g., FoJRP, MORE, JROC) and will select 3-4 candidates from the applicant pool; Mayor's Office asked Parks to move forward on riverfront development ; The City has a consultant working on these issues (Mark Young park consultant, known to Merrifield professionally). Job Description / Qualifications should be issued in the next week. League of American Bicyclists awarded RIC a Bronze Award – as a City friendly to bikes.
6. E-mail to Website Update – for Elaine and Betsy. There was a question regarding carrying firearms in the Park, which is legal; whereas carrying a concealed weapon (also legal) requires a permit.
7. Fundraising Letter – FoJRP needs to send out a fundraising letter. We have about ½ the monies needed in our P&P (Endowment) fund; we need \$100K before we can spend from this account. The

purpose of this \$100K is to protect the Conservation Easement. Interest from this fund for spending also is restricted to select purposes. We have a letter put together from a community member / professional fundraiser which needs revision.

8. The plan for the composting toilet at the Pumphouse is off. The City will be installing pipes, etc., for conventional plumbing – estimated at \$60-70K. (Hence \$10K from FoJRP is freed up). Dominion will ante up \$75K for an elevator, but this is contingent on the plumbing.

COMMITTEES:

- Park Improvements could be one Committee – Warren and Larry (Co-chairs)
- Ralph's Successor could be the other Committee – Molly and Elaine (Co-chairs)
- Salamander salvation may be resolved via the City – ad hoc
- Phil Riggan is working on an article for regarding recycling. Jane will work on this project as she has contacts with *Style* weekly.

Ralph noted a need for information regarding Park Visitors at various entrances. Nathan asks for \$3K for (6) Park Counters, and showed the Board what functional counters look like.

Meeting Adjourned 8:31 PM