



November 2010 Minutes

Tuesday, 2 November 2010, 6 pm
Byrd Park Roundhouse

Attendees: Richard, Betsy, Molly, Warren, Maureen, Myrna, Marguerite, George, Mary Helen, Phil Dawson, Michael White, John Antonietta, Mary Wickham (former Board President), Phil Riggan James River News Hub; Larry Socha; Jane Hotchkiss

Guest: Noel McKenzie, Enrichmond Foundation;

A. VOTES

1. **Welcome New Board Members:** Congratulations and welcome to John Antonietta and Michael White.
2. **FOJRP Accountant:** Motion passed to hire Todd Ofslager as our official accountant of record. His rate is \$65 per hour. Myrna has worked with him before. Todd will be able to verify the books, which is necessary before applying for grants. He has recommended paying for director insurance, costing \$150 per year. This will be discussed at the next meeting.
3. **JRAC Holiday Boat Parade.** The Board voted not to participate this year.

B. UPCOMING EVENTS

1. **Wine Tasting at The Boathouse,** Wednesday, Nov. 10, 6 to 8
2. **Post Marathon Trash Pick-up at Pony Pasture,** Sunday, Nov. 14, 1pm
3. **Capital Ale House, Community Chest benefitting FOJRP,** 5 Thursdays in December

C. THE HOT LIST

1. **License Plates:** We need 350 completed applications by Jan 1. Despite great enthusiasm, the application count has been stuck at 140. People have taken applications but not turned them in with payment. In response, John A. offered to place a banner ad in Style Weekly online, which will run for 4 weeks for \$695. FOJRP has had a couple of booths with applications at the South of James Farmer's Market. Gay and Molly have left stack of applications at a number of local businesses, including florists, cafes, pet shops, and outdoor gear merchants REI and Blue Ridge Mountain Sports. Betsy, Molly, and Maureen have stalked Pony Pasture and Belle Isle giving out applications. Gay created some outdoor, weatherproof boxes to house applications at Pony Pasture, Huguenot, the Wetlands, and Belle Isle. Maureen promoted the license plates before her neighborhood association as did Richard. Myrna is offering license plates as Christmas gifts. Michael W. suggested writing out a list of talking points in favor of the license plates to distribute to the Board, to include suggested rebuttals to objections.

D. DISCUSSIONS & FOLLOW-UPS

1. Treasurer's Report: Myrna

- Next month, vote, possibly by email, to place \$4,533.88 of the P&P Fund in a CD
- See attachment

2. Fundraising Committee: Molly, Gay, Warren

- **License Plates:** See above

3. Events Committee: Richard, Marguerite

- Hands on Richmond, October 16: A great group of 35 volunteers cleared 50-60 yards of the Washington Canal. Ralph chose this project in the hopes volunteer progress would prompt Parks & Rec to do more in the future.
- The Boathouse at Rockett's Landing: will host a wine tasting event for FOJRP. A percentage of the Bay oyster appetizers would benefit the Friends.
- Capital Ale House's Community Chest Nights: will donate 20% of all food sales to the Friends each Thursday in December at all locations. Diners just need to bring a flyer. The Friends can have feature license plate applications on site.
- JRAC Summer Events Brochure: There's a December 11 deadline to submit dates for inclusion. This prompted a discussion of whether or not to continue holding the annual picnic after the JRAC park clean-up in June. The Events committee will look at the calendar for options and report back in December.

4. Signs Committee: Maureen

Maureen plans to meet with Forest Hill Park Chair, to discuss creating and possibly funding nice looking signs, with maps, for the most visited sections of the James River Park, including Pony Pasture, Belle Isle, and Main Area/Reedy Creek.

5. Other Notes

- **Volunteer Committee:** Elaine M. has offered to chair this. John A. and Michael W. would like to take part as well. They have ideas on how to hone the website.
- **Membership Committee:** Michael White has offered to help Myrna develop ideas to bolster minority recruitment and Hispanic outreach. Warren will put in VCU Create-A-Thon application, concentrating on Hispanic outreach.
- **Fundraising Committee:** Maureen suggested creating new t-shirts with logo for sale, using discounted VA corrections shirts.
- **Cameras at Reedy Creek:** Kathy Grazianos' office is looking for outside funding for parking lot surveillance cameras, in the hopes it would deter car break-ins. Forest Hill Neighborhood Association may also be interested in participating. Initial est. cost is \$7-8K.
- **Riparin Buffer Project:** Maureen sees great potential in adapting a Chesterfield model which offers neighborhoods located near the river with feeder streams free native plants and instruction to combat water erosion. This would not be a Friends only project.

4. GUEST: Noel McKenzie, Executive Director, EnRichmond Foundation

Noel McKenzie kindly arranged for our meeting to be held in the Byrd Park Roundhouse while the Reedy Creek renovation continues. The EnRichmond Foundation would like to continue its relationship with FOJRP. The Foundation might provide support to the FOJRP for such things as event speakers, grants to both public and private sources, managing volunteers – not unlike the United Way.

7. Ralph Report

Tuesday Nov2 is Election Day and I'm an election officer, so I won't be able to attend the meeting. Issues that I'd have like to bring up include

- 1: Boat Parade Viewing at Libby Hill on Saturday Dec.11. Does FoJRP want to take it on again this year? I'm about ready to have the Recreation Division of Rec & Park or local civic

association take it over. It costs about \$350 for supplies and involves a significant amount of staff overtime to set up and break down the show. On the other hand, J R Pope lives in the neighborhood and its been favorably looked at by JRAC --- the James River Advisory Council that represents interests from all the surrounding communities --- since otherwise there might not be any official City involvement in the event.

2: The James River Park Annual Review is to occur Wednesday Nov 16 from 10 to 12 at the hopefully open Park HQ / Visitor Center. his is a gathering of field-level staff from the various agencies involved in the park --- fire & rescue, ambulance, police, concessionaires and large groups doing advising or volunteer work in the park, like JROC and the FoJRP.

3: The Ramp to the Rocks on Belle Isle is 3/4 done. This will provide easier access to the flat rocks below the roadway near Hollywood Rapids. It does not provide a path across all the rocks and out to the river, but only to the first part of the dry riverbed. This is to allow everyone to experience the river from the natural rock surface with its potholes, fractures, water-worn surfaces.

4: The Interpretive sign for the Z Dam and its precursor will be going to the shop this week. There were no comments from FoJRP members, so it will be pretty much as it was ... with a few editorial cuts and 2 photos --- one of the route of the old dam and another of the road cut that exposes the remnant of the old Westham Quarry Road.

5: Students are working on the texts for other interpretive signs: Atlantic-Coastline Railroad Bridge, the Bascule Lift Bridge at Great Shiplock Park, and the Tidewater Connection Canal also at Shiplock Park. The park manager will be drafting a sign about the Ecology of the Pony Pasture Rapids (maybe "Life in the Fast Lane" ???) Again, editorial advice is solicited from FoJRP membersand, perhaps, a little funding if available (signs cost \$250 complete)

6: Progress has slowed on the Pump House toilet-and-lighting projects. The latter is proving a problem due to the low amount of amperage available; the former due to the managers inability to finish reading the book on composting toilet options. Both projects, however, do not need to be completed until next May. Applying for a grant to get an elevator is on hold pending an evaluation of how much it will cost to run a dedicated electrical line and where the additional power will come from.

Ralph White
James River Parks System / Manager

Respectfully submitted, Gay Leahy, Secretary emeritus, December 4, 2010