

**Friends of James River Park – Meeting, Park Headquarters  
December 3, 2012**

**Board Members:** Mary Helen, Elaine, Betsy, Anne, Jane, Myrna, Vicky, Phil, Warren, Larry  
**Guests:** Nancy, Diane, Kevin, Steve, Adrian, Bill, Shawn  
**Park Staff:** Ralph and Nathan

**1. Introductions were made and Minutes from November were approved.**

**2. JRPS Conservancy Signs-** Elaine received a bill from John Zeungner for signage earlier today. We will follow up.

**3. James River Days –** Discussion as to whether FoJRP Picnic needs to go into the James River Days brochure.

**4. Web-related Concerns –** Questions to Webbones regarding how to contact Ralph, etc., (individuals whose e-mail addresses ‘don’t work...’) were tabled for this meeting. Elaine will work with Susan to address issues.

**5. Updates on the search for the new JRPS Superintendent** (Ralph’s replacement). Warren heard from Dr. Merrifield directly, and he has been asked to serve on the search committee. The ad was placed in the NRPA – and notably, the ad already is posted! Typically ads only can be placed after the position is vacated.

**6. Facebook Page Updates –** PJ gave word that he continues making periodic updates.

**7. Fundraising letter** was generated by Phil and Molly, and circulated for review. Nancy asked if FoJRP is associated with the Combined Virginia Campaign (CVC). We are not. The CVC is a menu of agencies / organizations to which workers can donate (easily, and via direct deposit).

**8. Progress on Warren’s agenda –**

- Updating kiosk signs in order to include Williams Island, which can be done by way of a patch (vis-à-vis new signs).
- Obtained pricing on moving boulders – from Ancarrow’s Landing to the area near the entrance to the Pony Pasture, an approximate expense of \$3.5K. The boulders Warren speaks of are associated with the Kanahwa Canal. Ralph is comfortable using them in the JRPS, but not outside the Park System. Ralph wondered if Park Staff could be hired on an OT basis, using City equipment, as this would save costs.

**9. Science in the Park –**

- Anne reported that the Geology component is almost ready to go.
- Two tours of Geology on the edges of Belle Isle have been developed and can be downloaded onto a cellphone for walking the tours.
- Anne will provide FoJRP with the web links (which ultimately will be posted to our website), and / or Anne can host a visit to the Park doing Beta-testing.
- Grant from Altria to Anne at VCU Biology.
- The audiences for the modules are the general public, middle- and high-schools (keyed to VA SOLs).
- A vegetation guide for the rock pools also is under development.

**10. Park Survey –** Vicky requested FoJRP support in partnering on a VCU Community Engagement grant this Spring. Adrian, Myrna, Elaine and Nathan expressed interest in helping. Grant funds (if obtained) could pay a

PhD student to supervise data collection for an enhanced park survey. Ralph supported the effort, hoping funds also could be used to purchase automated car counters (6 to 8 of these devices). Timeline for purchase of counters does not map onto timeline for the grant, but more discussion will occur when RFP is made available.

**11. A new Board Member** was elected! Given Adrian's consistent attendance, support, and volunteer efforts, she was elected as the newest member of the FoJRP Board.

**12. Winter Solstice** is being spearheaded by Nathan. Date is Friday the 21<sup>st</sup> at 4:30 PM, on Belle Isle, just off the footbridge. We usually have a poetry reading, and last year there was music. We hope for this level of support, as well as cookies and hot cider this year, too!

**13. Constant Contact**, sadly, must now proceed without Maureen's talent as our witty and snarky writer. Volunteers?

**14. Myrna presented the Treasurer's Report.**

**15. Regarding the budget**, Mary Helen noted a few necessary amendments, in order to maintain consistency between our fiscal plans and spending categories. These will appear in the future as items on which Board Members must vote. She provided a few examples with regard to expenditures (e.g., work on Chapel Island at the Eastern End of City, close to Shiplock Park), Warren's boulders idea, and Ralph and Nathan's requests for car counters. These items were tabled for tonight, pending more necessary information on costs, etc. Board Members should watch their e-mail for upcoming requests for input.

Meeting adjourned at 7:56 PM.