

Friends of the James River Park Board Meeting

January 9, 2018 at 6:30 pm

Meeting Minutes

Board Members in Attendance: Nathan Burrell, Justin Doyle, Nancy Fowler, Katherine Mitchell, Shawna Shade, Scott Silvester, Larry Socha, Karen Thomas, Kevin Tobin

Guests: Patrick Griffin, Colleen Curran, Mary Wickham, Jim Beckmann (Board Candidate), Cary Wing (Board Candidate), Trammell Beckmann (Board Candidate)

Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 pm and attendees introduced themselves. Guests included Patrick Griffin of the James River Outdoor Coalition (JROC) and RVA Paddlesports, Colleen Curran of the Richmond Times-Dispatch, Mary Wickham of the James River Park System Invasive Plant Task Force, and three board candidates.

Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the December meeting minutes with amendments passed.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report was given by Shawna Shade, who reported the new Friends of the James River Park website and goats at the Manchester Climbing Wall were recent expenses. Shawna also reported receiving donations in Myrna Hartley's and a Christmas card from True Timber.

Park Superintendent Report

The Park Superintendent Report was given by Nathan Burrell, who reported the following:

- Nathan took deserved time off in December.
- The Winter Solstice event organized by Friends of the James River Park drew a larger crowd than expected. More than 100 individuals attended. The event was promoted by the Richmond Times-Dispatch.
- The James River Advisory Council's annual Parade of Lights event was postponed.
- Nathan and Larry coordinated the donation of two rolls of Tyvek from DuPont for the creation of new James River Park System maps. Roger Sattler is designing the new map with guidance from the Urban Agenda.
- Park staff is working on the Warren Foster memorial bench project to be installed at Z Dam on Riverside Drive.
- The James River Park System recently became a Leave No Trace park.

Invasive Plant Task Force Update

The Invasive Plant Task Force update was given by Mary Wickham, who reported the following:

- Invasive plant species are impacting the health of the James River Park System.
- The James River Park System Invasive Plant Task Force was formed in 2015. Members of the task force surveyed the park system, identified invasive plant species, and helped a consultant create a plan to eliminate/manage them.
- Friends of the James River Park is the fiscal agent of the Invasive Plant Task Force.
- A \$10,000 grant from Universal Leaf was recently awarded to the Invasive Plant Task Force.
- WRIR interview airing January 10, 2018.
- Invasive Species Awareness week is scheduled to begin February 26, 2018.

Old Business

RVA Osprey Cam

Friends of the James River Park will sponsor the RVA Osprey Cam in 2018. Bald eagle and Blue heron cameras are not being developed for 2018.

Newsletters (Constant Contact)

P.J. Fanning recently left the board of the Friends of the James River Park. Karen Thomas is formatting newsletters, which are sent to 6,937 email addresses. Content is needed for the newsletters. Kevin Tobin volunteered to create content for the newsletters. Mary Wickham offered to write an Invasive Plant Task Force update for the newsletter. Karen asked contributors to send content to her to be included in newsletters.

New Business

Board Member Candidates

Three board member candidates introduced themselves.

Committee Reports

Fundraising Committee Report

Katherine Mitchell and Nathan are meeting with community organizations and prospective funders. They are seeking endorsements from organizations. Katherine reported the short promotional video about the James River Park System is nearly complete and shared it with meeting attendees.

Advocacy Committee Report

Nathan will be in touch with the Advocacy Committee in the near future.

Membership Committee Report

The Membership Committee is working on changing the process to bring new board members onto the board. Board recognition and a team building activity are being considered. Patrick

Griffin offered to take board members on a whitewater rafting trip. An annual membership meeting is being considered. Each board member will be asked to recruit new members.

Events Committee Report

The Banff Mountain Film Festival is scheduled for March 8th through 10th at James River High School in Chesterfield County.

Communications Committee Report

The new website is nearing completion and board members were asked to provide feedback. Karen Thomas will give board members access to the Friends of the James River Park Facebook account.

Finance Committee Report

No updates.

Volunteer Day

The monthly volunteer day is scheduled for Saturday, January 13, 2018, from 10:00 am until 1:00 pm at Ancarrow's Landing.

New Board Members Election

The three candidates for the board, Jim Beckmann, Cary Wing, and Trammel Beckmann, were asked to leave the meeting. Scott Silvester motioned to elect the three board member candidates to the board. The motion was seconded by Kevin Tobin. The motion passed unanimously. New board member orientation will be held at 5:00 pm on Tuesday, February 6, 2018, before the board meeting.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 at 6:30 pm