

Friends of the James River Park Board Meeting

March 6, 2018 at 6:30 pm

Meeting Minutes

Board Members in Attendance: Cat Anthony, Jim Beckmann, Trammell Beckmann, Nathan Burrell, Justin Doyle, Katherine Mitchell, Shawna Shade, Scott Silvester, Larry Socha, Mary Kay Martin, Karen Thomas, Kevin Tobin, Greg Velzy

Guests in Attendance: Patrick Griffin, Alex Kouzel, Andy Thompson, Ryan Abrahamsen

Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the February meeting minutes passed.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report was given by Shawna Shade.

Park Superintendent Report

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

- 97 lights on the T. Tyler Potterfield Memorial Bridge were vandalized.
- 432 volunteers volunteered in the James River Park System to date.
- Invasive Species Awareness week was successful. The board approved receiving a \$9,800 grant from the Virginia Department of Forestry for revegetating Belle Isle and Chapel Island. The work will be done by the Invasive Plant Task Force.
- New James River Park System maps are nearing completion. Printing the maps on Tyvek is not an option. Organizations including Friends of the James River Park, James River Outdoor Coalition, James River Association, rvaMORE, and National Park Service will each contribute \$1,250 to the project.
- New interpretive signs were installed on the T. Tyler Potterfield Memorial Bridge.

Nathan circulated photographs of Pony Pasture from the 1960s.

RVA Osprey Cam

Andy Thompson and Ryan Abrahamsen presented new features of the RVA Osprey Cam. New features include an infrared camera, Adopt an Osprey, and donation option. A new sign about the RVA Osprey Cam will be installed on the Potterfield Memorial Bridge in the near future.

Old Business

Constant Contact

Karen Thomas continues to coordinate newsletter content. The newsletter is typically distributed the first week of each month. Karen is meeting with Susan from Webbones to

discuss pushing people to the Friends of the James River Park website via Constant Contact. Members of the board discussed advocacy action related to Mayor Stoney's budget via Constant Contact. Karen thanked Jim Beckmann for proofreading the most recent newsletter. Kevin Tobin shared an article about Christian Wood.

Board Member Whitewater Rafting Trip

Board members to select a weekday evening in May at 6:00 pm to go whitewater rafting. Patrick Griffin of RVA Paddlesports suggested meeting at Stone Brewing.

Conflict of Interest Policy

Mary Kay to review the conflict of interest policy. The policy will be considered at the April meeting.

New Business

No new business.

Committee Reports

Fundraising Committee Report

Katherine Mitchell and Nathan are working on scheduling meetings with Altria and Dominion. Three proposals totaling \$150,000 were submitted in January. Katherine suggested reviewing past grants to identify prospective funders. Prospective funders include New Market Corporation, Afton Chemical, CoStar, SunTrust, Wells Fargo, and Troutman Sanders.

Advocacy Committee Report

Mary Kay Martin reported she is scheduled to meet with Nathan Friday. She is drafting a letter to City Council advocating for James River Park System. Board members, who live in the City of Richmond, are needed to speak at upcoming City Council meetings.

Finance Committee Report

No report.

Communications Committee Report

Karen Thomas reported new Friends of the James River Park stickers and RVA Osprey Cam materials will be at Riverrock and Explore the Outdoors. Karen will coordinate the printing of new foam core maps of the James River Park System. Shay Wilson is interested in being an artist-in-residence. Karen will contact Shay.

Events Committee Report

Kevin Tobin reported the committee met at Legend on February 28 and will meet again March 21. The committee reviewed existing events. The committee recommended making the annual board retreat as convenient to board members as possible. River Heroes will remain a unique event and will not be consolidated with the annual picnic. The annual picnic is scheduled for

June 3. Invitations for the annual picnic are typically sent in April. Greg suggested Friends of the Pumphouse as an event partner. Festival of the River of is scheduled for June 8 – 10.

Membership Committee Report

A new board candidate intends to attend the May board meeting. Nathan was recently approached by Jon Baliles. Jon is interested in joining the board.

Volunteer Day

Invasive species removal is scheduled for March 10 at Pony Pasture.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 3, 2018 at 6:30 pm