

## **Friends of the James River Park Board Meeting**

**April 3, 2018 at 6:30 pm**

### **Meeting Minutes**

**Board Members in Attendance:** Cat Anthony, Jim Beckmann, Trammell Beckmann, Nathan Burrell (ex officio), Justin Doyle, Nancy Fowler, Katherine Mitchell, Larry Socha, Mary Kay Martin, Karen Thomas, Kevin Tobin, Greg Velzy, Cary Wing

**Guests in Attendance:** Patrick Griffin, Shay Wilson

### **Meeting Minutes**

Motion to approve the March meeting minutes with an amendment passed.

### **Artist in Residence**

Shay Wilson attended the meeting and presented a proposal to be the James River Park System's Artist in Residence for a year. Shay proposed workshops including painting and sketching scenes of the park, nature art created with found materials, and leaf and tree renderings to create personal identification books. Workshops would be open to the public and would be scheduled once a month or more based on interest. Shay requested funds to support the workshops and promotion from the Friends of the James River Park. Nancy suggested creating a budget. Larry Socha motioned to support Shay's proposal contingent on the budget. The motion was seconded and all board members were in favor.

### **Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer's Report was given by Nancy Fowler. Two grants supporting the Invasive Plant Task Force were recently received.

### **Park Superintendent Report**

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

- \$20,000 to replace the 97 lights on the T. Tyler Potterfield Memorial Bridge that were vandalized. The cost could be covered by the City of Richmond's insurance. The goal is to replace the lights by Festival of the River.
- 129,329 visits to the James River Park System were counted in March. 321,567 visits to the park system have been counted YTD.
- New maps of the James River Park System are in production. Five organizations each contributed \$1,066 to the project.
- The Invasive Plant Task Force is targeting Tree of Heaven at the top of Belle Isle with funding from Universal Leaf.

- The Groundwork RVA Green Team is constructing a pathway at the Manchester Climbing Wall with a \$14,000 grant from the National Park Service. A kiosk and signage will be installed this summer. Students are learning how to rock climb.
- Vauxhall Island and islands upriver of Williams Island will be transferred to the City of Richmond in the near future. The acreage will eventually be incorporated into the James River Park System conservation easement.
- Nathan and Katherine Mitchell are meeting with Dominion to discuss the James River Park System Master Plan next week. Nathan and Katherine would like to meet with Altria.
- A season environmental educator position recently closed. Seasonal operations positions will open in the near future.

Nathan shared new James River Park System Environmental Education Catalog.

### **Old Business**

#### **Constant Contact**

Karen Thomas continues to coordinate newsletter content. Katherine suggested promoting upcoming events in the newsletter, especially the annual picnic. Nancy suggested sharing the work of the Invasive Plant Task Force.

#### **Conflict of Interest Policy**

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

#### **Board Member Whitewater Rafting Trip**

Board members will select a weekday evening in May at 6:00 pm to go whitewater rafting.

### **New Business**

#### **Invasive Species Legislation**

Nancy recently met with Mary Wickham of the Invasive Plant Task Force. Mary mentioned state legislation related to invasive species. Nancy delegated the issue to the Advocacy Committee.

#### **Paddling Film Festival**

Patrick Griffin would like to organize the Paddling Film Festival to benefit the Friends of the James River Park. The cost of the event is \$695. Patrick is working to offset the fee. Revenue from ticket sales would come to Friends of the James River Park. Patrick is seeking for a family-friendly venue. Patrick was encouraged to join the Events Committee.

### **Committee Reports**

**Fundraising Committee Report**

Friends of the James River Park received \$20,000 from The Community Foundation for the James River Park System Master Plan. Friends was invited to apply to The Beirne Carter Foundation. Katherine requested financial documents for the application. Nathan and Katherine have a meeting scheduled with Dominion and would like to meet with Altria.

**Advocacy Committee Report**

Mary Kay Martin drafted a letter to City Council that will be sent this week. Mary Kay intends to speak at an upcoming City Council meeting.

**Finance Committee Report**

No report.

**Communications Committee Report**

Karen Thomas reported a global calendar meeting is scheduled and will be held at the James River Association. Karen contacting the Virginia Native Plant Society regarding the Memorial Gift Fund. Foam core maps of the park system are printed and new tablecloths were ordered.

**Events Committee Report**

Kevin Tobin reported the Events Committee believes promoting the organization, park system, RVA Osprey Cam, and license plates are priorities at events. Upcoming events include RVA Green Drinks, Riverrock, Explore the Outdoors, Annual Picnic, and Festival of the River. Board members and volunteers are needed at each event.

**Membership Committee Report**

Nancy will schedule a date in May based on the availability of board members for the whitewater rafting trip with RVA Paddlesports.

**Volunteer Day**

Invasive species removal is scheduled for April 14 at Pony Pasture.

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, May 1, 2018 at 6:30 pm