

Friends of the James River Park Board Meeting
Tuesday, February 5, 2019 at 6:30 pm
Meeting Minutes

Board members in attendance:

Katherine Mitchell, President
Mary Kay Martin, Vice President
Shawna Shade, Treasurer
Justin Doyle, Secretary
Trammell Beckmann
Mike Doerr
Scott Silvester
Kevin Tobin
Greg Velzy
Cary Wing

Park staff members in attendance:

Michael Burton, Trails and Greenways Superintendent
Bryce Wilk, Park Superintendent

Guests in attendance:

Georgia Busch, board candidate

Introductions

Board members in attendance introduced themselves to Georgia Busch, a candidate for the board. Georgia is a former educator with the James River Association and is currently employed by the Maymont Foundation as Manager of Environmental and Outdoor Education. She is the principal coordinator of the Greater Richmond Environmental Education Network. She applied to join the board after seeing a call for applicants. Greg Velzy will contact her after the meeting.

Bryce Wilk's Report to the Board

Bryce Wilk, the new Park Superintendent, started two weeks ago. He comes to the James River Park System from Pocahontas State Park where he was an assistant manager. He is impressed by the people who use and care for the park system. He reported the hardwood floors of park headquarters were recently refinished. Reorganization within the Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities is underway. Volunteer Coordinator interviews are in progress and the department will be filling positions as soon as possible. He recently met with Shawna Shade of the board. Dredging at Ancarrow's Landing is delayed until June because of the partial government shutdown.

Michael Burton's Report to the Board

Michael Burton, the new Trails and Greenways Superintendent, provided an update on the North Bank Connector project and reported volunteers from the Appalachian Trail Club will be volunteering in two weekends. The Department of Parks, Recreation and

Community Facilities is emphasizing trails in other city parks and is looking to expand capacity to do trail work by adding staff members.

Meeting Minutes

Justin Doyle circulated meeting minutes from the January board meeting. Katherine Mitchell motioned to approve the minutes. Kevin Tobin seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

President's Report

Katherine Mitchell reported two neighborhood meetings for the James River Park System Master Plan have been held to date. 1,254 online questionnaires and 161 paper questionnaires have been received. Thursday's neighborhood meeting should be well-attended. March 6 is the final public meeting at the Virginia War Memorial and Friends of the James River Park will need to get the word out about it. Katherine and Mary Wickham on the Invasive Plant Task Force are meeting with The Community Foundation to discuss funding for staff.

Treasurer's Report

Shawna Shade reported Friends of the James River Park received \$4,300 in donations and \$1,800 in memberships in January. A \$12,000 payment was made to VHB for the James River Park System Master Plan and a check in the amount of \$1,300 was mailed to Capital Region Land Conservancy.

Committee Reports

Communications Committee

Trammell Beckmann reported Scott Dickens may create a flier promoting master plan meetings to be posted around the park system and inside businesses. A Facebook ad promoting the March 6 meeting could be purchased. The monthly newsletter will feature the master plan, Invasive Species Awareness Week, Shiver in the River, and volunteer opportunities. The Invasive Plant Task Force was added to the organization's donation webpage and the Protection and Preservation Fund was removed for the time being. The committee is looking for a point person for social media. Justin Doyle reported Catherine Komp of WCVE is working on a story about the master plan.

Membership Committee

No report.

Events Committee

Kevin Tobin reported neighborhood meetings for the master plan are off to a good start. Almost all neighborhood meetings are staffed. RVA More will provide volunteers for one of the two unstaffed remaining neighborhood meetings. Scott Dickens promoted the online questionnaire. The Events Committee will consider other Friends of the James River Park events in the near future. Shawn and Mary Kay Martin will staff a Friends of the James River Park table at Shiver in the River.

Board Development Committee

Greg Velzy reported he is working on bringing Georgia Busch onboard.

Advocacy Committee

Mary Kay will meet with Nathan in the near future to discuss budget requests and the Protection and Preservation Fund. Justin updated the board on riverfront and park system appropriations the James River Association and a coalition of organizations including Friends of the James River Park is advocating for this year.

Finance Committee

No report.

Old Business

Part-time Employee

Katherine reported Byron Chafin will serve as interim Treasurer as Shawna Shade is becoming the organization's Office Manager.

International Whitewater Hall of Fame and World River Center

Richmond, Virginia and Asheville, North Carolina are finalists for the International Whitewater Hall of Fame and World River Center.

New Business

Richmond Slave Trail Program with Ralph White

Ralph White, former Superintendent of the James River Park System, was asked to lead an interpretive program on the Richmond Slave Trail. Greg motioned to support the program and Kevin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Ralph will be encouraged to coordinate with park system staff members.

Shay Wilson - Artist in Residence

Shay Wilson the park system's Artist in Residence will attend the March board meeting.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 5, 2019 at 6:30 pm