

Friends of the James River Park Board Meeting

Monday, March 4, 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

Cat Anthony

Georgia Busch

Byron Chafin

Scott Dickens

Scott Silvester

Greg Velzy

Park staff members in attendance:

Bryce Wilk, Park Superintendent

Guests in attendance:

Jake Savage, board candidate

Introductions

Jake Savage, a candidate for the board, introduced himself. Jake is a retired investment banker, enjoys mountain biking, and lives in The Fan with his family. Board members and park system staff members in attendance introduced themselves following Jake's introduction.

Meeting Minutes

Justin Doyle circulated meeting minutes from the February board meeting. Greg Velzy motioned to approve the minutes. Scott Dickens seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Park Superintendent's Report

Bryce Wilk, the new Superintendent of the James River Park System, reported 250' of service road on Belle Isle and 300' of trail and service road at Pony Pasture washed away as a result of recent flooding. Numerous trash and recycling receptacles in the park system have been burned recently. Five fires have occurred and an arson investigation is underway. Recent projects include the cleanup of a homeless camp near the Tredegar area with volunteer assistance, trail reroute and bridge construction at Larus Park, and bridge construction at Reedy Creek.

Bryce reported a successful Invasive Species Awareness Week. Events were held every day of the week and Boogie for the Biosphere raised \$500.

Bryce reported the Mayor's budget will be presented to City Council on Wednesday. Bryce would like to be able to fill all full-time positions serving the James River Park System, a total of 15 positions. A board member suggested including a story about the Mayor's budget in the next e-newsletter.

President's Report

Katherine Mitchell reported this week is the last week of master plan meetings. The final meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 6, at the Virginia War Memorial. Nearly 2,000 questionnaires have been received to date. A public input memo will be drafted and shared with the technical and advisory committees.

Katherine reported Friends of the James River Park may need to play a role in conservation easement monitoring. She will contact Capital Region Land Conservancy.

Katherine encouraged board members to renew their memberships. Georgia Busch, a new board member, recommended Wild Apricot as a membership system.

Treasurer's Report

Shawna Shade is stepping down as Treasurer to become the organization's first part-time employee. She reported a check in the amount of \$9,545 was received from

the Virginia Department of Forestry for the Invasive Plant Task Force. A check in the amount of \$25,000 was sent to VHB for the master plan.

Committee Reports

Finance Committee: Shawna suggested members of the Finance Committee should convene in the near future to draft a budget for the upcoming fiscal year. Shawna will no longer be serving on the committee.

Communications Committee: Social media and blogs have focused on the master plan. A suggestion was made to boost the Facebook event for the March 6 master plan meeting. The date and location of the draft master plan presentation will be shared via Friends of the James River Park communications.

Events Committee

Volunteers are needed to work the Friends of the James River Park table at Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour on Friday and Saturday. Scott Silvester volunteered to work the table on Friday and Cat Anthony volunteered to work the table on Saturday. Upcoming events include Party for the Planet, Riverrock, and Explore the Outdoors.

Membership Committee

Cat reported membership is going great! Email addresses are being captured at master plan meetings. Cat will ensure board members have current memberships. A membership event in June is being considered with the Events Committee.

Board Development Committee

Greg reported adding Georgia Busch to the Friends of the James River Park board. He recently had a positive meeting with Dean Brunson, a candidate for the board, and is working on bringing Jack Savage onboard.

Advocacy Committee

Mary Kay Martin reported she will meet with Mike Doerr to discuss meeting with members of City Council.

New Business

Annual Membership Picnic

Friends of the James River Park typically organizes an annual picnic for members at Pump House Park. The historic Pump House is not able to be used as an event venue.

Conservation Easement Monitoring

Friends of the James River Park has played a role in assisting Capital Region Land Conservancy with monitoring the James River Park System's conservation easement in the past. Capital Region Land Conservancy requested assistance monitoring the easement this year. Additionally, they would like to establish a liaison.

Next Meeting: April 2, 2019 at 6:30 pm