

Friends of the James River Park Board Meeting

Tuesday, May 7, 2019 at 6:30 pm

Meeting Minutes

Board members in attendance:

Katherine Mitchell, President

Mary Kay Martin, Vice President

Dean Brunson, Treasurer

Justin Doyle, Secretary

Georgia Busch

Scott Silvester

Mike Doerr

Greg Velzy

Cary Wing

Staff members in attendance:

Shawna Shade, Friends of the James River Park

Bryce Wilk, Park Superintendent

Guests in attendance:

Chris Dewitt, VHB

Cassie Patterson, VHB

Meeting Minutes

Justin Doyle circulated minutes from the April board meeting. Mary Kay Martin motioned to approve the minutes. Greg Velzy seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Presentation on James River Park Master Plan Survey Results

Chris Dewitt of VHB presented results of the James River Park System Master Plan survey to the board. 2,353 surveys were received from December 2018 through March 2019. Shawna Shade requested access to the survey results so board members can review and reference them. Chris reported the steering and advisory committees are

scheduled to meet next week. The committees will review input received to date and begin to develop recommendations.

Park Superintendent's Report

Bryce Wilk, Superintendent of the James River Park System, reported Matt Mason is a father. His baby girl was born a few weeks ago.

SunTrust Mortgage employees updated the 21st Street, Ancarrow's Landing and Belle Isle were recently cleaned up, and the James River Outdoor Coalition's annual gear swap was successful.

Labor Crew Chief interviews are tomorrow and seasonal employees are coming on board next week.

He is meeting with recreation groups.

The trail crew is moving to Blanton House in Byrd Park. Reedy Creek/Park HQ could become a visitor center and education facility. A handful of individuals are interested in the new park host program.

The end of the fiscal year is approaching and he is purchasing a new mower.

21st Street tower needs to be inspected and dredging at Ancarrow's Landing is planned for late June/early July.

Belle Isle, Pipeline, and Ancarrow's Landing are trash hot spots in the park system. Vandalism at Belle Isle is an ongoing issue. Portapotties were tipped and trash receptacles were burned. Car break-ins at the 21st Street parking area has been an issue.

The North Bank Connector project is complete.

The trail crew is bringing seasonal employees on board and focusing on Larus Park.

New park rules signs are being developed. Michael Burton is developing trail rules signs.

President's Report

Katherine Mitchell reported the board is working on the FY 2020 budget. Dean Brunson and Shawna Shade developed the draft budget.

The new master plan will inform organizational strategic planning.

Friends of the James River Park will participate in Riverrock and Explore the Outdoors and organize a membership event.

Katherine stated, "We are positioning ourselves for growth." Mary Kay asked when we should begin strategic planning.

Treasurer's Report

Shawna Shade reported \$1,100 in membership and donations was received this month. Expenses totaled \$24,000. \$16,000 went to VHB and education staff purchased an artifact case. A membership report will be given next month.

Dean Brunson is working on forecasting the organization's finances through the end of the fiscal year. He is working with Scott Silvester to balance the FY 2020 budget. Bryce is requesting \$30,475 in the FY 2020 budget.

Committee Reports

Finance Committee: Scott Silvester reported improved accounting practices and the implementation of a new accounting system. The board will approve the FY 2020 budget at the June meeting.

Communications Committee: Katherine Mitchell reported the next newsletter is scheduled to go out May 22. The global calendar could be improved.

Events Committee: Shawna Shade is seeking volunteers to represent the organization at Riverrock and Explore the Outdoors. The draft master plan presentation could be held in City Council Chambers at City Hall. A James River Advisory Council social is scheduled for May 30. A Friends of the James River Park membership event will be organized in September or October.

Membership Committee: No report.

Board Development Committee: Greg Velzy did not have anything to report.

Advocacy Committee: Justin Doyle provided an update on advocacy efforts related to the City of Richmond's FY 2020 budget. The Universal Access at Huguenot Flatwater project is partially funded. Mary Kay Martin reported board members will vote on the new Preservation and Protection Fund Policy at the next meeting.

Old Business

Capital Region Land Conservancy Liaison

Greg Velzy met with Jane Myers of the Capital Region Land Conservancy today. The Capital Region Land Conservancy is requesting a liaison. Greg will serve as the liaison going forward.

New Business

Invasive Plant Task Force Liaison

Scott Silvester requested a liaison from the Invasive Plant Task Force.

Music at Maymont

Georgia Busch informed the board about the 2019 Music at Maymont lineup.

Next Meeting: June 4, 2019 at 6:30 pm