

Friends of the James River Park Board Meeting

Tuesday, June 4, 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

Byron Chafin

Scott Dickens

Mike Doerr

Jake Savage

Scott Silverster

Kevin Tobin

Staff members in attendance:

Bryce Wilk, Park Superintendent

Guests in attendance:

Parker Agelasto, Capital Region Land Conservancy

Meeting Minutes

Justin Doyle circulated minutes from the May board meeting. Jake Savage motioned to approve the minutes. Scott Dickens seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Park Superintendent's Report

Bryce Wilk, Superintendent of the James River Park System, reported Clean the Bay Day on Saturday, June 1, was successful and an event celebrating the 10th Anniversary of the James River Park System conservation easement is scheduled for Wednesday, June 5. A new Labor Crew Chief, Joseph Shelton, is beginning on Monday and will be in charge of operations and maintenance. Master plan committee meetings were held last night and today. Ryan Ginsburg is leaving the Invasive Plant Task Force to pursue

a full-time position. Bryce reported a busy Memorial Day weekend in the park system. Surveillance cameras located at 21st Street and Texas Beach parking areas are intended to discourage break-ins. Overtime officers are patrolling the park system on weekends. Officers patrol the park system on bicycles on weekdays. Arson has not been an issue in the park system recently.

President's Report

Katherine Mitchell reported the organization the draft James River Park System Master Plan should be available in mid-July. Katherine reported the organization is approaching the end of its strategic plan. Strategic planning is scheduled for January or February of 2020. The new strategic plan will align with the James River Park System Master Plan. A membership event in September will coincide with the completion of the Master Plan. The Master Plan will include recommendations for adding parcels of land and amenities to the park system. The Master Plan will be considered by City Planning Commission and City Council.

Parker Agelasto - Capital Region Land Conservancy

Parker Agelasto of the Capital Region Land Conservancy reported Richmond Region Tourism is working on a tourism master plan. The plan should be complete by the end of summer. Capital Region Land Conservancy was founded 14 years ago by Bill Greenlead, Dan Jones, and Brooks Smith. No local land trusts existed at the time. Capital Region Land Conservancy's first conservation easement was the James River Park System, which is also held by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, and Enrichmond Foundation, in 2009. The easement was deemed incomplete until the baseline documentation report was complete in 2018. Holders of the easement have an obligation to protect the property against violations of the easement. Jane Myers of the Capital Region Land Conservancy is recruiting volunteers to assist with annual monitoring of the easement. Capital Region Land Conservancy has a legal responsibility to monitor the easement and review projects within it. The baseline documentation report determined more than 5% of the easement is impervious surface. Capital Region Land Conservancy is working with the City of Richmond to add acreage to the easement. Terra Firma insurance policy for legal defense covers legal costs. Capital Region Land Conservancy is seeking national accreditation.

FY 2020 Budget

Dean Brunson reported the draft FY 2020 budget allows for deficit spending. Board members reviewed the draft budget and balance sheet. Dean motioned to give Bryce permission to spend money to treat staff members to a Flying Squirrels game. Mike Doerr seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Kevin Tobin motioned to adopt the FY 2020 budget as presented by Dean and Scott Dickens seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously the FY 2020 budget was adopted.

Committee Reports

Finance Committee: No report.

Communications Committee: Scott Dickens reported updates to the Friends of the James River Park website and the launch of the new “Park Star” series. Social media impressions are positive. Scott requested content. The conservation easement celebration will be covered.

Events Committee: Byron Chafin reported Riverrock was successful and thanked everybody who volunteered. Explore the Outdoors is on Saturday and a volunteer is needed.

Membership Committee: No report.

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

Advocacy Committee: No report.

Old Business

Preservation and Protection Fund Policy

Mary Kay Martin sent board members the updated Preservation and Protection Fund policy. The Preservation and Protection Fund is intended for emergency expenditures.

Dean motioned to approve the updated Preservation and Protection Fund policy as updated by Mary Kay. The motion was seconded by Jake and passed unanimously.

New Business

Cancellation of July Friends of the James River Park Meeting

Katherine moved to cancel the July meeting of the Friends of the James River Park. The motion was seconded by Mike and unanimously passed.

Next Meeting: August 6, 2019 at 6:30 pm