

Friends of the James River Park Board Meeting
Tuesday, August 6, 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
Cat Anthony
Byron Chafin
Scott Dickens
Mike Doerr
Jake Savage
Scott Silverster
Kevin Tobin
Cary Wing

Staff members in attendance:

Bryce Wilk, Park Superintendent
Shawna Shade, Friends of the James River Park

Guests in attendance:

Chris Dewitt, VHB
Catherine Farmer, Invasive Plant Task Force
Brittany Zamborsky, board candidate

Introductions

Brittany Zamborsky introduced herself. She is a board candidate. Board members and guests in attendance introduced themselves.

Meeting Minutes

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

Park Superintendent's Report

Bryce Wilk thanked the board for their contributions and shared the following information with attendees.

- A showtime mini series is filming on Belle Isle. The park system is being compensated.
- The summer is going well and his staff has a passion for the park.
- He is readvertising for the Labor Crew Chief position. Additional hiring is planned.
- Education staff members are organizing a program during which participants will bicycle to Chickahominy Riverfront Park on the Virginia Capital Trail on August 10 and 11. Participants will camp at the park.
- Dredging at Ancarrow's Landing was approved.
- Large volunteer groups recently conducted cleanups in the park.
- Park visitation has been high this summer, especially on weekends. Pony Pasture is seeing high visitation resulting in traffic congestion.
- Arson occurred under the 21st Street tower about a month ago.

Invasive Plant Task Force Update

Catherine Farmer of the Invasive Plant Task Force provided meeting attendees with an update. 1,500 trees have been planted and 200 non-native trees have been removed from Belle Isle. Catherine thanked Friends of the James River Park for its ongoing support of the task force. Ash trees within the park system are dying. If they are not treated, Emerald Ash Borers will kill them. Treatment is 95% effective but expensive. Park staff and Richmond Tree Stewards volunteers are becoming certified pesticide applicators. Invasive plant species are not under control in the park system. BioBlitzes are being organized along Riverside Drive.

James River Park Master Plan Update

Chris Dewitt of VHB provided an update on the James River Park Master Plan. 2,300 questionnaires received during the extensive public process. Public input informed the draft master plan. The planning team is working on finalizing the goals, objectives, and strategies. 150 individuals attended the draft master plan presentation and public meeting. An informal presentation to the Urban Design Committee is scheduled for August 8, 2019. A followup presentation to the Urban Design Committee is scheduled for September 5. The City Planning Commission will consider the master plan on September 16 and City Council adoption will follow.

Treasurer's Report

Dean Brunson reported the organization is sticking with Quicken.

Committee Reports

Events Committee: Cat Anthony and Byron Chafin are planning the annual membership event. The event is scheduled for Thursday, September 26. Venues being considered are Hardywood Park Craft Brewery and Willow Oaks Country Club. Andrew Alli's band could perform during the event. The master plan will be the focus of the event.

James River Jubilee is scheduled for Sunday, August 25, at Hardywood Park Craft Brewery. Friends of the James River Park was invited to participate.

Communications Committee: Scott Dickens provided an update on newsletter content and is seeking content from board members.

Membership Committee: No report.

Board Development Committee: No report.

Advocacy Committee: No report.

Finance Committee: Kevin Tobin motioned to add Dean Brunson as a signatory on Friends of the James River Park bank accounts. Scott Dickens seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

New Business

James River Regional Cleanup - September 14, 2019

\$300.00 is needed for food for volunteers at the James River Regional Cleanup scheduled for Saturday, September 14.

Next Meeting: September 3, 2019 at 6:30 pm