

Minutes - Friends of James River Park Board Meeting Tuesday, April 6, 2020, 6:30- 8:00PM

Attendees: Brittany Zamborsky, Cat Anthony, Scott Dickens, Byron Chafin, Kevin Tobin, Scott Silvester, Brooks Whitten, Greg Velzy, Jake Savage, Justin Doyle, Katherine Mitchell, Mary Kay Martin, David Broocke, Madge Bemiss
Absent: Dean Brunson, Mike Doerr, and Cary Wing

- 1) Mary Kay Martin, President, called the meeting to order at 6:33 PM, a quorum was present.
- 2) Minutes for the March 2021 meeting were approved as submitted
- 3) Guest introduction and presentation - None
- 4) Presidents Report - March 27th workday was a success - we shall plan to do this quarterly to give everyone a better appreciation for different aspects of the Park and the work that it takes to maintain it. River Rock will be on for this year, May 14-16, and Byron will see about organizing a table for FoJRP to be present at Forest Hill Park. The governance article that Jake Savage sent to a few Board members will be shared with the entire Board.
- 5) Park/Volunteer Report - Bryce Wilk -
 - A. Park Ranger/Police system is needed to identify “problems” and bad behavior in the Park, e.g., no guns are allowed in any City Park in Richmond. Bryce is trying to get the police to more heavily monitor the Park. See H below on the Capital Trail system.
 - B. The Superintendent position has been “unfrozen” and, accordingly, a search for a new hire will be moving forward.
 - C. Staffing - the Maintenance Tech position should be filled by the end of April, which means all authorized positions will be filled at that time.
 - D. In-person spring camps will be taking place at Community Centers around the City
 - E. 22nd Street parking lot is open on weekends now that the guard rail project along Riverside Drive is completed (it was used as a staging area for the guard rail project). 22nd St. & 42nd Street lots will be open this summer.
 - F. Ancarrow’s dredging project update - this is the only boat launch in the city open to the public. We have a 5-year permit for dredging and it cannot be performed during the sturgeon and shad seasons. This project is paid for out of a number of categories and costs about \$15,000 each time. The next

dredging will be during the winter of 2021 & 2022 and it will take a full week of work to complete. There are funds to cover the costs for dredging every other year. However, the boat ramp will need to be refurbished within a couple years. Greg Velzy suggested Bryce reach out to GreenTop as they have complained about the ramp being closed, so maybe they would fund a portion of it? Another suggestion was the Port of Richmond as a funder of the ramp refurbishment.

- G. T-Pott Bridge - the cost to maintain the bridge is very high on an annual basis.
 - H. Capital Trail has 120 unpaid Trail Ambassadors who are given vests identifying them as TA and first aid kits. They call 911 with any issues. Cat is sending Bryce information on their program suggesting that a similar program might work for the JRPS.
- 6) Treasurer's Report - Dean Brunson - No report
 - 7) Finance Committee - Jake Savage - No report
 - 8) Membership Committee - Katherine Mitchell
 - A. Support signs for the Park are at the printer and will be put up at the T-Pott, Pony Pasture and Reedy Creek kiosks. These signs will show how to donate by: Text to Donate, buying a license plate, buying a book and will guide people to our website.
 - B. Book update - mid-May delivery and the committee is developing a distribution plan.
 - 9) Leadership Development Committee - Greg Velzy - One application has been received and Greg will follow up with the other candidates who had been contacted.
 - 10) Communications Committee - Scott Dickens - working on new content for the spring season
 - 11) AC & MP - Mary Kay Martin - first meeting was March 17. Local and state people were identified to potentially be gifted Park Book. The Casino issue was discussed and it was decided that the FoJRP should officially stay out of the debate. Master Plan Implementation Committee will be formed to add process to finding solutions for implementation of the MP.

12) Invasive Plant Task Force - Madge Bemiss

- A. A document has been developed identifying 5 community groups of plants, native hot spots and 3 threat areas. Scott Dickens suggested developing a plaque for corporations who might adopt an area?
- B. David Broocke is working with Vasen Brewery to create a JRPS beer!

13) New Business:

- A. River Rock is expected to be a go on May 14-16 - see 4 above.
- B. Floating Dock at the Belle Isle quarry - Keven Tobin and Greg Velzy - The quote came back from Harbor Dredge & Dock at \$31,050 which is about \$11,000 more than anticipated. They are researching how to lower the cost.
- C. Greg Velzy suggested that the FoJRP pay for a port-o-potty at Huguenot Flatwater. The cost is \$140/month or \$860 for the season, April to September. Jake Savage made a motion for FoJRP to pay for this and Scott Dickens seconded the motion. After discussion, the motion was approved by the Board unanimously.

14) Old business - None

15) - Executive Director search update - Jake Savage gave an update on the Executive Director search. The application deadline was extended to April 23rd given the tight timeframe of the original deadline. He also asked all Board members to reach out to their networks and spread the word about the opportunity.

The next meeting will be on May 4, 2021 at 6:30PM.