

Minutes - Friends of James River Park Board Meeting Tuesday, June 1, 2020, 6:30- 8:00PM

Attendees: Dean Brunson, Cat Anthony, Kevin Tobin, Scott Silvester, ~~Brooks Whitten~~, Jake Savage, Justin Doyle, Katherine Mitchell, Mary Kay Martin, Madge Bemiss

Absent: Scott Dickens, Greg Velzy, David Broocke, Byron Chafin, and Brittany Zamborsky, Brooks Whitten, Mike Doerr, Scott Dickens

- 1) Mary Kay Martin, President, called the meeting to order at 6:38 PM, a quorum was present.
- 2) Approval of the minutes for the May 2021 meeting- a motion was made by ~~were moved by~~ Cat Anthony, seconded by Justin Doyle, and approved unanimously with one correction that Justin Doyle was absent from the May meeting.
- 3) Guest introduction and presentation - None
- 4) Presidents Report -
 - A. The Executive Committee met Thursday, May 27, 2021, and discussed the ED search process.
- 5) Park/Volunteer Report - Bryce Wilk -
 - A. The Superintendent position was approved and is now posted through June 20th. Please share this information with your network to broaden the pool of potential candidates.
 - B. The Deputy Director position for the City Parks and Recreation has also been posted. This is the person to whom Bryce will report.
 - C. The Invasive Species Coordinator part-time position is open. This person must have experience with application of herbicides. Katherine Mitchell will share with the Master Gardener network and Madge Bemiss will share with the Master Naturalists network.
 - D. The James River Homosapiens facebook page highlighted the use of installation of boulders to prevent erosion near the flood wall over-flow area at the 14th Street Take-Out. Unfortunately, this was the only way to prevent the erosion according to the Army Corps of Engineers.
 - E. Over Memorial Day weekend, the bad weather seemed to prevent normal bad behavior in the JRPS, but other City Parks were not so lucky according to police reports. Bryce also alerted police of the over-use and nefarious

- actions going on in the part and they promised to more regularly check-in on the access points to the JRPS. Please call 911 or the non-emergency number to report any issues you might observe.
- F. Various clean-up events are going on around the JRPS this week including Pony Pasture and T-Pott bridge access points among others. Covid related volunteer restrictions have been lifted as of this month.
 - G. The Enlight Arts Festival will take place at the Great Shiplock Park this year.
 - H. Community Center children's programs will be starting in June
 - I. NOAA/BWET grant work will begin in July.
 - J. The JRPS is switching port-o-potty supply companies starting immediately.
- 6) Treasurer's Report - Dean Brunson - Budget for 2021/2022 needs to be worked on by the Committees. No large increases are being anticipated except for the filling of the full-time Executive Director position which is expected to cost approximately \$80,000 per year. There will also be some one-time costs for computer and printer and some on-going costs like cell phone reimbursement and partner development expenses. A discussion ensued over the revenue for 2021-2022 and it was decided that the general revenue should be flat from 2020-2021 at about \$50,000 and the book revenue, net, should be about \$25,000.
- 7) Finance Committee - Jake Savage - see no. 6 above.
- 8) Membership Committee - Katherine Mitchell
- A. 75 Bill Draper books have been sold and will be fulfilled this week. The committee experimented with selling books at River Rock and only 2 were sold as traffic was unusually light.
 - B. ~~The JRPS map was discussed because while people love it, it is very hard to read given the odd shape and size. Accordingly, improvement ideas included putting a QR code to the map on the pamphlet and maybe the entry kiosks.~~ We were discussing a flyer that Scott made with a picture of the map.
 - C. A membership/donor event will be held in September with the date TBD.
 - D. The committee is determining the best way to get park volunteers to become members.
 - E. Katherine applied for a grant from the Conservation Fund this year to start the dialogue with them and let them know what we are doing. Katherine was not particularly hopeful we would get this, but wanted to cultivate the relationship.

- 9) Leadership Development Committee - No Report
- 10) Communications Committee - Scott Dickens - Scott was not at the meeting due to his wife having surgery. Please look at your email from Scott and get your bio to him as soon as possible.
- 11) Communications Committee - Byron Chafin - No report
- 12) AC & MP - Mary Kay Martin - Parker Agelasto ~~updated~~ and MKM met and discussed ~~on~~ the possible acquisition of future park property. He has a list of property to acquire and, accordingly, MKM thinks we need to start to think about how we can build-up the P&P Fund to help with this process. Also, Bryce reported that the City has requested \$150 million in Cares Act funding. The main projects for the JRPS included: Texas Beach tower renovation; Pump House ADA access from PH Drive to the PH Bridge; PH roof and window repairs and ADA access to the building itself.

Invasive Plant Task Force - Madge Bemiss.

Japanese Knot Weed removal on the eastern end of Belle Isle is on-going and complicated by much of the invasion being on the river bank. This is very expensive to eradicate and monies have been used from restricted funds to do this. Unfortunately, many of these plants are on private property **around the park** and it spreads from there to the park, complicating any long-term solution.

New Business –

- A. **JROC has received funding from the Virginia Outdoor Foundation for multi-language safety signage around the park.**

Old business -

- A. The Dock Street property is on track to close in August.
- B. Executive Director update - Jake Savage reported for the Committee and requested a closed Board meeting on Wednesday, June 16 at 6:00 PM to discuss and vote on the Search Committee's recommendation for the Friends' Group's first Executive Director. The Board will be given proper notice of this meeting. Thanks for your participation in this important meeting.

The next meeting will be in August and there will not be a meeting in July.