

Minutes - Friends of James River Park Board Meeting Tuesday, September 7th, 2021, 6:30- 8:00PM

Attendees: Byron Chafin, Scott Silvester, Brooks Whitten, Dean Brunson, Greg Velzy, Jake Savage, Justin Doyle, Mary Kay Martin, and Madge Bemiss

Absent: Cat Anthony, Brittany Zamborsky, Michael Doerr, David Broocke, Kevin Tobin, Scott Dickens, and Katherine Mitchell

- 1) Mary Kay Martin, President, called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM, a quorum was present.
- 2) Guests introduction and presentation - None
- 3) Minutes for the August 2021 meeting were amended by making sure that ARPA is designated the American Rescue Plan Act, that Byron Chafin is the head of the Events Committee not Communications, and Bryce Wilk's name was correctly spelled and then moved by Justin Doyle, seconded by Greg Velzy, and approved unanimously as amended.
- 4) Executive Director's Report - Josh Stutz
 - A. Josh met with Greg Velzy about Board development.
 - B. Met with Venture Richmond and Friends of Pumphouse.
 - C. Met with CLRC with MKM to discuss land acquisition for the JRPS and discussed how FoJRP can help with this as well as putting conservation easements on private lands.
 - D. Met with City Council members Stephanie Lynch, Katherine Jordan and Kristin Larson about priorities for the City Council workday and American Rescue Plan Act funding priorities including potentially \$40 million for the JRPS.
 - E. Donor/Friends event at Legends Brewery on 9/23.
 - F. Discussed becoming the race facilitator for the Wood River Run event honoring Christian Wood who drowned in the James River; this is a 5K run at Pony Pasture and is planned to take place in April 2022.
 - G. Discussed a strategic planning event in Jan. 2022 for the Board and he is doing research on a facilitator.
 - H. Developed a Department of Forestry grant application (\$20K) with Penelope for an outdoor classroom near Reedy Creek; and,
 - I. Developed a National Educators Fund grant for the Belle Isle Quarry dock (\$20K)

- 5) Presidents Report - Mary Kay Martin (“MKM” hereafter)
 - A. The minutes from the Executive Committee meeting of Sept. 2, 2021 were distributed;
 - B. Capital Project Committee was discussed with Josh Stutz as the gate keeper to assure that every proposed project has the same consistent information required including sustainability (how will the project be maintained in the future and how is it to be funded); The committee would be made up of the Executive Committee plus two other Board members which would screen the projects and if approved by the committee it would be presented to the Board- please reach out to MKM if you have interest in being on the Committee; furthermore, a Google form will be created by Josh with the checklist of information required for every capital project request;
 - C. The need for a Strategic Planning session was discussed and it was agreed that we would try to do this in early January and that Josh would research a potential facilitator to help us.
 - D. The policy of the FoJRP endorsing any issue that comes up was discussed and it was decided that Josh would be the gatekeeper and would make an endorsement if, and only if it clearly fits within our Mission, and if it is not obvious, he will bring the proposed endorsement to the Board which will need to vote unanimously to endorse. It was discussed that a vote against endorsement does not mean the FoJRP is for it or against it, but neutral;
 - E. MKM discussed the need to update the FoJRP’s By-Laws and that she plans to take a look at them and make suggestions for changes and asked that the Board do the same; and,
 - F. MKM talked to Brittany Zamborsky and noted she has decided to resign from the Board. She is trying to talk with Mike Doerr as well given his lack of commitment to the Board.

- 6) Park/Volunteer Report - Bryce Wilk
 - A. Attendance numbers have been down in August probably given the high heat levels and renewed worries around the delta variant of Covid-19;
 - B. There is a break in the dam at the Pumphouse which has caused the water level to be down ~10 feet;
 - C. The Pumphouse has a newly refurbished window and a roof repair is ongoing, and there is a grant being asked for from the city from the ARPA monies to repair more of the Pumphouse;
 - D. A \$80K grant for composting on the northside has been recieved;

- E. Construction of the universal access ramp at HFW should begin soon and take 90 days to complete, partially closing the parking lot;
 - F. The new port-o-johnny contractor has not given great service and this has been discussed with the vendor.
 - G. JRPS Education programs continue taking place at the Community Centers around Richmond.
 - H. Some corporations are volunteering in the Park and it has gone well and, interestingly, this is the first time some of these folks have physically been in the same place to see each other;
 - I. Gera Williams is being sponsored by AmeriCorps to be the invasive plant species coordinator and monies from FoJRP as also being used.
 - J. The JRPS superintendent search continues. Charman Young has been hired as a new Deputy Director at the Park System (Bryce reports to him) and it was suggested to invite him to the Sept. 23rd member event; and,
 - K. There is an Historic Richmond Quiet walk on Belle Isle next week. Bryce will share the history of Belle Isle on the walking tour. Josh and Shawna are planning to attend and will have books to sell.
- 7) Treasurer's Report - Dean Brunson - No report
- 8) Finance Committee - Jake Savage - No report
- 9) Membership Committee Report - Katherine Mitchell - No report - A Resolution from the Board thanking her for her service and dedication to the FoJRP was read and passed unanimously. MKM will make sure Katherine receives this and it will be put on the website. David Broocke has agreed to become the new Chairman of the Membership Committee.
- 10) Leadership Development Committee - Greg Velzy - A change in the Board members' application was discussed and it was decided that applicants will be aggregated on a quarterly basis and a meet and greet would be scheduled and then a vote would take place. We have 3 candidates to meet and vote on for the October meeting: Kendra Norell, Matt Rigby, and Bill Draper. Also, before the meet and greet takes place with the Board, Josh and one board member or 2 Board members will meet the candidate and make a recommendation to the Board. This required a By-Law change to Articles 3 and 4. This was discussed, and a motion was made by Greg Velzy and seconded by Justin Doyle and passed unanimously.

- 11) Communications Committee - Scott Dickens - Shawna Shade reported for Scott on asking Laura Greenleaf to be a Park Star, on Board members completing their bios and a submitting them to Scott, and she discussed the media marketing efforts for the Member event in September.
- 12) Communications Committee - Byron Chafin - The Annual Donor Party was discussed and will be held on September 23rd at Legends Brewery. Logistics and presentations were discussed for the event, and it is expected to cost approximately \$3,000.
- 13) AC & MP - Mary Kay Martin - No report but will be meeting with Josh as soon as practicable.
- 14) Invasive Plant Task Force - Madge Bemiss - due to an extremely hot August there was not much to report. Back at it when the temperature drops.
- 15) New Business - Friends of the Pumphouse are having an event September 18th.
- 16) Old business - Netherwood Quarry - the idea of turning this into a climbing area was discussed. It was asked of Bryce the criteria he/the Park uses to determine whether or not to move forward with requests like this. He is planning to develop a list of criteria to measure more consistently the attributes or negatives of these requests so the outcome will be more objective.
- 17) Voting on 2021-2022 Vice President and Secretary - It was proposed that Jake Savage and Justin Doyle switch roles to Vice President and Secretary, respectively, for the 2021-2022 fiscal year. Greg Velzy made this motion and David Broocke seconded it and it passed unanimously.

The next meeting will be October 5, 2021 at 6:30 PM.