

## 2022-11-1 FOJRP Board Meeting Minutes

Jake Savage, President  
David Broocke, Vice President  
Dean Brunson, Treasurer  
Matt Rigby, Secretary  
Mary Kay Martin, Past President  
Josh Stutz, FOJRP Executive Director  
Giles Garrison, Park Superintendent  
Shawna Shade, FOJRP Office Administrator

Madge Bemiss  
Byron Chafin  
Bill Draper  
Scott Dickens  
Karen Garner  
Jean Linnell  
Luccia O'Connell  
Mel Smith  
Greg Velzy  
Brooks Whitten  
Janet Woodka

Guest: Patrick Griffin, RVA PaddleSports  
Guest: Scott Ross, Riverside Outfitters  
Guest: Jane Myers, Capital Region Land Conservancy

- Minutes from October meeting provided and approved.
- Jane Myers from CRLC presented on conservation easement that preserved park open space, deed of easement, baseline documentation report. Discussion of protections that easement provides, description of included areas, and implications for preservation and development.
- 600 acres in the park and 408 acres in the easement. Some is DPU land, Ancarrow's Landing is not in easement.
- **Executive Director's Report:** Josh Stutz
  - provided and reviewed the Executive Director's Report for November.
  - Blue Sky Fund Event
  - Wood River Run
  - Reedy Creek Bypass Update
  - Belle Isle Wedge Building
  - Volunteer Events
  - Streetlight Data Project
  - Park User Outreach

- Giving Tuesday
  - December Board Meeting
- Big deliverable month on projects - spent \$90k on projects, much of it from restricted funds.
- Small fundraiser at local art gallery on December 1st.
- Blog and e-newsletter going out tomorrow from Josh w/ description of things we're working on.
- We've been invited to participate in Christmas under the Clock Tower this year. RBI services out of Ashland organizes it, various charities sponsor a tree and benefits accrue to those voted as winners.
- **Park Superintendent Report: Giles Garrison**
  - October was project-heavy in the park, details contained in report.
  - Replacing ramp at Tredegar is in the works, getting quotes on that work now (not in this month's report).
  - Working major improvements to "T. Pot" and Belle Isle Suspension Bridge (not in this month's report).
  - Dominion Energy approved to create an improved portage at Boshers's Dam. City-owned property does not allow for portage. Christina Brockwell has helped us get approval from Dominion Energy to create emergency portage.
  - Greg asked whether the existing portage can be improved.
  - Pony Pasture archaeology, conducting a survey of historic resources, will be interesting to see what we learn.
  - There is a lot of movement w/ Pump House b/c we have been approved for a federal grant for 500k, total cost will be 3m, half a million available, so we are about 1/3 of the way there.
  - Karen had a question about bridge near Carillon, Michael Burton is senior superintendent for south side, and he is working on that. Considered part of Byrd Park.
  - Jean asked about effort to teach swimming. Under education, working group came up with a few initiatives, of which this is one. Idea that all kids can have that environmental / river literacy. Would probably take it to 3rd grade level, throughout RPS. Have estimated cost for that and working on funding for it.
- **Governance Committee Report: Mary Kay Martin**
  - Discussion of whether Parks and Rec should have a member on the Board.
  - Would present a significant conflict of interest for board decisions.
  - Learning more about the interest, find ways to work together, make sure that the very strong partnership between city and FOJRP while not creating governance issues.
  - Subcommittee to interview potential new board candidates quarterly.
  - Finance committee has had discussions about creating an investment policy
  - Also making sure that we have the correct business insurance.
- **Budget Amendment Discussion and Vote: Josh Stutz**
  - Use the remainder of budget for Streetlight Project (which has been reduced in scope) to fund river safety awareness initiatives.

- \$50k which was budgeted for Streetlight will now be \$16,000 for Streetlight, with the remainder 34k to river safety: \$6k for drown prevention, \$22k for channel 8, and remaining for \$6k for Hows the James initiative.
  - Motion to reallocate passes.
- T Shirt discussion - discussion about up to \$3k for t-shirts and stickers for sale. Motion made to approve funding for this, seconded, discussion, and passed.
- **New Business: Josh Stutz**
  - Discussion of creating a dedicated funding mechanism in honor of Christina for future River Safety Initiatives.
  - Question about FOJRP focus on River Safety.