

Minutes:

Historic Falls of the James State Scenic River Advisory Committee

Meeting: March 16, 2017 – 5th Floor Conference Room – City Hall – Richmond, VA

Greg Velzy – Chair presiding

Called to order: 12:00 pm

Attendance:

Falls Members: Anne Wright, John Heerwald, John Moser, Jane Myers, Greg Velzy, Ralph Hambrick, Tricia Pearsall, Leighton Powell

Falls Members Not Present: Justin Doyle, Alex Dahm, John Thompson, Ralph White, Jim Hill, Nathan Burrell – Manager, James River Park.

Minutes: February 16, 2017 minutes approved.

Current Issues:

Riverfront Development Plan Update:

- **T. Potterfield Bridge Updates –**
 - Tricia will start forwarding JRP visitor counts to the committee as received from Nathan Burrell.
 - Jane Meyers reported that in a meeting with City Park and Recreation officials, she suggested that they provide a phone line with updates concerning trail conditions and if they were dry enough to ride/run
- **Downriver Updates:**
 - It was reported that demolition of the Sugar Pad has begun.
 - Greg Velzy has not contacted City Planning re: a Water Taxi System along the Canal from 14th Street Dock to Chapel but thought he should first contact Alex Dahm – Venture Richmond who currently run Canal Boats in the City Dock portion and then will contact City Planning.
- **Next Phase - Missing Link**
 - No report on Grant Application for trail feasibility study.
 - Ralph White has met with engineers from Norfolk and they said the cantilevered walkway was not possible, but perhaps a MRE (mechanical, stabilized earth) structure could be doable. Greg and Ralph Hambrick will try to meet with the contact (Mike) tomorrow.

EnRichmond: Leighton Powell has not been able to meet with John Sydnor concerning the Passages contracts or Vauxhall Island, but noted that in another meeting with the City Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee, Debra Morton stated that they are currently reviewing all vendor contracts with all Parks, and Leighton will be certain to advocate for the JRP receiving the moneys from JRP and Passages contracts. Leighton said she would talk with John Sydnor about the contracts and Vauxhall Island status.

Falls Committee Meeting with Levar Stoney: No progress. Leighton stated that she is working to become an advisor to Stoney on such matters.

Capital Region Land Conservancy:

- Parker and Jane met with John Sydnor and the Land Committee - Capitol Region Land Conservancy. She said that EnRichmond is concerned about putting land - Vauxhall Island - under the JRP easement because of distrust of DPU. They will go ahead and add to the easement when the amendment on Restatement of Easement is completed. It will supersede the past easement to not cite a DPU easement for this. EnRichmond feels that the City will not accept an encumbered piece of property. It should be noted that the City would lose the VLCF funding (by September – and thus would not be able to purchase from EnRichmond), so they must act quickly.
- Capital Region Land Conservancy has had two successful events where they reached out to landowners along the James River about establishing a conservation easement on private lands. About 20 people attended and event at Westover Plantation and others at Bon Air Library.
- Conservation Easement Inspections of the James River Park have been conducted. They are monitoring the James River report concerning the impact of impervious surfaces with regard to the easement updates – concerned about impact of Manchester projects. Other than that they see little change.

James River Park Economic Development Study: Nathan has gone to a conference in London – Richmond Upon Thames and to study their trail system. The Economic Impact Study is in the number crunching state with all surveys completed. This needs to come out ASAP as budgets are in process.

Master Plan Funding and Preparation: Nathan has received proposals from VHB, Hargreaves and one that is a hybrid between VHB/Hargreaves. They will be distributed after his return from the UK. Price range from \$170,000.00 to \$250,000.00.

GRTC Bus Routes: No letter has been written to GRTC, but we did receive an email from Nathan that the current plan to go to City Hall had no River Stops.

New Business:

FOLAR – Friends of the Lower Appomattox River has released a masterplan for a world class trail system along the Lower Appomattox River (with paved paths – maybe for accessibility)

Chesterfield County has asked for and received money to implement a plan for a network of trails on the Brown & Williamson addition along the James River (An earlier 265 acre land gift to the County with almost one mile of river frontage).

Reports:

James River Park:

As stated Nathan is in Richmond Upon Thames as part of a delegation celebrating the 400th anniversary of the death of Pocahontas.

JRA: Working to illuminate the fact that the waste ponds at Dutch Gap Dominion Pant are leaking into the lagoon. See Times-Dispatch article. http://www.richmond.com/news/evidence-very-clear-that-chesterfield-coal-ash-ponds-are-leaking/article_cf01fad8-4322-5f84-9fd3-c7624d62c0fc.html

JRAC: Stewards of the River Nominations nomination extended to March 10, 2017

JROC:

- Weekend project to stabilize windows at the Pumphouse and rehab rotting walkways. March 18, 2017.
- 20 for 20 Celebration of the Twentieth Anniversary of JROC. Raising \$20,000 to begin planning/building an accessible boat ramp at Huguenot Flatwater.

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FOJRP: Are fundraising for the JRP Masterplan. They also organized and coordinated all of the monitoring and inspection for the JRP Easement.

Open discussion:

RVA OspreyCam - <https://www.richmondospreycamera.com> A coordinated effort between RichmondOutside.com and Riverside Outfitters.

Ralph Hambrick asked about an update concerning the DPU Stream Restoration efforts and Rattlesnake Creek. After much discussion concerning the Reedy Creek plans, which were halted, it was decided that we needed more information. We will try to ask Grace LaRose (DPU) to join our next meeting.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 1:10pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Tricia Pearsall

Next month's meeting will be held Thursday, April 20, 2017 at 5th Floor Conference Room – City Hall