

Minutes:

Historic Falls of the James Scenic River Advisory Committee

Meeting: - May 17, 2018, 5th Floor Conference Room – City Hall – Richmond, VA

Greg Velzy – Chair Presiding

Call to Order: 12:06 PM

Minutes - March 15, 2018 minutes – approved as submitted.

Attending: Greg Velzy, Tricia Pearsall, John Moeser, John Thompson, Justin Doyle, Jim Hill, Anne Wright, Ralph Hambrick, John Heerwald

Current Issues:

- **Scenic River Designation Extension on the James River** - John Moeser reached out to the Henrico County Manager, John Vithoukas and set a meeting for 2:00pm this afternoon. Greg Velzy, Tricia Pearsall and Lynn Crump will be attending along with John. Many thanks to John for getting this going.
(Notes from the meeting: The meeting with John Vithoukas was incredibly positive. After an introduction about the Scenic River program by Lynn Crump, John Vithoukas suggested that we not set our sites low, but look to include the James east perhaps to the Charles City County line and westward to Goochland. He also suggested that we work with the Richmond Regional PDC, let them take the lead on this. He said that he would contact Martha Shickle, the executive director of the Richmond Regional Planning District Commission, and set up a meeting with her. After the meeting, Lynn Crump followed up with an e-mail showing the various designated rivers near or on Henrico borders.
- **Joint meeting with representatives of State Scenic River Advisory Committees** – March 27, 2018 - Culpepper, VA: John and Justin traveled with Lynn Crump, Julie Buchanan, and Dick Gibbons to meet with representatives of other scenic river committees to discuss the 50th Anniversary of the Virginia Scenic Rivers. Representatives from Catocin Creek Scenic River Advisory Committee and Goose Creek Scenic River Advisory Committee attended the meeting. A few representatives were asked to present to the Board of Conservation and Recreation during its meeting at Shenandoah River State Park on May 10, 2018. John attended that meeting. A logo for the 50th anniversary of the program is in development. Thanks to Justin and John for attending. As a matter of record, there is nothing to stop other Scenic River locales from establishing advisory committees. Having the Scenic Rivers Board reestablished is also a target as part of the 50th Anniversary.
- **DPU Report** - Grace LeRose
 - Water in the canal is very low, as dredging has begun to clear the pipe and remove many feet of silt. They've found that this current effort can't do this properly, so will refill then properly dredge. They are moving some water around to provide water for a river bateau event behind Tredegar.
 - New DPU Director is Calvin Farr from Atlanta, GA. Former Watershed Manager – so he will fit in with the new efforts of DPU (we will invite him to a Falls meeting in the near future)
 - An upgrade of the Wasterwater Treatment plant is underway with the building of a new water-capturing basin. Should be completed in about 4 years.
 - Gillies Creek – Now separating outfalls (sewage and stormwater) – almost 50% have been separated.
 - RVAH2O – Looks like DEQ will be issuing combined permit to make processing more efficient. If happens, it will be the first to do this - without individual downsent order.

- **Riverfront Development Plan:**
 - **Downriver Updates** – Demolition for Terminal building not yet approved. Jim Hill added that this section of Main Street is in the flood plain, so sewer, etc must be routed accordingly. Much to be determined between the City and Stone Brewing.
 - **Missing Link Phase** – Budget approved funding for feasibility study for the Missing Link Trail. Next step is to meet with Mark Olinger, Planning Director, to get feasibility study started.
 - **Potterfield Bridge:** Stolen LED Lights: Replacements will come out of JRP budget \$20,000. They have also been paying the electric bill without being given extra funding. Also problems with signage. (Nathan Burrell not present)

- **Enrichmond – Vauxhall Island** - Cede to City of Richmond Update – NOTHING.

- **Venture Richmond Canal Committee Plans** – Update – NOTHING

New Business:

- **Proposed CIP Budget for 2018-2022:** Money for appropriation of Mayo Bridge Improvement (\$500,000)– discussion of making 2 lane – north and one lane south – removing arches, etc. Falls Committee needs to be vigilant. Decision makers clearly not informed about the James River.
- **Falls of the James on Social Media:** Anne Wright is working on this. Looking for appropriate photographs.
- **June 1 Raft Trip with Mayor Stoney** – Greg can't go, so John Heerwald and Justin Doyle to represent Falls Committee. Need to emphasize protecting wilderness from elements of JRP, overuse and developers.

Reports:

James River Park System – Nathan Burrell – not present.
JRA - Justin Doyle: Festival of the River – June 8 – 10 – Brown's Island (Fee and Free events)
JRAC - July 21st is the date of the rescheduled Christmas Boat Parade
JROC - National Trails Day Celebration – June 2, 2018
FoJRP - Pledges to JRP Masterplan: \$50,000 from FoJRP. \$20,000 from The Community Foundation
CRLC – Jane Myers – Governor signed over the Malvern Hill properties to CRLC

Open Discussion: None

Meeting Adjourned: 1:25 pm

******Next Public Meeting: - June 21, 2018******

Meetings are scheduled for the THIRD Thursday of each month. All meetings begin at noon and are open to the public. If you are not now receiving e-mail meeting notices and wish to receive them, please provide your name and e-mail address to velzyg@verizon.net. If you would like to be removed from the list, so indicate at the above e-mail address.