

Agenda and Minutes
Board Meeting
Friends of James River Park
Tuesday, March 11, 2008
5:45 PM at Reedy Creek

- I. Welcome and introduction – Richard.
In attendance: Betsy, Richard, Ralph, Maureen, Gay, John Z., John J., Mary Helen, Kim and Jennifer, Rob
- II. Approve minutes from last meeting– approved.
- III. Reports
 - a. Membership/Treasurer’s Report
The Zuegners gave \$250; The Tuckers provided a matching fund; there are over 6 new members, through recent meetings and brochures. \$27,286.21 exists in the FOJRP bank account without endowment. Endowment has approx. \$7,500.
 - b. Ralph Report
 - Ralph requests underwriting of the two publications, edited by Maureen: a fishing guide and a photography guide. Ralph estimates costs to be \$3,000 for both (they need to be priced by a printer). They will be sold for \$2 each. Funding support will be discussed at the April meeting.
 - A geography guide is also in process, but needs another edit.
 - Ralph would like new signage to highlight the Heron Rookery by the pipeline.
 - Boy Scouts have offered to construct a better western access to Manchester Bridge, from Brown’s island.
 - Thirty to forty salamanders appeared the first Friday night of March on Riverside Drive. Owner Karen Hughes is taking great care of her property where the salamanders are thought to be living.
 - VCU is starting salamander research at the wetlands. At the end of March VCU plans a Sunday community day to discuss research and land management principles. VCU also wants to initiate a university-wide program. Ralph suggests one would be to remove invasive plants, an ongoing project, starting this fall. The draft brochure, when completed, can be featured in wetlands kiosk.
 - The end of Maury street ramp/slip needs to be repaired.
 - The land just west of Pony Pasture adjacent to the donated parcel has been completely cleared and now exposes houses not viewed before. For land that has been donated, the Park will install a split rail fence to separate it from adjoining private property. Herbicide is needed to take out invasive honeysuckle. Ralph suggested showing the original path of Quarry RR tracks and old river pathway by painting on roadway.
 - Scenic By-way Letter to Kathy Graziano: Ralph is in the process of rewriting it in order to emphasize the designation of Riverside Drive as a unique city scenic route, not just another commuter street, with reduced speeds below 25mph and pedestrian rights. Current Riverside Drive yellow speed limit signs are “advisory only” with no real penalties for speeding. Debate ensued whether to ask for the entire Riverside Drive to be a scenic route or only the more scenic parts of it.
 - The last of bus stop signs showing directions to Belle Isle are going up tomorrow.

- The Pump House will be open in May to the public, on weekends. Ralph is looking for a classical music performer, volunteer tour guides, and gatekeepers. Dock progress has been slow, due to bureaucracy as well as wet weather. The boats are due in June.
- Ralph would like to have fish stocking on Earth Day (Manchester Canal) and on JR Park Day at Belle Isle. (See New Business, below)
- Rick Tatnal would like Ralph and/or Nathan to go to London in June, as a sister city rep, to Richmond -Upon- Thames. This is the second such request and Ralph expects that Rick will ask for financial support from FOJRP. Ralph said he thinks if anyone goes, Nathan is most deserving.

IV. Old Business

- a. Scenic Byway designation status: see above.
- b. Kiosks at Wetlands and Pony Pasture – Maureen, Betsy, and Mary Helen: done, and took less money than expected. They will now go and improve other kiosks: Huguenot Flatwater, Reedy Creek (needs doors and plastic), kiosk and info board at the end of Maury Street Slave Docks, Tredegar Street parking lot, North Bank Park end of TX Avenue, Pump House, 14th Street, Belle Isle at bottom of the ramp. There's a possible need for a sign board at Oxford. Maureen, Betsy and Mary Helen will survey the kiosks to determine upgrade needs. (See New Business, below)
- c. Web Site Update – Mary Helen
Mary Helen asked Ken to change payment info. Ken's photos are amazing. Mary Helen will ask Ken to include officers and FOJRP PO box on homepage.

John Z.:

- Ralph's recent Sierra Club presentation stirred great interest in forming a challenge grant benefiting James River Park Endowment. This could be a tremendous opportunity for all. The Endowment Committee will meet ASAP to address this.
- DCR would like to be a 3rd party for legal defense fund. There was some interest to gather donations for the FOJRP endowment, with a portion of the endowment as a legal instrument, as a legacy.
- Richard will ask Molly to reinvigorate the endowment committee and to set up guidelines.
- Mary Ellen will meet with Molly when she's back from break to put together a current FJOP budget.

V. New Business

- a. New Donor for FOJRP Endowment
See first bullet under John Z. section, above.
- b. Adopt-a- Road – Riverside Drive
Debate ensued about which portion of Riverside Drive to adopt. Richard will make a request to VDOT via the website.
- c. Treasury Funds for Projects/Objectives for the year (2 or 3)

- Ralph needs a new, second trailer, which is very efficient for park maintenance. It costs \$5,500. John Z. says the Foundation can give \$4-5K in the next month or so, thanks to incoming Passages Camp fees. Ralph needs the trailer by April. Matt, as Secretary, will ask for an email vote on a motion for disbursement of funds not exceeding \$6K, with a deadline to vote; Mary Helen will begin process in Matt's absence.
 - Publications: \$3K total (see Ralph Report above)
 - Kiosks (see Old Business above)
 - \$250 needed for earth day fish. A motion was made to fund this project. This will be included in Mary Helen's email and voted on by the Board via e-mail.
 - Because several Board members were absent it was decided to vote on the trailer and fish purchases via email.
- d. Huguenot Team Forum on Regionalism -- April 1
John J. plans to attend the April 1 meeting made up of multiple associations. This forum, spearheaded by the Huguenot Team and Riverfest leaders, will focus on a number of issues, such as traffic, growth, and the preservation of JR Park. A number of City reps and Del. Manoli Loupassi will be there. The meeting will at St. Luke's Church, Chippenham Pkwy, 6pm, April 1.
- e. Meeting with Jon Montgomery
Ms. Montgomery would like to address the board, perhaps in May, to discuss the history of Pony Pasture and the Park. She may be a wonderful storyteller at Riverfest, if asked. Betsy is working on installing a bench in her honor.
- f. Meet with Paul Goldman, candidate for Mayor
Nothing was decided about this issue, because of the inevitable obligation of inviting all mayoral candidates, not just Mr. Goldman. This item was tabled until the April meeting.
- g. State Funding for Richmond/Lynchburg Combined Sewer Outflow Systems
This item regards a letter to be possibly signed by FOJRP, but Maureen reported that it arrived too late for action this year.
- h. Planting schedule for Science Museum property and 2 more violations
A recent email request by Ellen Wolf to the City and forwarded to FOJRP asked the City when the Siegel trees would be replaced and noted two other violations. Members present felt Ellen Wolf would be a great FOJRP board addition. Ralph thinks that the natural growth will advance quickly, and it may be possible to use any restitution funds to print a brochure on how to maintain property on the James River.
- i. FOJRP projected involvement in Earth Day, 19 April
Usually there's a membership tent, however this year more board members are involved in planning. Volunteers are needed to staff a tent. Hours: 10am to 4pm.
- j. Signs encouraging the proper disposal of diapers
According to Ralph, progress is slow. An artist is needed to design the signs. Kohl's (with a grant), Children's Hospital, and the Fire Department wish to contribute toward the signs, with the final product also to be used in Petersburg. Ralph has learned that a pictograph is the way to go after learning from city translators that many Park users

thought to be Hispanic are not native Spanish speakers but are rather Native Indian dialect speakers (Mexico, Central and South America) and often not literate.

k. VCU Volunteers
A great addition. See Ralph Report, above.

l. Other new business
No.

VI. Next Meeting
April 8.

VII. Adjourn