

Friends of The James River Park



Board Meeting Minutes

June 20, 2006

Present: Molly Dellinger-Wray (President), Ralph White, Anne Wright, Sandy Cook, Bill Cook, Richard Taranto, George Wickham, Greg Velsey, Maureen Egan and Winnie Canup

Old Business

Treasurer's Report: Currently have a balance of \$16,271.83 with about 75 family memberships.

James River Park Survey: Jeff may need more assistance particularly in setting surveyors up with instructions, clipboards, water, chairs, etc. Survey was to have been conducted by VCU students, but this has not been the case.

Annual Membership Party: Was a great success. Molly has written a comprehensive party overview to be used for next year's planning. The hope is that next year we will be able to return to the inside of the Pump House. If not, another location may be desirable. In general, remember in planning for next year:

- more serving utensils
- anticipate James River Cleanup leftovers
- more chairs (if space allows)
- FOJRP provided dessert would be nice.

Conservation Easements: A first draft of the easement agreement has been made and is available board members to review. The primary focus of the easements is to properly protect parkland in perpetuity. There is a two tier system for protecting lands. The first tier is to protect permanent park property, second is to protect as best as possible that property which is overseen by the park, but not permanently owned by JRP. A key provision will be how much vehicular access will be allowed in the and for what reasons. Ralph suggested that any paved road may have specified vehicular traffic; any paved trails should not have any vehicles allowed. Public input is wanted. It is believed that all city council members are "on board" for the easements. The park tour for council members was thought unnecessary at this time.

Signs, Kiosks: A "template" should be developed so that all kiosk signs are the same and in the same order.

New Business

The Department of Environmental Quality is checking on the **foam** which continues on the James. There are three types of foam: 1) white soapsuds-like foam with high levels of phosphorus; 2) white foam followed by uniform brown slime found in eddies; and 3) large blocks of what looks like dirty Styrofoam meringue. No foam has been reported over weekends and the foam appears after agitation of the water. After the members' party, Ralph and Loren also noticed foam in the canal.

On June 24 the City will host an **EcoAdventure** on Belle Isle. Ralph will supply a fish release for the event. We voted and approved funds for any fish release Ralph conducts in the park. The usual cost is @ \$350. There will be a **wedding** at Belle Isle on July 8.

The current contract for **Richmond Raft** gives that company the sole rights to conduct paid group tours with "anything that holds air." This has caused controversy and problems for Ralph's educational tours, and for VCU and the YMCA groups. Another incident having to do with this contract occurred when the JROC was hindered in conducting a fundraiser for the River. The current contract expires in November.

The next FOJRP meetings will be July 18 and August 15. The meeting place will be announced.