

Friends of The James River Park



FOJRP Board Meeting Minutes January 8, 2008

- I. Welcome and introduction – Richard and George
- II. Approve minutes from last meeting- [Minutes approved](#)
- III. Reports
 - a. Membership/Treasurer's Report
 - b. Falls of the James Scenic River Advisory Committee update
 - [Discussed Rockett's Landing and Echo Harbor dispute between City Hall and Developers. Request was made by Ralph to write your given council member in opposition of tall building development for benefit of only an exclusive group of citizens. Express your support for the linear park the Mayor is advocating. At least advocate a position of not rushing into development decisions.](#)
- IV. Old Business
 - a. Conservation Easement Update- [John Z. hoping for legal document by Jan. 30th. Parks and Rec foundation and Capital Region Land Conservancy are working with city attorneys and utility company attorneys to complete the legal document. FOJRP would be expected to help with enforcement of the easement.](#)
 - b. [Tracking Partner Volunteer Hours/Accomplishment – George/Richard- The group reviewed the hours calculated and agreed to the total for submission.](#)
 - c. FOJRP Endowment – update – John Z.
 - d. [Kiosks at Wetlands and Pony Pasture - Maureen Betsy, Mary Helen- Group met, reviewed the kiosks and set a March 1st deadline for updating the Pony Pasture and Wetlands kiosks.](#)
- V. New Business
 - a. [Projects/Objectives for the year \(2 or 3\)- I, Matt, committed to sending out the project list from the October retreat but I now realize that I didn't receive a soft copy since I wasn't on the mailing list at that time. I have a hard copy and can bring copies to next week's meeting...or does someone else have a soft copy that they can distribute to this group?](#)
 - b. ["Worthy Service Project" for the James River Parks – John J.- The idea here is that we come up with a standing task list \(categorized into Light, Medium and Heavy\) to distribute to groups interested in volunteering their time for manual labor. Ralph has such a list and will prioritize it for us to post on the FOJR web-site for central reference. Ralph will supply the prioritized list to me, Matt, so that I can convert it into electronic format and send to Ken to post on our web site. Ralph- feel free to drop it by Riverside Outfitters and I'll get it done.](#)
 - c. [James River Regional Cleanup Meeting - Thurs. Jan. 10, 9:30 - Who can attend? Molly will ask Stephanie Saccone if she will attend.](#)
 - d. [Appreciation to Ellen Wolfe – The group decided to give Ellen a T-shirt, 1 year membership and letter of thanks.](#)
 - e. [Car vandalism/break-ins at Huguenot Park- Ralph working with police to potentially set up a sting operation to catch the perp \(I feel like I'm writing for Law and Order\). Ralph also asked that each of us write a letter to JR Pope requesting action.](#)

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f. Ralph Report

- The public has lost a segment of the JRPS just upstream from the Boulevard Bridge on the South bank, disrupting plans for a continuous system from Powhite Park to Buttermilk West/Reedy Creek. It is private property and the owners wanted help from the city to cover liability insurance. City has refused.
- The house on the corner of New Kent and Riverside has approached the city to permit them to fill in part of the ravine next to their house, presumably so that they can erect a garage. This would eliminate the scenic overlook and continue the pattern of commercial and private pressure on the park system and river ecosystem.
- Ralph offered the opportunity to influence Kathy G. to designate Riverside Dr. as a “scenic drive” in order to provide official protection to that area. John Z. suggested we offer a research project to the city to demonstrate the actual pros/cons of making such a designation. The results of the research could then be used to lobby for a formal designation. **Mary Helen will draft letter for us to endorse.**

g. Other new business

VI. Next Meeting- Feb. 12th, 5:45pm. Park HQ.

VII. Adjourn

