Friends of The James River Park

July 2, 2007

Members Present: Molly Dellinger-Wray, Maureen Egan, Ralph White, John Zeugner, Betsy Slade, George Wickham, Winnie Canup, Mary Helen Sullivan, Ken Hopson, John Johnson, Anne Wright, Richard Taranto, Greg Velzy. Guests present: Ali Bayler, Stephanie Saccone

Meeting was called to order by Molly Dellinger-Wray.

George Wickham reported that we have 50 new members since the spring party.

Cliff Fox of VCU has made the Park survey into a Power Point presentation. Anne Wright will try to get a copy of it for FOJRP. 51% of visitors to the Park come from outside the city – this makes JRP the second largest draw to Richmond after Maymont. We have 65,000 visitors per month in JRP. It was decided that we should print the survey information in a 3-5 page hand out (with graphics, photos, etc) and make sure that Parks & Rec, City Council members – and others receive this information.

The June 9 JRAC Clean Up collected 59 trash bags and 49 recycling bags. 20 state police officers did underwater clean up from Ancarrow's Landing up to the 14th St. Bridge. This annual river clean up was begun as a James River Park initiative of Clean the Bay Day. Next year there should be more advance notice and signage in the park so that people know they have to pre-register. We also need youth-sized T-shirts.

John Johnson signed up 18 new members at Southampton River Days and James River Days.

FOJRP and Riverside Outfitters will sponsor two tubing trips for members: July 4 and July 7. Only 6 people have pre-registered for the July 14 Pump House Tour.

John Zeugner reported that we have opened an endowment account at Davenport. It has a balance of $6984 with a 4.4% annual interest rate. Because we don't have our own 501(c) (3), Richmond Recreation and Parks Foundation opened and maintains the account in its name. The Foundation charges a one-time 3% charge on each deposit.

New Business: With Riverside Outfitters, FOJRP will host a members' only raft trip on August 4. The trip will include lunch.

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We need to determine permanent storage for FOJRP supplies including T-shirts, banners, posters etc. Greg Velzy will talk to JROC about sharing a shed or "job box."

The September retreat will focus on leadership for next year. This is Molly's last meeting as president.

Ralph reported that the police have had success in reducing fires and vandalism on Belle Isle with nightly patrols around 9:30.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00.