Minutes:

Falls of the James State Scenic River Advisory Committee

Meeting: October 20, 2016 - 5th floor Conference Room, Richmond City Hall.

Tricia Pearsall – Secretary presiding

Meeting called to order: 12:15pm

Attendance:

Falls Members: Tricia Pearsall, Jane Myers, Anne Wright, John Heerwald,
Nathan Burrell – James River Park Manager

Falls Members Not Present: Ralph Hambrick, John Thompson, Greg Velzy, Leighton Powell, Alex Dahm, Ralph White, Justin Doyle, John Moeser,

Minutes: August 18, 2016 Minutes approved

Current Issues:

Riverfront Development Plan:

- **Tyler Potterfield Bridge Update**:
  - The entire project will likely be opening January 1, 2017. There has been significant earthwork cut and fill.
  - The bridge connection on the southside is 10 feet higher than originally specified, therefore the access stairs to the west of the Manchester climbing wall have been eradicated and not replaced. Cost for replacing with metal stairs would be approximately an additional $130,000. At the moment, this is not in the budget. Back and forth with planning. Yet another not-quite-finished project in RVA. A letter to planning might be a good idea as climbing in the JRP adds to the Park's adventure diversity.
- **Downriver Riverfront Study Update**: Some members received invitations to the Gillette Forum on Landscape Design where the Downriver Plan will be discussed. Fee is $70 for that session. Kathleen Onufer has said she would attend the November Falls meeting to brief us on the progress.
  Making Beauty Sustainable: The Charles F. Gillette Forum on Landscape Design
  Thursday, November 3, 6 – 8 pm Friday, November 4, 9 am – 4 pm
  Thursday: $70 Friday: $85 Combo ticket $120 Forum Program:
  https://www.lewisginter.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/Gillette-program-webfinal-1.pdf

Dewatering Coal-Ash Pond Chesterfield Permit Approval Update and JRA Water Quality Monitoring
Justin Doyle (JRA) - Justin was not present for report from JRA

Evaluation float for the Upper James scheduled for August 25th and 26th - Justin Doyle (JRA) - absent

EnRichmond – Leighton Powell – Leighton was absent, but Jane Myers said that Erin Jenkins has been appointed by EnRichmond to represent all conservation easement affairs.

Capital Region Land Conservancy Acquisition and Easement (along James River) Update:

Jane Myers had no comment as there has been no movement to date, but Nathan did announce that the JRP is intending to amend its size by 141 acres by adding to the islands and other small parcels to the park, all under conservation easement. These include such islands as Williams (92 acres), Vauxhall (Nathan said that EnRichmond has agreed to deed the island to the JRP as part of this process) Baileys, Goat, Bohannon, Paw-Paw, etc. The process is going well. It will involve title and survey work, but he hopes to have it completed in 6 months. In addition the park will be deaccessioning an area north of Northbank Park that currently houses a skateboard facility.

New Business:

James River Park

- Master Plan - Funds are beginning to be raised to start the JRP Master Plan process. Nathan has 'dumped' a considerable amount of data with VHB and is in discussions with the Timmons Group to begin a baseline for capturing data on concerning everything from park attendance to species development as well as issues and impact considering the effect of bridges with adjacent communities and extending beyond the city limits as well. Friends of the James River Park has commissioned VCU to begin an economic impact study taking into account everything from spending amounts on adventure experiences and gear and nearby local restaurants and transit to valuation of adjacent property values to impact on health. This should be accomplished by January 2017 and will be a seed for the Master Plan. The scope of the plan will be from Belle Isle west.
- Plans are underway for a redesign of Northbank Park to increase parking, to divide trails and access between bikers and hikers and replace parking lot with pervious pavers

James River Water Monitoring(DEQ) – Tricia recently ran into DEQ personnel testing water quality at Pipeline. They reminded me that this information is on their website. I did find the site below which includes designated areas in the JRP (but not Pipeline)
http://www.deq.virginia.gov/Programs/Water/WaterQualityInformationTMDLs/WaterQualityMonitoring/WaterQualityatJamesRiverPark.aspx

Reports -

James River Park System – Nathan Burrell (see above)

JRAC - no report

JROC - Projects ongoing at 14th Street Takeout with next focus on Dog Beach in the Wetlands

FoJRP - (See above)

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 1:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Tricia Pearsall