

**Minutes:**

**Falls of the James State Scenic River Advisory Committee**

**Meeting:** July 21, 2016 - 5<sup>th</sup> floor Conference Room, Richmond City Hall.

Leighton Powell – Vice Chair Presiding

Meeting called to order: 12:01pm

**Attendance:**

Falls Members: Ralph White, Ralph Hambrick, Justin Doyle, Tricia Pearsall, John Thompson, Leighton Powell, John Moeser, Nathan Burrell, Jane Myers, Anne Wright - Mark Olinger, Director, Department of Planning and Development Review made a presentation at 1:00pm

Falls Members Not Present: Greg Velzy, Alex Dahm

**Minutes:** June 16, 2016 Meeting

Minutes reviewed with revisions. Approved via e-mail.

**Current Issues:**

- Riverfront Development Plan:
  - T. Potterfield Bridge Update – Justin Doyle (JRA):

Kathleen Onufer, Staff Assistant to Director of Planning and Development Review, City of Richmond, is working with Maura Meinhardt (Tyler's widow) to select interpretation for the bridge both natural and historical.

Greg raised concern about the silver surface along the bridge being too hot for bicycles and 'feet' during the summer. This choice was decided during the public meetings, and it's too late to make change, but the objection was noted.

The first phase of the bridge should be opened (maybe only the bridge itself) for the Folk Festival Weekend, October 7-9, 2016. The remainder will be finished probably in the spring of 2017.

The Missing Link Trail should be the next priority

Selected public artist Josh Weiner's proposal is being presented for review and discussion at the Public Art SST meeting – July 27, 2016. Justin, Anne and Tricia are on the Site Selection Team.

- Riverfront Study of Downriver Portion – Hargreaves and Associates' Design Concepts for the Downriver Portion of the Riverfront Development Plan

The committee reviewed the plans and entered into discussion. The plans present three designs of routes of the Gillies Creek Greenway bike path and its relationship to Stone Brewing facility and connection to the riverfront and Virginia Capital Trail. The plans also present three designs for facilities along the riverfront from the former Lehigh properties to the western end of the Rockett's Landing properties. Each presentation re-appropriates form and function in relationship to the Stone Brewery restaurant at the Intermediate Terminal structure and the Stone Brewery Beer Garden. They are designed around the route of the Virginia Capital Trail, access to the river for fishing and boating, pedestrian access re: picnicking, children and vendors.

The committee first looked at the three suggestions for Greenway access to Stone Brewery and the connection to the Virginia Capital Trail. It was noted that nowhere in these plans are the reverse channelization of Gillies Creek recommended. It was also noted that an easement on the Gillies Creek Greenway is needed in order to protect this land. It was agreed that the bike route which is straight and along the east of the channel may be the preferred option.

The three options for development of the site use along the river. It was noted that nowhere do these designs pay homage to the original use of the shoreline. On each of the three concept designs, fishing and the fish cleaning station is relegated to a small corner on the western end of the design (It should be noted that this fish cleaning station has already been constructed.) Points of discussion included: ADA accessibility, river access (what is appropriate for which use. Is powerboat use necessary at this location with little parking and mostly pedestrian traffic), playgrounds don't seem appropriate, but perhaps splash pads, shade, picnic tables and fountains, water and restroom facilities. Parking or lack thereof is considered a huge issue.

It was noted that the James River Park staff had no input into this plan even though they will manage it. It was also noted that no deputy within the Planning Department has been assigned to this project. At this point, Mark Olinger - , Director, Department of Planning and Development Review was asked to join the conversation. He agreed to meet at 1:00pm.

Ralph White suggested that we needed a schedule of proposed action from the Planning Department and also ask to meet with Hargreaves and Associates before the public presentation as well as representatives from Stone Brewery.

Mr. Olinger came at 1:00pm and stated that a public presentation of the plans is scheduled for Wednesday, August 3<sup>rd</sup> at a time and place to be determined. Public

Works is in conformance concerning the Down River portion of the losing of Dock or Warf Street and the proposed roundabout. The presentation on August 3<sup>rd</sup> will simply look at the options. Following that meeting, a second iteration will be presented by Hargreaves before the end of the year and it (approximately 20 additional pages) will go through the process of being adopted, amended and go through the design development (including a new survey) before being adopted and added to the Downtown Riverfront Plan. He added that perhaps our committee could meet with Hargreaves on Thursday, August 4<sup>th</sup> and we asked him to schedule us for noon and to notify us concerning the presentation.

After Mr. Olinger left, the committee decided that we must get together and survey the site first-hand and review all presented options. It was also recommended that we notify as many river stakeholders as possible to be present at the August 3<sup>rd</sup> presentation. The general consensus was that though we had not been involved in the planning, we must see that what is done is done 'right'.

- Dewatering Coal-Ash Pond Chesterfield Permit Hearings Update – Update  
The comment period ended July 21, 2016 and that JRA is closely following the process.

**New Business:** There was no New Business at this time

**Reports:** There were no Reports

**Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned at 1:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tricia Pearsall